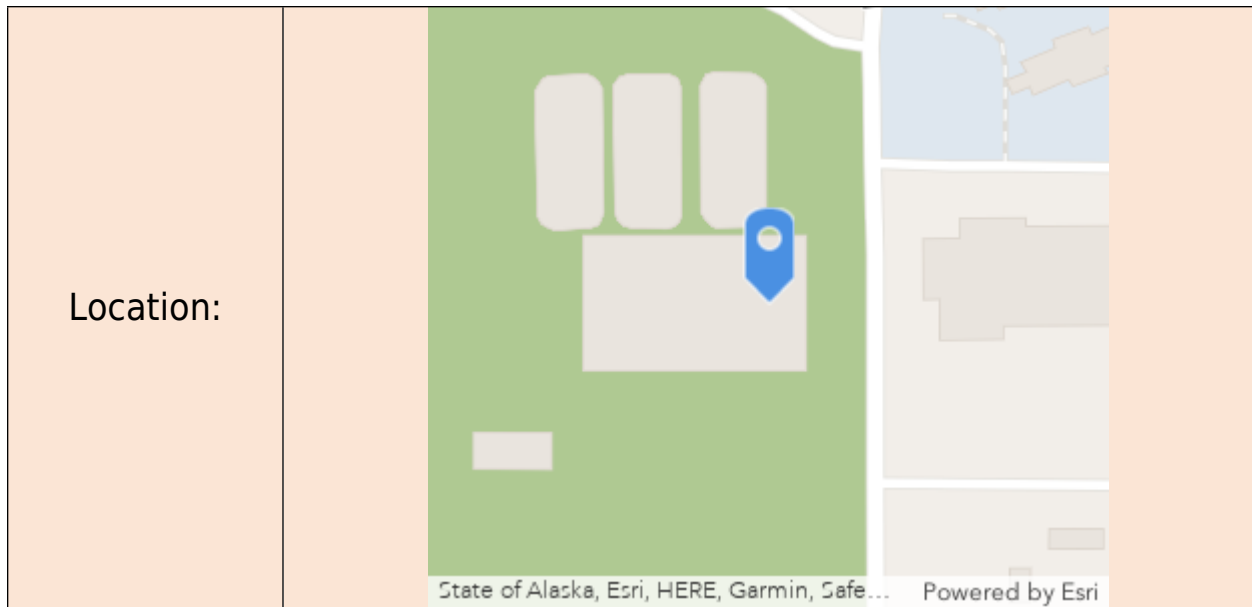




FNSB Project Nomination Form
Submission Date: September 16, 2021

Nominator Contact Information	
Name:	Rob Proffitt
Organization:	Fairbanks Ice Dogs
Affected Department:	Parks and Recreation
Phone:	907-460-4799
Email:	coachproffitt@fairbanksicedogs.com
Address:	139 32nd Avenue

Project Information	
Proposed Name:	Big Dipper Ice Arena Spectator Seating Redesign & Replacement
Project Description:	This project will replace the original spectator seats in the Big Dipper. The plastic molded seats are at least 40 years old. Replacement parts are not available. Newer seating, with better ADA accommodation will lead to a better spectator experience.



Safety Code and Compliance	
Reduce or Eliminate health risk:	No
Explanation:	
Current Facility Condition:	Fair
Explanation:	Overall arena is old but in good, serviceable condition. Public Works Maintenance consistently addresses building deficiencies and remedies broken or worn out components.
Improves Accessibility Compliance:	Yes
Explanation:	Redesigned seating with special attention given to accessibility would provide better accommodation to persons with disabilities.



Facility Condition	
Facility Age since construction:	41 + years
Replace an existing facility:	No
Current condition:	
Facility Notes:	

Project Funding	
Status of Project Funding:	No Funding
Source of Secured Funding:	No funding is currently secured.
Unknown Funding Notes:	
Funding Sponsors:	Yes
Match Requirement Info:	Yes
Match Amount Info:	+ 41% match required
Project Funding Notes:	The Rasmuson Foundation is a potential funding source through its Tier I or Tier II grant programs. The borough may provide capital funding, match funding, or maintenance funding towards this project. No applications other than this CIP have been submitted.
Organization Contribution:	No
Source of Funds Contributed:	
Project Funding Attachment:	



Environmental Info	
Contamination Cleanup:	No
Cleanup Notes:	
Improvements to Air Quality:	No
Air Quality Notes:	
Reduction of Stormwater:	No
Stormwater Notes:	
Improvements to Groundwater:	No
Groundwater Notes:	
Improvements to Energy Efficiency:	No
Energy Notes:	

Public Usage	
Improves Customer Experience:	Yes
Explanation:	The existing seats are old. Newer stadium seats have options with seatbacks that generally more comfortable for spectators.
Served by Fixed Transit Route:	Yes
Explanation:	Orange and Purple transit routes pass by the Big Dipper Ice Arena.
Improves Facility Capacity:	No
Explanation:	

Ongoing Maintenance Cost	
Reduction to Utility Expenses:	No
Explanation:	



Reduction to Maintenance Expenses:	No
Explanation:	
Extends Existing Facility Life:	Yes
Explanation:	Large, high use facilities such as the Big Dipper Ice Arena require regular capital reinvestment over time to correct deficiencies or keep pace with modern amenities that the public comes to expect.

Planning and Design	
Project has Complete Designs:	No
Explanation:	
Scope or Engineering Studies Done:	No
Explain Work Done to Date:	

Budget/Population/Support	
Impact on Operation Budget:	Maintain the operating budget
Explanation:	New seating will not affect the budget
Type of Population Served	Regional areawide users
Description of Needs Met:	The Big Dipper serves a large segment of the FNSB population. Ice Dogs hockey team generally attract 2,000 spectators per game. The



	competitive hockey community draws families from all across the borough and other interior/statewide Alaska communities.
Applicable Form of Support:	General public support or letters from residents
Explanation of Levels of Support:	See attached letters of support.
Meets Goals or Objectives:	Yes
Explanation:	Parks & Rec Plan, Goal2, ObjB, Pol1: Establish maintenance of existing rec facilities as a priority in CIP requests. (p13). FNSB Comp Plan, Community & Human Resources, Goal1, Stat4, ActB: Fully maintain existing facilities and improve accessibility (p28)
Project Support Attachments:	Dipper Seats - Letter of Support.pdf

Project Cost	
Estimated Cost:	3,500,000
Explanation:	The spectator seating is very old. While it is durable, replacement parts are no longer available. Newer seating with seatback will provide a better spectator experience.

9/17/21

Patrick Matt
3285 Canaday Rd.
Salcha, AK 99714
(907) 385-9675

Fairbanks North Star Borough
Parks and Recreation Department

Regarding: Big Dipper Seating

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing in support of the proposal to upgrade the seating area at the Big Dipper.

I have lived in this community for about 10 years now and enjoy the wide variety of activities provided in the community. However, activities held at the Dipper are difficult for me to participate in due to some physical limitations. I have balance issues and a prosthetic foot. While I can normally navigate my daily life, there are things I avoid doing and places I avoid going – the Dipper is one of them.

I have difficulty with the stairs that lead to the seating areas, they are steep and handrails are generally not available. The narrow isles in the seating area also create a challenge, getting in and out of the row of seats. The seats themselves are not comfortable at all and the spacing doesn't allow for long legs – as patrons do have to stagger themselves in the seating to have room just to sit without someone's knees in your back or your knee's in their back.

For these reasons I support the proposal to upgrade seating area at the Dipper. Upgraded seating, and improved access to it would allow me, and probably many others, to participate in more events at this facility.

Remember, the disabled group is one that a person can join at any time. I wasn't always disabled, and I don't like to think of myself that way, but after losing my foot I've learned to appreciate the accommodations provided to those who are challenged everyday by things many people take for granted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patrick Matt

*Wendalyn Tisland
1271 Skinner Drive
Fairbanks, AK 99709
(907) 590-3245
wrtisland@gmail.com*

September 15, 2021

Parks & Recreation Department
Fairbanks North Star Borough
P.O. Box 71267
Fairbanks, AK 99707

Regarding: Capital Improvement Plan Proposal – Big Dipper Seating Replacement

CIP Review Committee:

Please accept this letter in support of the seat replacement proposal for the Big Dipper facility.

The steep stairs that lead to and from the seating area are challenging for individuals with disabilities and there are limited options for seating without having to climb or descend the seating stairs.

Once you get to the row of seats you are headed to, its another challenge to actually pass others in the same row to reach your seats. Then, try sitting there for a whole hockey game. Uncomfortable, to say the least. Then intermission comes – you don't move because it was too much of a challenge to get there, but others start moving in and out around you – again there's no room for others to pass by people in the same row. So, patrons are stepping on seats, grabbing other patron's shoulders for balance, and climbing over rows to get in and out of the seating areas.

Whether you are an elder in the community, a disabled person, or a parent with multiple kids in tow – the current steep steps and cramped seating is a deterrent to attending events at the Dipper. There is risk involved – someone might want to look into the number of incident reports related to injuries in the stairs and seating area.

I strongly encourage you to consider the implications of the current state of the facility seating and the segment of the population that may not be able to participate in events due to the inherent challenges and risks involved.

Sincerely,



Wendalyn Tisland