



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

June 14, 2018



I. Call to Order

The June 14, 2018 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 Grace Johnston
Commissioner Jim Winchester

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Erin Kirkland
Commissioner Shannon Kuhn
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner Alison Smith

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda
Josh Durand
Steve Rafuse
Taylor Keegan
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Chang, the Agenda for the June 14, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Chang and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, the Minutes of the May 10, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided the following information:

Homeless camp clean is ongoing. Additional employees have been hired for the summer. The amount of trash taken to the dump from these camp cleanups so far this year is more than double what it was last year at this time.

There has been a problem with bear at Centennial Campground. We're working with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to alleviate that problem.

There is a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Chantshnu Muldoon Park on Saturday, June 16 from noon to 3:00 p.m., and you are invited to attend.

The Mayor's Marathon will be held on June 23 and there are continuous special events scheduled over the course of the summer.

The Department is currently working on the Capital Budget for 2019. The draft is due to be presented to the Administration on June 29. The operating budget will follow approximately one month later.

VI. Appearance Requests

Hans Thompson and Greg (no last name given) spoke to the Commission about public safety concerns at Valley of the Moon Park and their desire to remove bird cherry trees to thin wooded areas to improve visibility. They have been doing weed pulling and their desire is to use herbicide to remove the bird cherry trees. His group intends to go through the "paperwork process" to get permission to use herbicide.

Ed Brewer stated his opinion that all one had to do was girdle the bird cherry trees to kill them and that way they would never go to seed.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director of the Anchorage Park Foundation, invited Commissioners to participate in an exclusive playdate at David Green Park on Wednesday, June 20th. Commissioners were also invited to attend the Youth Employment in Parks closing ceremony and dinner on August 8.

VIII. Action Items

A. PRC 18-18 Tikishla Park Master Plan

PRC Resolution 2018-12

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Planner

Presentation

Commissioners were requested to approve the Tikishla Park Master Plan. Tikishla Park is a 105-acre, natural resource use park located in the Airport Heights neighborhood along the Chester Creek greenbelt. It functions as a neighborhood park and has well-defined use areas, a little league complex and a major multi-use trail corridor. The most recent master plan was completed in 1998. Upgrades are needed to address current issues and demands. The Plan is the result of extensive public engagement and identifies community needs, public expectations, and establishes a framework for future management, maintenance and development. The Plan embodies the community vision to provide year-round recreational opportunities while preserving natural resources. The community vision for Tikishla Park states: "Tikishla Park is a neighborhood hub and community gathering space offering families, friends, and neighbors of all ages access to year-round recreation in a clean and safe environment, preserving undeveloped natural areas for future generations, and celebrating trails that connect the city."

The planning and public involvement process was extensive and included outreach, social media updates, three advisor group meetings, two public open houses, two online surveys, a student workshop at Airport Heights Elementary School, and presentations to Airport Heights Community Council.

Goals of the Master Plan: understand the wants and needs of the community; identify and prioritize future improvements; understand the level of community support for a proposed indoor tennis facility; address community concerns regarding safety; balance

development of new facilities with existing natural areas; and create a tool for future fundraising. The planning process identified core values: a neighborhood hub; a balance between developed facilities and natural areas; safe, clean and well maintained; natural areas protected; year-round recreation; and access and location. The four use areas identified in the Plan are: Tikishla Park at East 20th Avenue, Natural Resources Areas, Chester Creek Trail and Spur Trails, and Davenport Fields. Recommendations for each area was discussed by Mr. Rafuse. Details of the Plan were included in the staff report and Master Plan provided to Commissioners.

The Airport Heights Community Council supports the Plan.

Parks and Recreation staff recommends approval of the Tikishla Park Master Plan.

Public Appearance Requests

Rod Sanborn felt there was a lack of notice given about public meetings and workshops, and said he did not believe the plan would help solve public safety issues. When asked if he had suggestions, he stated he did not.

Kaylin Saxton believed there was plenty of notice and opportunity to attend public meetings. She supports the Plan.

Ed Brewer also believed there was sufficient public notice that went beyond the usual ways notice is given. He thought turnout at the meetings was impressive. He likes the Plan.

Geren Tarr is the State House representative for the Airport Heights district and lives in Airport Heights. She complimented staff on a job well done for their work on the Master Plan. She believed public outreach was well done and is pleased with the Plan.

Sharon Cissna has lived in the area for 40 years and is very active in the community and has been involved in development of the Chester Creek trail system. She supports the Plan and complimented staff on the good job they did.

Discussion and Resolution

There was no further discussion on the proposed master plan.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Johnston and seconded by Commissioner Chang, PRC Resolution No. 2018-12 Tikishla Park Master Plan was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2018-12
Tikishla Park Master Plan

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, the most recent master plan for Tikishla Park was completed in 1998 and upgrades are needed to address current issues and meet the demand for recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Tikishla Park Master Plan provides a guiding vision for the management, maintenance and development of Tikishla Park by aiming to balance recreational uses with the preservation of important natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department worked with local stakeholders throughout the planning process to identify and prioritize improvements and to develop a 20-year vision for Tikishla Park; and

WHEREAS, the Tikishla Park Master Plan embodies the community's vision to provide active and healthy year-round recreational opportunities while preserving important natural resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Tikishla Park Master Plan maintains important natural areas and identifies improvements at Tikishla Park (E 20th Ave), Davenport Fields, and the Chester Creek Trail and connectors; and

WHEREAS, the Tikishla Park Master Plan is supported by the Airport Heights Community Council; and

Parks and Recreation staff recommends that the Commission pass a resolution supporting this project.

Public Appearance Requests

There were no public appearance requests on this action item.

Discussion and Resolution

After discussion between Commissioners and staff, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Bodry, PRC Resolution No. 2018-13 Sand Lake Park Learning Lab was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2018-13
Sand Lake Park Learning Lab

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, the teachers, staff, and students of Sand Lake Elementary have the goal to encourage and support recreational, educational, and community use of the park while supporting outdoor classroom learning environments; and

WHEREAS, the teachers, staff, and students of Sand Lake Elementary and community volunteers as a part of the Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant program, Anchorage Park Foundation Schools on Trails project teaming with the Alaska Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects are working together to design and install a learning lab at Sand Lake Park; and

WHEREAS, the design was completed by sixth grade students at Sand Lake Elementary school and inspired by a Koi Fish and traditional Japanese gardens and further developed by students and professionals; and

Public Appearance Requests

There were no public appearance requests on this action item.

Discussion and Resolution

After discussion between Commissioners and staff, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Johnston and seconded by Commissioner Bodry, PRC Resolution No. 2018-14 State of Play in the Municipality of Anchorage was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2018-14
State of Play in the Municipality of Anchorage

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, the *State of Play in the MOA: An Inclusive Play Guide* provides an in-depth analysis of the specific assets and investments of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, the *State of Play in the MOA: An Inclusive Play Guide* provides a guiding vision for the management, maintenance and development of inclusive playgrounds by combining site specific and contextual resources to understand equitable development; and

WHEREAS, the *State of Play in the MOA: An Inclusive Play Guide* embodies the Department's vision to go beyond modern ADA compliance and provide play opportunities for all; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations proposed in the *State of Play in the MOA: An Inclusive Play Guide* serve as guiding principles to balance the diverse wants and needs of the community; and

Discussion and Resolution

Following discussion between Commissioners and staff and upon motion duly made by Commissioner Johnston and seconded by Commissioner Chang, PRC Resolution No. 2018-15 Renovation of Jodhpur Parking Lot at Kincaid was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2018-15 Renovation of Jodhpur Parking Lot at Kincaid

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, Kincaid Park is a community use park located in the Sand Lake Community; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of Nordic skiing and mountain biking at Kincaid Park has led to a significant increase in the use of the Jodhpur Parking Lot; and

WHEREAS, a formal location for a year round camper host will facilitate nightly gate closures and eyes and ears for the park during closed hours;

WHEREAS, the development of a renovated parking lot with 76 spaces is sufficient to meet parking demand and will help address organization for scheduled events within the park; and

WHEREAS, the project was identified by the Sand Lake Community Council as a priority and was included in the 2017 Parks Bond, which was approved by voters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposal to renovate the Jodhpur Parking Lot at Kincaid Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of June, 2018.

