



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**



March 12, 2015

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Acting Chair Jon Dyson at 6:10 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, 2015, at Spenard Recreation Center.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Josh Durand, Park Superintendent.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Jim Balamaci
Commissioner Richard Mystrom
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Levi Robinson
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner Joey Caterinichio
Commissioner Peter Murphy
Commissioner Carl Propes
Commissioner Harlow Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

Josh Durand
Maeve Nevins
Diana Cramer

III. Consent Agenda

A. Agenda

Two requests to amend the Agenda for the March 12, 2015 Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were made.

1. Because he had to leave the meeting early, Commissioner Jim Balamaci requested that the Action Items be moved forward on the Agenda to be heard prior to the Director's Comments and other items that did not require a vote by the Commission.

2. Park Superintendent Josh Durand requested that Action Item (C) PRC 15-10 Ruth Arcand Covered Arena be heard before Action Items (A) and (B) to accommodate members of the public who were presenting this project to the Commission.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Jim Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Jim Balamaci, the Agenda was amended and unanimously approved.

B. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Rich Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Jim Winchester, the Minutes of the February 12, 2015 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

IV. Action Items

(C) PRC 15-10 Ruth Arcand Park Covered Arena (PRC Resolution No. 2015-07)

Presented by Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, and
Rebecca Widmer, Executive Director of Equine Assisted
Therapy Alaska (EATA)

Equine Assisted Therapy Alaska (EATA) is preparing to resubmit plans for a structure to cover an arena at the Chamberlin Equestrian Center at Ruth Arcand Park. EATA provides recreational and therapeutic horse riding programs for children and adults with disabilities. The proposed structure would provide greater security and protection from the weather and allow year-round operation. Plans originally proposed in 2010 were for a different site at the Center and required more extensive site preparation. The new plan at the new location will utilize an existing arena and require less preparation. The structure will be the same as that proposed in 2010: a white and green arched, steel-framed structure with fabric covering, 120 feet long, 72 feet wide, and 20 feet high. The structure is a pre-engineered standard design from Cover-all Building Systems, Inc. The plans were submitted under a ground lease for operation of the Equestrian Center

that was approved by voters and the Assembly. Huffman O'Malley and Abbott Loop Community Councils have indicated their support.

Public Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests from the public on this action item.

Staff Recommendation

Parks and Recreation staff recommend that the Parks and Recreation Commission adopt the proposed resolution supporting the proposed covered arena project at Ruth Arcand Park as presented with the following condition:

EATA shall obtain all additional approvals and permits necessary and required in conformance with applicable Municipal and other agency regulations.

Public Appearance Requests

Steve Ribuffo of Equine Assisted Therapy Alaska and Nancy Burroughs, President of the Anchorage Horse Council, both spoke in favor of this project.

Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Rich Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Levi Robinson, Resolution No. 2015-07 Proposed Equestrian Arena Enclosure at Ruth Arcand Park was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2015-07 Proposed Equestrian Arena Enclosure at Ruth Arcand 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, Equine Assisted Therapy Alaska is a non-profit organization that provides valuable services to citizens of Anchorage, and holds a lease allowing for development of improvements at Ruth Arcand Park to facilitate and enhance those services; and

WHEREAS, EATA has submitted plans generally consistent with the said lease and other plans, and supported in concept by Huffman-O'Malley and Abbott Loop Community Councils; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends authorization for construction of a proposed enclosure for equestrian facilities at Ruth Arcand Park, generally as proposed, subject to the following condition:

EATA shall obtain all additional approvals and permits necessary and required in conformance with applicable Municipal and other agency regulations.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 12th day of March, 2015.

**(A) PRC 15-08 Proposed Permit Renewal for
Telecommunications Antenna at Kincaid Park
(PRC Resolution No. 2015-05)**

Presented by Maeve Nevins, Park Planner

A permit issued to the Megadata Corporation/Passur Aerospace for its PASSUR (Passive Secondary Surveillance Radar) system in 2009 will expire this year. The system continues to be used by the Ted Stevens International Airport for airport operations, is used by commercial operators, and allows accurate tracking of aircraft at the airport to confirm arrivals and departures. The site of the antenna is atop the Kincaid Park Outdoor Center. It is 24 inches tall and 35 inches in diameter, supported on a pole attached to the exterior wall. The antenna extends approximately four feet above the wall to allow direct line of sight to the FAA's ASR-11 radar also located in the park to the east of the Outdoor Center. There is auxiliary equipment located inside the building. Parks and Recreation reports that no problems or negative effects from the equipment have been noted. The new permit, just like the permit that will expire this year, will be a temporary/revocable permit for a term of one year but may have the option to renew annually for up to five years. Renewal or extension of the permit may be subject to further Parks and Recreation review and may be subject to further restrictions. The permit requires Assembly authorization.

Staff Recommendation

Parks and Recreation staff request that the Commission adopt the resolution authorizing the Municipality to issue the subject permit subject to these conditions:

1. The permit document shall be subject to review by the Municipal Attorney, and contain appropriate terms in the interest of the Municipality including terms pertaining to site restoration.

2. The permittee shall pay applicable fees in accordance with code and current fee schedule, including fair market value or reasonable periodic rate on basis determined by the Municipality.

3. The permittee shall be responsible for complying with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations and obtaining any and all other required permits for the proposed project.

Public Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests from the public on this action item.

Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Jim Balamaci and seconded by Commissioner Jim Winchester, PRC Resolution No. 2015-05 Renewal of Permit for a Telecommunications Antenna at Kincaid Park was unanimously approved as follows:

Resolution No. 2015-05 Renewal of Permit for a Telecommunications Antenna at Kincaid 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, in 2008 the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport provided information supporting the benefit of placement of the subject antenna and appurtenances to the Airport's operations and therefore to the public that uses Airport facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission at its November 13, 2008, regular meeting recommended authorizing a revocable permit for placement of the antenna and appurtenances at Kincaid Park, finding that the grant of a revocable permit for the equipment would not significantly diminish the potential use of the park, nor would use of the permit have material impact on the long-term appearance of the park; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality issued a permit for the antenna and equipment for one year with renewal options for five additional years, and the permit as extended expires this year; and

WHEREAS, the permit holder has requested a new permit to continue operation of the existing equipment to continue providing the service; and
WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department is not aware of adverse effects upon Kincaid Park and use of the park lands and facilities; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreation Commission has no objection to granting a revocable use permit for the aircraft tracking equipment (antenna and appurtenances) within Kincaid Park, with the following conditions and understandings:

1. The permit document shall be subject to review by the Municipal Attorney, and contain appropriate terms in the interest of the Municipality including terms pertaining to site restoration.
2. The permittee shall pay applicable fees in accordance with code and current fee schedule, including fair market value or reasonable periodic rate on basis determined by the Municipality.
3. The permittee shall be responsible for complying with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations and obtaining any and all other required permits for the proposed project.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 12th day of March, 2015.

**(C) PRC 15-098 Youth Employment in Parks 2015 Projects
(PRC Resolution No. 2015-06)**

Presented by Maeve Nevins, Park Planner and
Josh Durand, Park Superintendent

Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) is a joint program of the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department and the Anchorage Park Foundation. The program aims to provide meaningful job training, employment and education for young people. This year five YEP projects and one Student Conservation Association YEP Alumni crew project will be completed.

1. Westchester Lagoon Bank Restoration: The YEP crew will plant native trees and shrubs to facilitate bank stabilization and help mitigate the impacts of the Chester Creek trail construction project.

2. Kincaid Beach Trail: The YEP crew will spend two weeks developing a soft surface trail from the Coastal Trail to Kincaid beach in order to provide safe access, and rehabilitation and restoration to areas eroded by social trails.

3. Earthquake Park Interpretive Trail Signs: The YEP crew will improve existing social trails and install interpretive signs along the trail in Earthquake Park.

4. Centennial Park Campground: The YEP crew will complete the makeover of Centennial Park with landscaping and sledding hill improvements.

5. Far North Bicentennial Park Sledding Hill and Trail Work: The YEP crew will have two tasks: (1) to develop a sledding hill at Abbott Loop Community Park to include modifications, slop stabilization, and rehabilitation of vegetation; and (2) to maintain and improve existing segments of trail.

6. Kincaid Park Trails and Restoration: The Student Conservation Association's YEP Alumni Crew will spend two weeks at Kincaid Park restoring existing trails, managing vegetation, and assisting the YEP crews on the Kincaid Beach Trail project as needed.

Staff Recommendation

Parks and Recreation staff recommend that the Commission pass the proposed resolution in support of the projects as presented.

Public Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests from the public on this action item.

Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Rich Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Levi Robinson, Resolution No. 2015-06 2015 Youth Employment in Parks Projects was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2015-06 2015 Youth Employment in Parks 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 Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department and the Anchorage Park Foundation has dedicated or achieved \$234,500 in funding to support the 2015 Youth Employment in Parks; and

WHEREAS the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) is in its 9th year of operation with a planned scope of work that includes trail work, bank restoration, interpretive sign installation, slope stabilization, landscaping and vegetation rehabilitation, and park beautification projects to be completed during the 2015 YEP program season.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the Scope of Work submitted by the Department for the 2015 Youth Employment in Parks Projects.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 12th day of March, 2015.

V. Director's Comments

There were no director's comments.

VI. Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Jess Rude from the Anchorage Park Foundation gave a summary of the activities and projects of the Anchorage Park Foundation, Challenge Grants, Neighborhood Park Fix-Its, the Anchorage Child Initiative, and Youth Employment in Parks.

Ms. Rude introduced Steve Hester, the new Youth Employment in Parks Manager, to the Commission. Mr. Hester has over 20 years experience working with youth in outdoor conservation and work programs teaching and helping them to develop traditional and leadership skills. He has also worked seasonally in Alaska on trail projects, most recently on the trail and stairs at Campbell Creek Estuary.

VIII. Information Item

PRC 15-11 Park Bond 2015 – APF

Jess Rude, Anchorage Park Foundation, provided details of the 2015 Park Bond, Proposition 4 \$2,750,000 Anchorage Parks and Recreation Service Area Capital Improvements Bonds, that will be on the ballot at the April 7, 2015 municipal election. These bonds would pay to improve, construct or maintain parks, trails, and recreational

facilities in the Anchorage. It is anticipated the bond money would be used to replace the failed Coastal Trail bridge at Westchester Lagoon as well as begin the process to repair and/or replace other bridges.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Levi Robinson requested a copy of the 2015 Neighborhood Park Fix-it schedule. Josh Durand will request that the Volunteer Coordinator provide commissioners with the schedule.

Commissioner Rich Mystrom brought up the pond hockey tournament that was held at Goose Lake. It was felt by all that the tournament was successful, despite weather conditions and some parking issues.

X. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, April 9, 2015, at Spenard Recreation Center.

XI. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Rich Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Jim Winchester, the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2015:

Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Director
Parks & Recreation