

**CITY OF WASILLA
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 11-19**

A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING THE MAYOR TO DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE FINAL DOCUMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRAFT MASTER PARKS PLAN AND THE DRAFT AREA WIDE PLANS FOR DOWNTOWN, SOUTH WASILLA, AND THE WASILLA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AS FINAL, AND TO REFERENCE THESE PLANS AS ADOPTED SPECIFIC AREA PLANS WITHIN THE FINAL WASILLA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

WHEREAS, the City of Wasilla has expended great time, effort, and monies on development of a draft Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the draft Comprehensive Plan is near completion, and references the Master Parks Plan and the specific Wasilla Area Plans for Downtown, South Wasilla Heights, and the Wasilla Airport; and

WHEREAS, three committees, one for each area, worked hard to include all the various interest into each plan; and

WHEREAS, the draft Master Parks Plan completed the City's public process involving many public meetings, collection of public comment via questionnaires from the City, and is ready for adoption having been drafted by URS Corporation and Tryck, Nyman, and Hayes, Inc., a cost of \$75,000; and

WHEREAS, the draft Area Wide Plans completed the City's public process involving many public meetings, and involved the work of 57 public members who worked long hours as strategic planning groups; and

WHEREAS, the draft Area Wide Plans are ready for adoption having been drafted by URS Corporation, and associates at a cost of \$145,000; and

WHEREAS, the consultant planners have recommended that the next step for implementation of the draft plans is adoption as amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Wasilla City Council requests the Mayor to direct staff to prepare final documents for acceptance of the draft Master Parks Plan and the draft Area Wide Plans for Downtown, South Wasilla, and the Wasilla Municipal Airport as final, and to reference these plans as adopted specific area plans within the final Wasilla Comprehensive Plan which is to be adopted by the City Council when its other aspects are complete.

FAILED by the Wasilla City Council on May 23, 2011.

VOTE: Harris, Holler, Katkus, Menard, Sullivan-Leonard and Woodruff opposed.



**CITY OF WASILLA
LEGISLATION STAFF REPORT**

RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 11-19: REQUESTING THE MAYOR TO DIRECT STAFF TO PREPARE FINAL DOCUMENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE OF THE DRAFT MASTER PARKS PLAN AND THE DRAFT AREA WIDE PLANS FOR DOWNTOWN, SOUTH WASILLA, AND THE WASILLA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AS FINAL, AND TO REFERENCE THESE PLANS AS ADOPTED SPECIFIC AREA PLANS WITHIN THE FINAL WASILLA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

Agenda of: May 23, 2011

Date: May 13, 2011

Originator: Deputy City Clerk for Council Member Katkus

Route to:	Department	Signature/Date
	Chief of Police	
X	Finance Director	
X	Temporary Deputy Administrator	
X	City Clerk	

REVIEWED BY MAYOR VERNE E. RUPRIGHT: _____

FISCAL IMPACT: yes \$ or no

Funds Available yes no

Account name/number: none

Attachments: Resolution Serial No. 11-19 (2 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: Administrative Summary

The existing Wasilla Comprehensive Plan was completed in 1996 and the City is in the process of adopting a new Comprehensive Plan. The new Comprehensive Plan is in its final draft and must be complete in order for it to be adopted as a guide for City development. Other recent public planning efforts are typically adopted as a part of a city's comprehensive plan.

The current draft Comprehensive Plan on page seven references the need for consistency with other area plans or subject specific plans. The recent planning projects of the City include four plans that have been brought to the point of adoption after much time, effort, and public participation. These plans include: Downtown Plan, South Wasilla Heights Plan, the Wasilla Airport Plan (as distinct parts of an Area Wide Plan effort) and the Wasilla Parks Master Plan. The Area Plans involved public sessions

to review planning issues, related goals and objectives which all stemmed from public input on what citizens want to see as future development within the City.

Downtown Plan, South Wasilla Heights Plan, and Wasilla Airport Plan

The first three of these plans are included within a larger planning effort in which 57 residents served on regular meetings strategic planning groups. Many public meetings were held to review the issues, goals, and objectives posed within the plans. Three committees, one for each area, worked hard to include all the various interests into each plan. Three focus group sessions were hosted by the City to represent a full spectrum of interests, spanning arts and cultural to business and transportation industry interests. The Wasilla Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce were also involved. (Pages 6 & 7 Wasilla Area Plans, Public Review Draft, August 2008.)

This work was completed at a cost of \$145,000. The professional planning group, URS Corp. and Associates, on page 121 of the plan recognized:

The first step in implementing the Wasilla Area Plans is to adopt this document as an amendment to the 1996 comprehensive plan. Adoption will allow the Wasilla Planning Commission, Wasilla City Council, and City staff to use and cite the document as a basis for making decisions, such as identifying capital project priorities and considering applications for rezoning. The city should update the entire comprehensive plan as soon as funding is available, due to tremendous changes in the community since 1996. (Page 121, Wasilla Area Plans, Public Review Draft)

These three area plans have completed the public process, and yet they have not been formally adopted. The public participation, comments, and work efforts remain valid and should be adopted as a basis for making decisions on these areas of the City.

Wasilla Parks Master Plan

The Wasilla Parks Master Plan also has been through the public process under the guidance of an active public work group. The City spent \$75,000 working with a professional planning group to complete many public meetings and group work sessions with broad involvement from citizens through a City-mailed questionnaire process. The Final Draft of the Wasilla Parks Master Plan is essentially complete and should be adopted as a basis for making decisions for future development of the City Parks.

Public participation is important to the success of any planning effort.

The public participation in these plans is significant and remains valid and reliable. The recommendations of the professional planners are correct and well-justified for adoption of these plans as source documents for the future. Over \$200,000 of City funds have been spent in bringing these plans to the point of adoption. Minimal additional effort and expense is needed for these public plans to be adopted for reference and to be included in the revision of the 1996 Comprehensive Plan into the new Comprehensive Plan. The City Council should request the Mayor to instruct staff to take the steps necessary to draft the necessary documents for adoption of these four plans as public

documents to guide future development of the Downtown Area, Downtown Plan, South Wasilla Heights, and the Wasilla Airport Plan the Wasilla Parks.

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution Serial No. 11-19.