



Fairbanks North Star Borough

Mayor's Office

907 Terminal Street, PO Box 71267 Fairbanks, AK 99707-1267 T. (907) 459-1300 F. (907) 459-1102

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2018

Contact: Brittany Smart, Special Assistant to the Mayor
Phone: 907-459-1302
Email: BSmart@fnsb.us

FNSB Sustainability Commission Seeks Public Comment on Draft Plan

Fairbanks, AK – The Fairbanks North Star Borough's Sustainability Commission hosted the Sustainability Summit last night (Wednesday October 10, 2018) at the Noel Wien Library Auditorium. Over 60 community members attended to provide comments and feedback on the Commission's Draft Sustainability Plan.

"It's clear there's desire in this community to be more conservative with our food, materials, and energy," said Commissioner Jimmy Fox. "There was good constructive dialogue around ways we can be more self-reliant by growing our own healthy foods, reducing our energy consumption, reusing materials, and retrofitting buildings. The commissioners look forward to pulling together input from the community and providing suggestions to the Assembly."

The Sustainability Commission was formerly the Recycling Commission. Ordinance 2017-49, sponsored by then-Assembly Member John Davies and current Sustainability Commission member, renamed and expanded the scope and duties of the commission. Those additional duties include leading a "public process to identify sustainability goals for the Borough, select metrics for monitoring progress toward meeting those goals, and annually report to the mayor and Assembly...on the progress made for the previous year."

"The Sustainability Commission was created in response to an expanded vision of the Recycling Commission that there were broader waste, energy, and food supply issues that required urgent attention and focus to assure a long-term healthy and prosperous future for residents of the Fairbanks North Star Borough," said Commissioner John Davies. "Sustainability, which is often described as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, is a very wide ranging topic. As a start, the Commission is focusing on waste reduction and food and energy security. We hope to develop specific and measurable goals to address these concerns."

"The Sustainability Commission has been a real asset for the Borough in crafting a plan to move our community forward on a more responsible and secure path. I applaud their first draft efforts," said Mayor Kassel.

Through a mix of public participation in town halls, Commission meetings, and interviews, the Sustainability Commission has worked over the last year to develop a Sustainability Plan. In support of this effort, the Commission partnered with Dr. Jim Powell from the University of Alaska Southeast and Dr. Robert Ortung from George Washington University. The Commission is seeking additional public comment on the Draft Sustainability Plan until 5:00pm on October 17, 2018. The Draft Sustainability Plan can be found on the Commission's webpage at: <http://fnsb.us/Boards/Documents/DraftSustainabilityPlan.pdf>. Comments can be submitted via email to BSmart@fnsb.us or dropped off at the FNSB Administrative Center located at 907 Terminal Street.

The next Sustainability Commission meeting on November 14, 2018 at the Noel Wien Library Conference Room. Commissioners will review all public comment received and work towards developing a Final Draft of the Sustainability Plan. The Final Sustainability Plan is anticipated to be approved at the January Sustainability Commission meeting.

###