



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**



June 12, 2014

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Joey Caterinichio at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12, 2014, at Spenard Recreation Center.

II. Roll Call

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

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Joey Caterinichio
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Peter Murphy
Commissioner Richard Mystrom
Commissioner Carl Propes
Commissioner Harlow Robinson
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner James Balamaci

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda
Holly Spoth-Torres
Tom Korosei
Randy Rand

III. Consent Agenda

A. Agenda:

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Agenda for the June 12, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

B. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the May 1, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were not yet prepared for approval by Commissioners. Minutes of the May meeting will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

IV. Director's Comments

John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave an overview of this summer's activities and events in our parks. Things have been very busy and all staff have been working hard to keep everything running smoothly.

The recent tree removal at Town Square Park has been receiving a lot of press lately. Mr. Rodda stated the trees were removed for safety reasons and, that in response to public outcry he, the Chief of Police, the Municipal Ombudsman, and Holly Spoth-Torres met with members of the public to explain the decision to remove the trees and stress the public safety component of the decision.

The irrigation system at Kincaid Park is still not functioning properly. It is still hopeful the system will be in working order this year.

The Russian Jack golf course improvements are well underway and should be open for public use by the end of June.

Regarding the Muldoon parcels which were the subject of a resolution passed by this Commission at May's meeting, the Assembly has delayed the process for approval of grant funding and the creek realignment in order to have more public engagement regarding that issue.

At the request of Commissioner Propes, Mr. Rodda and Park Superintendent Holly Spoth-Torres gave an update on the repair of the new cracks in the pavement on the Coastal Trail. The new cracks that have appeared in the trail this year are not in an area where the new trail paving process was used, and have already been sealed. The bottom line is that trail maintenance needs to be done yearly to keep the trails in good condition.

Commissioner Robinson asked about the fees charged to for-profit and non-profit organizations that sponsor large events in Anchorage parks. Mr. Rodda stated that at this time the fees were the same for both. The schedule of fees charged must be approved by the Anchorage Assembly. Parks and Recreation is working on implementing changes in the fee structure, but as it stands today, both for-profit and non-profit organizations are charged the same fees.

V. Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests on non-agenda items.

VI. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Holly Spoth-Torres brought to the Commission's attention the Assembly Information Memorandum prepared by Beth Nordlund of the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF). This is a biannual report presented to the Assembly by APF which details APF projects and programs, and the financial investments in Anchorage parks. For 10 years APF, in partnership with the Municipality, has been actively raising funds and promoting construction projects and volunteer work in our parks.

VII. Action Item

**PRC 14-22: Dedication of Park Properties and Public Access;
Naming "Sundew Park"
PRC Resolution 2014-16
Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner**

A number of municipal parks needing dedication by the Anchorage Assembly have been identified by the Rabbit Creek, Huffman-O'Malley, Abbott Loop, Old Seward-Oceanview, Hillside East, Fairview community councils, and Anchorage citizens. It is recommended that these parks be formally dedicated by municipal ordinance.

Rabbit Creek Community Council also recommends formal dedication of an access and trail easement to facilitate access into Snowshoe Park in South Anchorage.

Huffman-O'Malley Community Council has recommend that Tanglewood Park be renamed "Sundew Park."

Not all parks recommended for dedication are large parks that provide significant recreation opportunities, natural resource areas or wildlife habitat; some are small buffer areas that enhance road corridors and neighborhoods. There are parcels that are additions to, or portions, of existing parks that may have been dedicated previously. Most of these parks were acquired for park purposes either by purchase, donation or a combination of these methods.

Some of the parcels also function as corridors for public utilities. Lot 181 of Davidson Park will be subject to subdivision to separate portions managed by Parks and AWWU respectively, with costs of replatting paid by AWWU. Replatting is subject to terms satisfactory to Parks and Recreation. The west portion of 1.7 acres will be retained for management by Parks and Recreation, the east 0.7 acres for AWWU. Language has been added to the resolution to include these terms.

Tanglewood Park and the addition to Storck Park were acquired for conservation purposes. It is requested that Tanglewood Park be renamed "Sundew Park."

The access and trail easement recommended for dedication function as an extension of Loc Sault Avenue adjacent to the east boundary of Snowshoe Park.

Park Land Dedications:

5 th Avenue/Glenn Highway Buffer Park	Nadine Park (addition)
A/C Couplet Buffer Park	Nancy Park
Atkins Park	Nelva Wilmoth Park
Bear Tracks Park	Old Seward Highway Buffer Park
Bob and Arlene Cross Park	Potter Creek Ravine Park
Cuddy Family Mid-Town Park	Rabbit Creek Park
Davidson Park (AWWU utility)	Seward Highway Buffer Park
Echo Hills Park (portion)	Snowshoe Park
Elmore Park	South Anchorage Sports Park
Fairview Park (portion)	Spruce Park
Furrow Creek Greenbelt	Ray E. Storck Homestead Park
Half Park	(addition)
Henson Park	Tanglewood Park (proposed name
Kobuk Park	"Sundew Park")
Lake Otis Buffer Park	Town Square Park (addition)
Meadow Street Park	Turinsky Park

Access and Trail Easement Dedication:

The access and trail easement dedication requested for Snowshoe Park was granted to the Municipality in 2006 for public use. Staff believes that the easement was granted with the clear understanding that it would be used by the public. The easement was not, however, "granted as an easement dedicated to the public." The grant stipulated that the Municipality may "make a dedication and grant of the easement to the public by an express written document." The owner of the property underlying the easement argues that, for the public to use the easement, it should be "dedicated to the public." Parks and Recreation believes that this step should eliminate some misunderstanding.

Renaming Tanglewood Park as “Sundew Park”:

The name “Tanglewood” comes from the name of the property subdivision and was used to identify the park after its transfer to park management. The name “Sundew” comes from the uncommon, interesting and wetland-dependent sundew plant species that grows in the park.

Staff Recommendation:

Parks and Recreation staff recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed Resolution 2014-16 to support:

1. Dedication of the above-indicated park land for park and recreation purposes;
2. Dedication of the above-described public access and trail easement; and
3. Naming Tract 2A, Tanglewood Subdivision, “Sundew Park.”

Public Appearances:

1. Jeff Vaughn (homeowner): Opposes dedication of the easement, public access and trail at Snowshoe Park.
2. Pat Abney (Rabbit Creek Community Council and HALO member): Supports dedication of the park lands; specifically supports the dedication of the access and trail easement at Snowshoe Park.
3. Robert Shipley (Anchorage Waterways Council): Supports dedication of park lands.
4. Diane Shellenbaum (homeowner): Supports dedication of the park lands; specifically supports the dedication of the access and trail easement at Snowshoe Park.
5. Steve Beardsley (OSOUCC): Supports dedication of the park lands purposes.
6. Susan Olsen (HALO member): Supports dedication of park lands; specifically supports the dedication of the access and trail easement at Snowshoe Park.
7. Cami Felker (local resident): Supports dedication of the park lands; specifically supports the dedication of the access and trail easement at Snowshoe Park.
8. Alan Ewing (HALO and Rabbit Creek Community Council member): Supports dedication of the park lands.

Discussion and Resolution

Following a motion duly made and seconded, Commissioners discussed the language in Resolution 2014-16 proposed by Parks and Recreation staff. Commissioners were in agreement with dedication of park lands, the renaming of Tanglewood Park to “Sundew Park,” and the replatting of Lot 181 of Davidson Park but felt that language regarding the dedication of the easement at Snowshoe Park needed to be added to reflect the Municipality’s intent to resolve the conflict between the property owner and trail users by delineating boundaries, constructing walkway improvements, and installing signage.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Resolution 2014-16 to add a paragraph with such language in the “be it resolved” section of the Resolution. The motion to amend the Resolution was unanimously approved by Commissioners as follows (added language appears in bold):

Resolution No. 2014-16
Dedication of Lands for Permanent or Long-Term Park and Recreation Purposes
Dedication of Public Access and Trail Easement
Naming Certain Park Land “Sundew Park”

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 Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the importance of protecting Municipal resources for permanent and long-term park use appropriate for providing an inclusive, orderly, cost-effective and publicly supported park and recreation system; and

WHEREAS, for the above stated purposes, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission finds the following:

That a number of properties, considered valuable elements of the park system of the Municipality of Anchorage, and more particularly identified in attached Exhibit A and Exhibit B, merit additional recognition and protection afforded by dedication by action of the Municipal Assembly as provided in Anchorage Municipal code, and such dedications would be consistent with the *Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource, and Recreation Facility Plan*;

That a certain access and trail easement recorded as Document No. 2006-046834-0 in the Anchorage Recording District, depicted on attached Exhibit C, for access to Snowshoe Park, provides an important route to allow access to and enjoyment of public park lands, and should continue to be open for reasonable use by the citizens of Anchorage; and

That naming Tract A2, Tanglewood Subdivision, as “Sundew Park,” would be an appropriate recognition of the unusual indigenous flora found there, and as such is consistent with naming criteria provided in AMC 3.97.020, .025; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the certain above-described Municipal properties be dedicated for permanent or long-term park or recreation purposes in accordance with AMC 25.10.080 B;

That the above-described easement be dedicated and granted to the public by appropriate written document, subject to the intent that the Municipality resolve the potential conflicts between property owner and public trail users such as by delineation of boundaries, construction of pathway improvements, and installation of signage; and

That municipal park land described as Tract A2, Tanglewood Subdivision, be named and hereafter known as “Sundew Park.”

Dedication of Lot 181 of Davidson Park shall be subject to subdivision to separate portions managed by Parks and AWWU/Real Estate Dept. respectively; costs of replat and related process shall be paid by AWWU; replat subject to other terms satisfactory to the Parks and Recreation Dept., including but not limited to access to park land, and retaining natural vegetation as much as possible. The westerly parcel to be dedicated and managed by Parks and Recreation Department shall be approx. 1.7 acres; the easterly parcel shall be approx. 0.7 acres.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 12th day of June 2014.

VIII. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled to be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2014, at Spenard Recreation Center.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further items on the Agenda or brought before the Commission for discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2014:

Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Director
Parks & Recreation