



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

January 12, 2017

I. Call to Order

The January 12, 2017 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Jon Dyson at 6:00 p.m., at Spenard Recreation Center.

II. Roll Call

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

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Shannon Kuhn
Commissioner Michael McCambridge
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner Peter Murphy
Commissioner Richard T. Mystem
Commissioner Alison Smith
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner Levi Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda
Josh Durand
Tom Korosei
Steve Rafuse
Taylor Keegan

III. Approval of Agenda

Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, requested a re-ordering of agenda items to allow non-department presenters on the Benches for All, STA, and AWWU presentations to proceed immediately after the 2040 Land Use Plan presentations and ahead of department presentations on Construction Accomplishments and the Town Square Master Plan. The Agenda was so amended.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the amended Agenda for the January 12, 2017 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the December 2016 Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced two new Commissioners who have been appointed to this Commission: Eric Milliken and Shannon Kuhn.

Homeless camps: Mr. Rodda provided a recap on activities of Parks and Recreation with regard to homeless camp clean up. The number of hours spent on homeless camp clean up more than doubled from 2015 to 2016 – from 3750 man hours to 8400 – and the amount of trash taken to the landfill increased from 55,000 tons to 138,083 tons. A new homeless census is being conducted in January to determine the number of homeless people in our community.

Davis Park: Parks and Recreation continues to work with JBER officials to enter into a new lease agreement for Davis Park. It is anticipated that we should be able to begin working on some of the plans for Davis Park this summer.

Coastal Trail Bridges: both the Sisson and Fish Creek bridges are completed and in use. Finishing work, such as landscaping, will be done this spring.

Budget: Although the new budget has been approved by the Assembly, there were several items not addressed that will fall to Parks and Recreation to fund, putting the Department in a position to have to pick and chose what it will be fund. Utility increases by AWWU and ML&P are one of those items.

VI. Appearance Requests

Assembly Member John Weddleton provided an overview of the proposed expansion of the Parks and Recreation Service Area that will be presented to voters at the April election. It is proposed that the service area boundaries be expanded to include all areas within the Municipality, for example Potter Valley, Bear Valley and other areas on the Hillside, right up into the Chugach State Park boundary. Expansion would provide Parks and Recreation services to those in the outer areas of Anchorage that currently do not benefit from those services. The pros and cons of expansion were discussed. Ultimately it will be up to the voters to decide whether or not they want to pay for these services.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director of the Anchorage Park Foundation, announced the start of the Challenge Grant program for 2017. Challenge Grant applications are due in early March and successful applicants will be announced in April. Ms. Nordlund also discussed the status of the Trails Initiative, and the public and partnerships that have developed during implementation of that program. She also stated that 3 new inclusive playgrounds are expected to be installed in Anchorage this summer.

VIII. Action Items

There were no Action Items presented to the Commission.

IX. Information Items

A. PRC 17-01: 2040 Land Use Plan Map

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner, and Tom Davis, MOA Planning

Tom Korosei introduced this item, stating that it had previously had been an information item presented to the Commission in June 2016. After that presentation, Parks and Recreation staff provided comments to the Planning Department. He stated that it appears the new draft plan included those comments.

Tom Davis reported on the draft *Anchorage 2040 Land Use Plan*. The Planning Department is requesting review and comment by the Parks and Recreation Commission on the Plan. The Commission was requested to take a month to review and consider the Plan and then provide a resolution on its findings. A draft resolution was provided as a starting point for the Commission's deliberations. There are 10 items in the Plan that most directly relate to parks and open spaces and Mr. Davis provided a written overview of those items for Commissioners in addition to his oral presentation.

This item will be on the February 9, 2017 Agenda as an Action Item for resolution by the Commission.

B. PRC 17-02 Benches for All

Presented by Chad Taylor, Intrinsic Landscapes

In 2015, Intrinsic Landscapes, a design build company owned and operated by Chad Taylor, received an Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant to create seating areas at three locations within the Anchorage park and trail system. The sites are located on the Fish Creek Trail at Kiwanis Fish Creek Park, mile 2.2 on the Coastal Trail, and at the ALPAR site at the intersection of Chester Creek and the Coastal Trail at Westchester Lagoon. The intent is to develop three sculptural seating installations that will serve as a social gathering points along these popular trail routes. Mr. Taylor provided information on materials to be used, and designs and drawings of the prototypes that have been constructed. This item will come back to the Commission as an Action Item when the project is construction-ready.

C. PRC 17-04 STA – Hillside Trails and Improvements

Presented by Lee Bolling and Cody Gauer, STA

STA, Single Track Advocates, proposes to add approximately 6-8 miles of single track bike trail in Far North Bicentennial Park. Mr. Bolling talked about the STA's history, accomplishments, and goals. Mr. Gauer provided an overview of the proposed project, location of the trails, types of trails, trail building techniques, community outreach, and other factors related to the project. They hope to be able to begin to "move dirt" on the project this summer. This item will be brought back as an Action Item for the Commission's approval once the final project plans are in place.

D. PRC 17-05 AWWU Reservoir 6 Drainage Improvements – Hillside/Far North Bicentennial Park

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner

Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) is preparing to construct a berm within Hillside Park and extending into Far North Bicentennial Park to prevent potential flooding of properties adjoining the location of its Water Reservoir No. 6. The berm will traverse a sparsely vegetated area generally coinciding with a social trail that connects the neighborhood to the Far North Bicentennial Park trail system. The trail is not managed by Parks and Recreation, but has a great deal of use by the neighborhood. The trail will run along the berm and when it is built, will be maintained by Parks and Recreation. The berm will be aligned to minimize disturbance of vegetation and minimize other impacts to the area. Restoration of the area will include supplemental

topsoil and infill, and revegetation. AWWU has obtained public support for this project from the neighborhood, and will present its plan to the Abbott Loop Community Council and Far North Bicentennial Park Users Group. When support from those groups is obtained, AWWU will return to this Commission for approval prior to construction.

E. PRC 17-03 2016 P&R Construction Accomplishments

Presented by Josh Durand, Park Superintendent

Mr. Durand provided a report on all of the construction accomplishments of the 2016 season. A short overview of each project was provided, including: Wayfinding and Graphics, Cuddy Park PA System, Town Square Park Renovation, Campbell Creek Parking Lot, Coastal Trail/Chester Creek Trail Y Improvements, Campbell Creek Trail bank restoration, Tony Knowles Coastal Trail bridges, Coastal Trail bank stabilization and erosion control, South Anchorage Sports Park Phase 1, Kincaid Park playground, North Russian Jack Springs Park Skate Park, Sitka Street Park climbing boulder, Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan and Phase 1 Project, Elderberry Park Master Plan, University Lake Maser Plan, Kiwanis Fish Creek Park playground, Barbara Street Park playground, and Duldida Park playground. Also discussed were Youth Employment in Parks and Volunteer projects.

F. PRC 17-06 Town Square Park Master Plan

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Planner

Parks and Recreation has begun planning to update the Town Square Park Master Plan. The process will have many opportunities for public participation, with a series of public meetings and workshops planned. The process is anticipated to take place over an 18-month time period. A Citizen Advisory Group is planned, as well as a Technical Advisory Group, a Business Roundtable, and a Youth Advisory Commission. Mr. Rafuse has asked that a Parks and Recreation Commissioner be a part of the advisory groups in order to provide input and keep the other Commission members informed on the planning process.

X. Commissioner Comments

There were no commissioner comments.

XI. Upcoming Meetings

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., February 9, 2017, at Spenard Recreation Center.

X. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this ___ day of _____, 2017:

Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Director
Parks & Recreation