



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

January 10, 2019



I. Call to Order

The January 10, 2019 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission, held at Spenard Recreation Center, was called to order by Chair Jon Dyson at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Catherine Bodry
Commissioner Kelly Chang
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Erin Kirkland
Commissioner Shannon Kuhn
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Grace Johnston
Commissioner Alison Smith

A quorum was achieved with seven members present.

Staff present:

John Rodda
Josh Durand
Tom Korosei
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion made by Commissioner Bodry and seconded by Commissioner Chang, the Agenda for the January 10, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Kirkland, the Minutes of the December 13, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

Director John Rodda, provided the following information:

Earthquake damage – East Pool sustained considerable damage and at this time there is no estimate when it will be open again. Goose Lake "bath house" sustained structural damage. It is not considered a priority at this time but will have to be repaired before it can be used again.

Ice skating – Hockey rinks at Tikishla and Delaney, the figure skating rink at Delaney are in good condition and are being well used by the public. Westchester Lagoon and Cheney Lake have been problematic due to weather conditions and overflow conditions, but Park Maintenance has been working hard to get them in good condition. At Cheney Lake problems have arisen with ice fisherman using chain saws to cut very large holes in the ice, creating potential safety hazards for people using the ice and for park maintenance staff. Parks and Recreation is working on a solution to segregate the ice fishing area from the skating and has asked Fish and Game's help with the situation.

VI. Election of Chair and Co-Chair

Commissioner Winchester nominated Commissioner Dyson as Chair. There were no other nominations for Chair. Commissioner Dyson accepted the nomination. Commissioner Kuhn nominated Commissioner Kirkland as Co-Chair. There were no other nominations for Co-Chair and Commissioner Kirkland accepted the nomination.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Kuhn, seconded by Commissioner Milliken, and unanimously approved, Commissioner Dyson will continue acting as Chair for the Parks and Recreation Commission and Commissioner Kirkland will act as Co-Chair.

VII. Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

VIII. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

There was no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

IX. Action Items

PRC 19-01: An Ordinance Submitting to the Qualified Voters of the Municipality of Anchorage a Ballot Proposition Approving Permanent Easements for Ongoing Operation of Existing Municipal Light and Power (ML&P) Substations and Associated Buried and Aerial Power Lines Located within Goose Lake Park and Frontierland Park by Chugach Electric, Inc. (Chugach) after the Sale of the assets of ML&P to Chugach

Resolution 2019-01

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner

The Parks and Recreation Commission was asked to make recommendations to the Assembly regarding disposal of dedicated park property in connection with sale of Municipal Light and Power (ML&P) to Chugach Electric Association, Inc. (CEA), which sale was approved by voters in April 2018. The property in question is the location of two ML&P substations that have been in operation since the early 1980s. The Municipality proposes to convey the easements to CEA as part of the sale of ML&P assets. The conveyance is not expected to have a significant or apparent impact on the park, does not require a subdivision of the land, and the property will be vacated and returned to park use if, in the future, the electric facilities are no longer needed. Disposal of this land requires an ordinance approved by a majority of voters. The Assembly will act on the ordinance later this month and it will be presented to voters on the April ballot. Parks and Recreation requests that the Commission approve a resolution in support of the proposed conveyance, subject to the condition that the property will be returned to park use if no longer needed for electric utility purposes.

Robin Ward, Director of the Municipal Real Estate Department, explained why the Assembly was not following the Commission's recommendation for a 45-day notice requirement for disposal of park land. She stated the Assembly is absolutely committed to honoring the Commission's recommendation; however, this deal has a short time frame, it is a one-time deal, and they felt it was important to go ahead and leave it at 14 days at this time. She anticipates that in April she will be presenting a proposed ordinance to move the notice time from 14 to 45 days as the Commission previously

recommended. The CEA easement, which is the subject of this action item, will be on the April ballot for approval by voters; the language of the easement document itself will contain a reverter clause which states that the property will be returned to park use if no longer needed for electric utility purposes.

There was one public appearance request. Kurt Marsch owns property adjacent to Frontierland Park. His family has lived on that property for 4 generations. He stressed that there needs to be a requirement that CEA return the land to park use if it no longer needs to use it for an electrical substation. He also wanted it acknowledged that his four-plex is about 25-30 feet from the fence between his property and the substation. He is concerned that if the property expands it will endanger the health and safety of the people on his property. He is also concerned about the crime on this property and thinks safety has to be addressed. He would also like it stated in any easement agree who will be responsible for maintenance on the property, *i.e.*, lighting, brush trimming, etc. He says he supports the transfer to CEA, but just wants everyone involved to be aware of the neighborhood issues and impacts on the neighbors.

Mr. Marsh also complimented Parks and Recreation staff on the plan it developed to redesign Frontierland Park.

Robin Ward requested a copy of the transcript of Mr. Marsh's comments so that his concerns can be addressed in the easement documents. She also stated that the easement documents will be created once the transfer is approved by voters and evocable permits will be created to use in the interim between approval by voters and completion of the easement documents.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Milliken, Resolution 2019-01 Proposed Disposal of Interest in Certain Dedicated Park Land, was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution 2019-01
Proposed Disposal of Interest in Certain Dedicated Park Land

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, Goose Lake Park and Frontierland Park are formally dedicated parks under AO No. 84-199 and 2-R-71, respectively; and

WHEREAS, Municipal Light and Power has operated electrical substations on portions of these parks for a number of years to serve the community; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality proposes to convey easements, generally as shown on the attached Exhibits, to Chugach Electric Association, Inc., for ongoing operation of these existing Municipal Light and Power substations and associated buried and aerial power lines located within Goose Lake Park and Frontierland Park, after sale of the assets of ML&P to Chugach, approved by voters in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the conveyance of easements generally as proposed is not expected to have a significant impact on the character or use of the adjoining park areas; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage Municipal Code provides public notice and approval requirements for actions to dispose of easements and other interest in municipal lands, including land dedicated for permanent or long-term park or recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, the disposal of interest in dedicated park also requires voter approval; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission supports conveyance of easements, generally as shown on the attached Exhibits, for existing electrical substations, in accordance with AMC 25.30.20, including reversion of affected areas to park land in the event such utility use is discontinued.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 10th day of January, 2019.

Voting record, PRC Resolution No. 2019-01:

Yea:	Commissioners Bodry, Chang, Dyson, Kirkland, Kuhn, Milliken, Winchester
Nay:	None
Abstaining:	None
Absent:	Commissioner Johnston Commissioner Smith

X. Information Items

There were no information items presented.

XI. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Kirkland reported on the Chester Creek Singletrack project initial advisory group meeting that she attended on December 20, 2018. She was impressed with their presentation and believes it is a well thought out, well planned, innovative project. The next meeting of the advisory group is on February 14 and she invited commissioners to attend and be part of the process.

XII. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, February 14, 2019, at Spenard Recreation Center. Commissioners had some discussion about rescheduling the meeting due to its falling on Valentine's Day, however, a decision on whether or not to reschedule the meeting was left for closer to the meeting date.

XIII. Adjournment

Upon motion made by Commissioner Kirkland, seconded by Commissioner Chang, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2019:

Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Director
Parks & Recreation