



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**



February 11, 2016

I. Call to Order

The February 11, 2016 regular meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Richard T. Mystrom at 6:00 p.m., at Spenard Recreation Center.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Josh Durand, Park Superintendent:

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Michael McCambridge (telephonic)
Commissioner Peter Murphy
Commissioner Richard Mystrom
Commissioner Alison Smith
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner James Balamaci
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Harlow Robinson
Commissioner Levi Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

Josh Durand
Taylor Keegan
Diana Cramer

III. Consent Agenda

A. Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Peter Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Alison Smith, the Agenda for the February 11, 2016 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

B. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Richard Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner James Winchester, the Minutes of the December 15, 2015 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

IV. Director's Comments

There were no director's comments.

V. Appearance Requests

There were no public appearance requests for non-agenda items.

VI. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Andrew Mullins, Programs Manager for Anchorage Park Foundation (APF), reported on 2016 Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program. Recruitment and hiring has begun for the YEP program positions. Interviews for the YEP coordinator position were held the first week of February, and recruitment is in the process for 1 field educator position, 4 project crew leaders, 5 senior crew members, and 20 crew member positions. Planned YEP projects include Taku Lake/Campbell Creek Restoration, Chugach Foothills Connector Trail, Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail, Kincaid Beach Access Trail, and South Anchorage Sports Park RC park and soft surface trail improvements.

Other upcoming APF projects for 2016 are new inclusive playgrounds at Barbara Street Park, Kiwanis Fish Creek Park, Duldida Park, South Anchorage Sports Park, and Kincaid Park; playground improvements at Sitka Street Park; a new skate park at North Russian Jack Springs Park; and Equine Assisted Therapy of Alaska coverall structure and tentative playground at Ruth Arcand Park.

2015 Challenge Grants are in their second year. Four of the sixteen projects awarded in 2015 have been completed. In 2015, 2,438 volunteer hours were donated for the 2015 Challenge Grant projects.

VII. Action Items

A. PRC 16-05: 2016 Duldida Playground Improvements (Resolution 2016-04)

Presented by Taylor Keegan, Park Planner

Presentation

As part of the Department's desire to increase the number of inclusive playgrounds in Anchorage parks, improvements are planned for the Duldida Park playground. Duldida Park is a neighborhood use park located in Mountain View along Thompson and Hoyt streets.

In planning the playground improvements, public involvement included presentations to the Mountain View Community Council, formation of a Community Advisory Group, and working with members of the community who work with children and adults with disabilities. Workshops the Community Advisory Group and the Boys and Girls Club were held. The advisory group assisted the planning team in reviewing public input and developing recommendations for park improvements. Other tasks for the Advisory Group include helping the Department identify and prioritize park improvements, keeping the community council informed of progress, recruiting volunteers for the summer fix-it project, and participating themselves on park fix-it volunteer day.

Parks and Recreation will be upgrading the play equipment and other amenities within the park, focusing on the existing play area. Contracted work includes purchase and installation of new play equipment, adding ADA accessible surfacing to the play area, creating a central plaza to connect the picnic and playground areas, and installing a dog station at the park access point on Hoyt Street. Volunteer efforts will concentrate on painting bollards and landscaping activities.

Department Recommendation

The proposed improvements are supported by the Mountain View Community Council and have been selected by the Community Advisory Group for the park. The Department recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission pass the proposed resolution to support improvements as presented.

Public Testimony

There were no public appearance requests for this action item.

Discussion and Resolution

After discussion, and upon motion duly made by Commissioner James Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Alison Smith, Resolution No. 2016-04 Duldida Park Improvements, was unanimously approved as follows:

Resolution No. 2016-04 Duldida Playground Improvements

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation planning staff utilized input from Mountain View Community Council, Duldida Community Advisory Group and the Boys and Girls Club to guide the improvement of the playground at Duldida Park; and

WHEREAS, the improved playground as presented will provide new all-inclusive turf surfacing, upgraded circulation patterns, updated play equipment, and other amenities to improve the park users experience;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed design for the Playground Improvements at Duldida Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 11th day of February, 2016.

<u>Voting Record</u>	In favor	Commissioner Michael McCambridge Commissioner Peter Murphy Commissioner Richard Mystrom Commissioner Alison Smith Commissioner James Winchester
	Opposed	None
	Abstained	None
	Absent	Commissioner James Balamaci Commissioner Jon Dyson Commissioner Harlow Robinson Commissioner Levi Robinson

VIII. Information Items

No information items were presented to the Commission.

IX. Park Superintendent's Comments

Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, provided information on the progress of the wayfinding project that is part of the current Anchorage Trails Initiative Program. Information on the Trails Initiative has been presented to the Commission at past meetings. The Department has contracted with Merje Design to develop wayfinding signage options appropriate for Parks and Recreation's needs. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Durand displayed the three options for signage that were developed by Merje Design and summarized the details of those options. Public involvement has not yet begun on selection of wayfinding signage. This project will come before the Commission formally two more times before it is implemented.

X. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Alison Smith complimented Park Maintenance on the excellent quality of the ice skating rink on Westchester Lagoon.

Commissioner Peter Murphy asked about trail access from Barbara Street to the Coastal Trail, across or through the Fish Creek Estuary. Mr. Durand responded that this is a subject that has received a lot of attention and is being worked on by the Department. Although a lot of the property is managed by Parks & Recreation, there also exists Alaska Railroad property, privately-owned property, and a DNR conservation area. A number of ideas for creating access have been proffered, including an idea to create a soft surface trail that goes along the railroad right-of-way onto a light-penetrating boardwalk across the estuary and terminates at the Fish Creek bridge. There is no official easement for access to the Coastal Trail in that area, except in Turnagain at Lyn Ary Park, because it is privately-owned property. Social trails exist that have been used for a long time by people for access, but these are not "official" trails. This item is receiving a lot of attention in the community at this time and will come before the Commission again.

Commissioner Peter Murphy asked about flooding problems along the Chester Creek Trail near C Street and what is being done. He also asked about the status of the open land, treed area between Valley of the Moon Park and C Street. Regarding the flooding, Mr. Durand responded that the Department has not yet been engaged regarding the flooding problems, but because park lands are involved, Parks and Recreation will participate in flood mitigation planning. As to the treed parcel between Valley of the Moon and C Street, the Valley of the Moon Master Plan recommends that the Municipality figure out how to acquire that 3½-acre parcel in order to preserve it as a buffer between the C Street and the neighborhood.

Commissioner Murphy brought up the parking problem at Elderberry Park. This item was discussed during the Elderberry Park Master Plan presentation at the Commission's December 2015 meeting. Mr. Durand stated that a solution has yet to be determined, but the answer maybe for the Department to hire a parking manager, such as Easy Park, to handle parking at that location.

XI. Upcoming Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled to be held at 6:00 p.m., March 10, 2016, at the Spenard Recreation Center.

XII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner James Winchester, seconded by Commissioner Alison Smith, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2016:

Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Director
Parks & Recreation