



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**



March 6, 2014

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Acting Chair Carl Propes at 6:12 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2014, at Spenard Recreation Center.

**II. Roll Call**

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

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Jim Balamaci  
Commissioner Peter Murphy  
Commissioner Richard Mystrom  
Commissioner Carl Propes  
Commissioner Jim Winchester

Commissioners excused/absent:

Commissioner Joey Caterinichio  
Commissioner Jon Dyson  
Commissioner Harlow Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff Present:

John Rodda  
Holly Spoth-Torres  
Tom Korosei  
Josh Durand  
Maeve Nevins  
Diana Cramer

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Agenda**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Mystrom, the Agenda for the March 6, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

#### **B. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Balamaci, the Minutes of the February 13, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

### **IV. Director's Comments**

John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided updates on topics discussed by him at prior meetings:

1. Anchorage Sno-X Lions: As previously reported, the January 18 special event held by the Sno-X Lions at Kincaid Jodphur Track was successful. However, because there has not been enough snowfall, no more requests for a special event permit have been made by this group. Contact has been made with Daniel Knight at JBER regarding possible use of a parcel of land at Moose Run for motorized sports and a meeting with him is scheduled for March 26, 2014.

2. Spenard Lions: Ure Park has been rezoned by the Planning and Zoning Commission to PLIP. It remains dedicated park land. The Lions Club is still seeking another location for its activities.

3. Hilltop Lawsuit: An appeal was filed yesterday. The Commission will be kept informed of progress.

4. Moose Hunting on Anchorage Park Lands: Whether or not to permit moose hunting on Anchorage park lands is still under consideration; there are no developments to report at this time.

5. Kincaid Project: Work continues on repair of the snow making system, which recently developed an underground break in the waterline.

6. Town Square: An action plan has been developed which will remove trees from and add lighting to the problematic area around Kobuk Coffee.

7. Ice Rink Refrigeration Systems: The first retrofit project of the refrigeration systems at four facilities, paid for by state funding, is McDonald Center. Work will begin in two weeks and is expected to be completed by October 15, 2014.

8. Tennis facility: The Mayor is still working toward building the tennis facility. A plan is being developed and Commissioners will hear more about this as it develops.

## **V. Appearance Requests (Non-Agenda Items)**

Dianne Holmes: Ms. Holmes addressed the Commission expressing her concerns about proper construction of unpaved trails in Section 36. She does not believe that all comments from the community that were given to Public Works have been shared with the Planning and Zoning Commission. She does not believe that Planning and Zoning officials have been given all the information nor have they received proper education about how these trails should be designed and constructed.

Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent, responded that trail advocates in Alaska have been working for a long time to make sustainable trails information and education available to the public and to public officials. When Planning and Zoning addresses the Section 36 Master Plan, it will have all public comment that was provided to Public Works and Parks and Recreation, and will rely on Parks and Recreation to design, construct and manage the trails.

## **VI. Action Items**

### **A. 2014-10 Proposed Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex Concession Building**

Tom Korosei, Park Planner, and Jack Heesch of the Anchorage Sports Association (ASA), presented ASA's proposal to construct a utility building at the Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex located at Far North Bicentennial Park. A concession building was part of a 1997 facility master plan that prescribed configuration of the ball field and parking improvements. The 900 square foot building will house not only an area for snack and drink vending, but also restrooms and maintenance equipment storage. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$225,000. Funds will be raised by the ASA. ASA has an agreement with the Municipality wherein ASA is responsible for maintenance of the buildings on the fields it leases, which will continue with this project. The Campbell Park Community Council considered this proposal on February 20, 2014, and is expected to provide a letter or resolution of support. A well-designed concession building would improve the park's functionality, provide convenience for park users, and enhance the visual character of the park. Parks and Recreation recommended the Commission adopt a resolution in support of the project.

There was no public testimony on this Action Item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Balamaci and seconded by Commissioner Murphy, Resolution 2014-7 Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex Improvements was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2014-7  
Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex 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, the Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex at Far North Bicentennial Park is a popular and well used community park facility whose plan calls for a concession or similar utility building to benefit park users; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Sports Association represents multiple groups that use and contribute to the maintenance of the Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex, and the Anchorage Sports Association has proposed development of a utility building in furtherance of the Complex master plan; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage community would be well served by an appropriate facility improvement such as a utility building generally of the type proposed by the Anchorage Sports Association; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends approval in concept for a proposed concession building and related improvements subject to the following conditions:

1. Approval is contingent on submittal of resolution or other acceptable document of support from Campbell Park Community Council.
2. The Anchorage Sports Association shall submit design and construction documents including site plan details to Parks and Recreation Dept. staff for review and approval.
3. The Anchorage Sports Association shall obtain all required permits and approvals such as building and utility permits, and shall provide copies of all permits and certificate of completion/occupancy to the Parks and Recreation Dept.

4. The Anchorage Sports Association shall provide record drawings of the completed project.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 6th day of March 2014.

**B. PRC 2015-11 Section 36 Master Plan Proposed Amendment, Transfer of Management Authority to Parks and Recreation Department, and Dedication**

The presentation by Tom Korosei, Park Planner, Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent, and Alison Smith, Heritage Land Bank Land Management Officer, described the background of the Section 36 Master Plan, and the reasons for the requested amendments. Primarily the Amendment states that upon Assembly approval of the Master Plan, Heritage Land Bank will retain management of wetland and appropriate buffer areas of Section 36 in Tracts 1 and 5, Section 36 Subdivision so that they will have the opportunity to apply conservation easements and use the mitigation value to promote other public projects at some time in the future. Management authority for Tracts 2 and 3, Section 36 Subdivision shall be transferred to the Parks and Recreation upon Assembly approval and dedicated for permanent or long-term park or recreational purposes. The Section 36 Master Plan was recommended for approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission in October 2010. At the request of the Heritage Land Bank, the Planning and Zoning Commission postponed decision on the Plan pending amendment as described above.

**Public testimony was heard from the following:**

Dianne Holmes: Ms. Holmes expressed the opinion that the lands should remain entirely within the management authority of Parks and Recreation, and not divided between Parks and Recreation and Heritage Land Bank.

Nancy Pease, Rabbit Creek Community Council: On behalf of the Rabbit Creek Community Council, Ms. Pease expressed the opinion that management of the lands should not be split between Heritage Land Bank and Parks and Recreation; that the lands should remain entirely under the management of Parks and Recreation; and that the trails and the connectivity to other areas that they will provide are badly needed.

It was explained by Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent, and Allison Smith of Heritage Land Bank, that while Heritage Land Bank will retain management authority of the wetlands and conservation easements on parcels south of Clark's Road, on-the-ground operations will be carried out by Parks and Recreation who will be allowed to provide trails for public use and will be required to provide maintenance on those park lands and trails. Heritage Land Bank and Parks and Recreation will be co-managers.

In order for a conservation easement to be legal, two entities must be involved: one holds the conservation easement, the other title to the land. Heritage Land Bank will make sure conservation values are protected; Parks and Recreation will make sure we are responsible landowners.

After discussion between Commissioners and staff, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Balamaci and seconded by Commissioner Murphy, Resolution No. 2014-08 Amendment of Section 36 Master Plan, Transfer of Management Authority, and Dedication was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2014-8  
Amendment of Section 36 Master Plan, Transfer of Management  
Authority, and Dedication

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 Parks and Recreation Commission approved the Master Plan for Section 36 at its meeting October 14, 2010, and recommended adoption of Concept 2, the Preferred Concept (PRC Resolution No. 2010-10); and

WHEREAS, the Plan calls for protection of natural resource values and maintenance of certain wetland areas in their existing condition; and

WHEREAS, the Plan includes Wetland Mitigation Funding as a potential funding source for development and maintenance of Section 36; and

WHEREAS, the MOA Heritage Land Bank is an appropriate agency to manage certain lands for conservation purposes and administers a mitigation bank in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for conservation and other public purposes; and

WHEREAS, lands within Section 36 are appropriate for management by the Parks and Recreation Department in accordance with the Master Plan, and likewise are appropriate for formal dedication by Assembly ordinance as provided by Municipal Code as further indication of the importance of this resource for the citizens of Anchorage; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends:

1. The Section 36 Master Plan shall be amended by adding language to Chapter 5, Preferred Concept, Wildlife Habitat (pp. 56-57), to the effect that: Management authority of wetland and appropriate buffer areas of Section 36 (in Tracts 1 and 5, Section 36 Subdivision) may be retained by MOA Heritage Land Bank, and subject to a conservation easement to protect conservation values and allow appropriate low-impact improvements such as trail development, including boardwalks and viewing platforms, and signage to facilitate appreciation of the resource, as described in the Section 36 Master Plan dated January 2011.
2. The Section 36 Master Plan dated January 2011, Concept 2, the preferred concept, shall be approved as hereby amended.
3. Management of wetland areas of Section 36 shall be for the benefit of the public. It is appropriate that mitigation value be used to facilitate municipal or other public projects, and that the MOA support use of revenue derived from mitigation value for improvement and maintenance of Section 36 in accordance with the approved master plan and approved by the Parks and Recreation Department.
4. Management authority for Tracts 2 and 3, Section 36 Subdivision, shall be transferred to the MOA Parks and Recreation Department upon Assembly approval and dedicated for permanent or long-term park or recreational purposes in accordance with AMC 25.10.80.
5. Management authority for Tracts 1 and 5, Section 36 Subdivision, except wetland areas as identified above, shall be transferred to MOA Parks and Recreation Department upon necessary delineation and/or survey of the said wetland areas.
6. The Heritage Land Bank may prepare conservation easements for the designated areas, acceptable to the Parks and Recreation Department, for mitigation purposes consistent with the approved Section 36 Master Plan.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 6th day of March 2014.

### **C. PRC 14-12 2014 Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grants**

The Anchorage Park Foundation has awarded four Challenge Grants for projects to be completed in 2014: Gazebo at Glenn Bragaw Community Garden, Russian Jack Springs Park Greens and Tees, ALPAR Landscape at Westchester Lagoon, and Didlika Park Landscaping, all of which have the support of their local community council. Commissioners were requested to sign a resolution in support of these projects. Aided by a Powerpoint presentation, park planners presented information regarding the projects.

1. Gazebo at Glenn Bragaw Community Garden: Details of this project were provided By Josh Durand, Park Planner. Grant George, a high school student, was awarded a \$6,000 Challenge Grant to construct a gazebo/picnic shelter at the Glenn Bragaw Community Garden. Working with KPB, a local architect firm, to design and secure permits, Grant and KPB incorporated safety, sustainability and aesthetics in designing a gazebo to serve as a gathering place for garden users. Construction will take place in summer 2014.

2. Russian Jack Springs Park Greens and Tees: As reported by Maeve Nevins, Park Planner, the First Tee Organization of Anchorage won a \$40,000 Challenge Grant to repair and/or replace the tees and greens at the Russian Jack Springs golf course. First Tee has reached a diverse group of young people and the numbers are growing. Its goal is to teach children to golf and about good sportsmanship through its First Tee National School and Green Grass programs. The current tees and greens do not allow First Tee to certify participants in its programs and they must use another course to do so. The improvements will upgrade the current tees and greens to allow First Tee to certify and advance its participants through the program without leaving Russian Jack golf course. The current tees are the originals built many years ago. They are run down and in need of replacement turf. First Tee will work with Parks and Recreation to complete the project of replacing tee boxes and greens with up-to-date turf. First Tee has negotiated with local companies to donate in-kind services for removal of old tee boxes and construction of new ones. The tee box turf is reclaimed from a previous Parks and Recreation field turf replacement project and will be installed by in-kind labor. The greens will receive new artificial turf to be installed by a designated installation company affiliated with the turf manufacturer in order to guarantee the product. Phase 1 of the project to remove and replace tee boxes will be completed in May 2014. Phase 2 to replace the turf on the greens will be completed after May 25, 2014, weather dependent. The project has the support of the Russian Jack Community Council.

3. ALPAR Landscape (Westchester Lagoon): Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) was awarded a \$40,000 for design of a kinetic sculpture and landscape improvements at the confluence of the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail and the Chester Creek Trail. The South Addition Community Council supports this project. The



proposed project was described by Maeve Nevins, Park Planner, along with ALPAR President Mary Fisher, Chad Taylor the architect, and Rebecca Lyon the artist who will create the sculpture. In summer of 2014, the sculpture will be constructed and landscape improvements performed, which will include relocation of existing benches, addition of new benches, signage, lighting, a recycle bin, and a bear-proof trash receptacle. ALPAR has agreed to maintain the recycle bin as part of its challenge grant.

4. Didlika Park Landscaping: Josh Durand reports that last year, the Polynesian Association organized clean-up days at Didlika Park which is located in the Turnagain area. Lucy Hansen has been awarded a \$8,100 Challenge Grant to provide landscaping improvements at the park. These improvements include weeding existing flower beds, adding soil and mulch, planting flowers around the park sign, limbing trees to improve sight lines, painting benches and picnic tables, cleaning up the gravel in the play area, and planting flowers near the picnic shelter. This project is in keeping with efforts made in recent years to improve this park.

Staff recommends that the Commission pass the proposed resolution supporting the 2014 Challenge Grant projects.

**Public testimony was heard from the following:**

David Wigglesworth spoke in favor of the ALPAR sculpture and landscaping project at Westchester Lagoon. However, he pointed out that the evergreen tree planted at that site was also a community park user project from 2005 or 2006, where people worked through the Park Foundation to plant that tree in recognition of an individual for his work with youth in parks, but also in recognition of conservation projects. He stated that the tree is growing and healthy, and should be left in place and not impacted by the project in any way. He also stated that there exists a risk of people congregating on the trail at the sculpture site which would impede trail traffic and create hazards for trail users. He expressed the opinion that the project should be designed in a way that keeps people off the trail at this site.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Balamaci, Resolution 2014-9 2014 Challenge Grant Projects was unanimously approved.

**While this language is not specifically incorporated into the following Resolution, Commissioners want to stress that with regard to the ALPAR Landscape Project at Westchester Lagoon, it is important that design of the landscape site be done in a way that it will keep people who stop to admire the sculpture or use the rest area off the trail and out of the way of trail traffic. In addition, it is important not to remove or replace the evergreen trees that are presently growing on the site.**

The resolution was approved as follows:

Resolution No. 2014-8  
2014 Challenge Grant Projects

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 Park Foundation provides Challenge Grant funding for capital improvement projects in Anchorage parks and trails; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation staff provided consultation to Challenge Grant recipients and oversight of Challenge Grant projects to ensure that improvements are consistent with the desires of the community and relevant park plans; and

WHEREAS, all proposed improvements have received Community Council review and approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the improvements submitted by the Department for the 2014 Challenge Grant projects: Gazebo at Glenn Bragaw Community Garden, Russian Jack Springs Park Greens and Tees, ALPAR Landscape (Coastal Trail), and Didlika Park Landscaping.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 6th day of March, 2014.

**D. PRC 14-13 Jewel Lake Dock Replacement**

Maeve Nevins, Park Planner, provided details on the Jewel Lake Dock Replacement Project. The park is a community use park with a picnic shelter, softball field, volleyball sand lot, playground, picnic tables, swimming area, beach, paved parking, restrooms, bike trail access, and a non-motorized small craft area. Fishing is permitted 50 feet from the swimming area. The dock currently located on Jewel Lake is considered unsafe and in need of significant repairs. It is not currently considered ADA accessible. The project will remove the existing dock and replace it with a custom designed, fully accessible dock. The approach asphalt path will be repaired and improved. Funding for this project is from a \$60,000 legislative grant. The dock will feature an elevated bench and bars which will allow a resident in a wheelchair to slide from the dock into a

watercraft. The dock will allow people of all abilities to enjoy Jewel Lake and they will be able to fish from the dock. Sand Lake Community council considered and approved this proposal at their March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, and is expected to provide a letter or resolution in support. Staff recommends that the Commission pass a resolution to support this project as presented.

No public testimony was given on this Action Item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Mystrom, Resolution No. 2014-10 was unanimously approved as follows:

Resolution No. 2014-10  
Jewel Lake Dock Replacement

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 Parks and Recreation Department acquired public support from the Sand Lake Community Council to approve the conceptual design for the replacement dock at Jewel Lake Park; and

WHEREAS, the replacement dock as presented will provide ADA access aimed at addressing safety concerns in the Jewel Lake Park;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed replacement dock at Jewel Lake Park as presented.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2014.

## **VII. Commissioner Comments and Other Information**

Commissioner Propes asked commissioners to urge their legislators to support the capital project request made by the Municipality to the State Legislature for funds to improve the bike trail on the Seward Highway from Anchorage to Girdwood.

Holly Spoth-Torres provided Commissioners with a handout containing information on the ballot propositions that will come before voters at the April election, specifically

Proposition 3 for Area-wide Facilities (capital improvements for Loussac Library improvements, Anchorage Golf Course Building renovation, Chester Creek Sports complex, City Hall upgrades, and area-wide public facility security upgrades) and Proposition 4 for Parks and Recreation projects (Chester Creek Greenbelt trail improvements, Kincaid Park Chalet and Parking improvements, and Valley of the Moon Park dog park and parking upgrades).

### **VIII. Upcoming Meetings**

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., April 10, 2014, at Spenard Recreation Center.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Balamaci, unanimously approved, and there being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair  
Parks & Recreation Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Parks & Recreation