



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

October 11, 2018



I. Call to Order

The October 11, 2018 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission, held at Spenard Recreation Center, was called to order by Acting Chair Eric Milliken 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 Grace Johnston
Commissioner Shannon Kuhn
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Erin Kirkland
Commissioner Alison Smith

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda
Josh Durand
Maeve Nevins
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

As requested by Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, the Agenda was amended to change the date of upcoming November meeting to November 8, 2018 rather than November 11, 2018 as stated on the proposed Agenda. Upon motion made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, the Agenda for the October 11, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, amended to reflect the correct date for the November meeting, was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, the Minutes of the August 9, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

Director John Rodda, Park Superintendent Josh Durand and Park Planner Maeve Nevins-Lavtar provide updates and status reports on Parks and Recreation activities.

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

1. **Commission appointments.** October is the time of year when members for boards and commissions are appointed by the Assembly. Commissioners' terms expire in October every year. New members are put forth by the Mayor's Office and approved by the Assembly. New appointments will come before the Assembly very soon. Although a term may expire on October 14, a commissioner may continue for 120 days or until a new appointment is made and commissioners are encouraged to do so. Only two members of this Commission have terms that expire this year – Jon Dyson and Alison Smith. Mr. Dyson has already expressed his desire to be reappointed.

2. **Homeless camps.** So far this year, 221 tons of material have been hauled to the landfill. For all of 2017 it was 172 tons; 135 tons in 2016; and 55 tons in 2015. This increase can be attributed both to an increase in the homeless population but also to an increase in staffing. Funds for homeless camp cleanup and crew positions are included in next year's budget. It is anticipated that the homeless camp cleanup crew will start earlier in the spring and continue later in the fall next year.

Interested parties can attend a public meeting at the Lutheran Church at 15th and Cordova on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

3. **Budget.** Parks and Recreation has been left with a "flat" budget for 2019. Therefore, no cuts are anticipated.

4. **Mulcahy Stadium.** Safety issues at Mulcahy are being addressed and should be completed by May. Additionally, replacement of the right field line box seats is planned.

5. **Anchorage Football Stadium.** This is a busy time of year with youth football, adult football, and tournaments taking place. Because this coincides with the start of the hockey season at Ben Boeke, traffic and parking can be problematic. People need to be aware when attending an event that there will likely be more than one event happening at the same time and plan accordingly.

6. **Junior National Ski Races** are scheduled to be held at Kincaid Park in March. Hopefully the weather will cooperate. Last year it finally got cold enough to use the snow making equipment, but making enough snow for the trails at Kincaid is costly.

B. Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Park Planner, provided two status reports:

1. **Campbell Creek Trail Rehabilitation.** Phases 1 and 2 have been completed. Phase 3, from Taku Lake Park to where the trail approaches Raspberry Road, has begun. This phase includes several bridges that need extensive repair or complete replacement. It is hoped engineering and design on those bridges can be completed promptly so that work can continue next summer.

2. **South Westchester Lagoon Bridge Replacement.** Following the last big trail race of the season, the Zombie Run on October 13, the Coastal Trail will be closed at the south Westchester Lagoon bridge. It is anticipated that enough work will be completed to allow the bridge to be reopened in January with finish work to be completed as soon as the weather is warmer. Trail users have several detour route options to use during construction.

C. Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, provided a report on this year's projects:

1. **Chester Creek Trail Lighting.** LED lighting is being installed to replace the old lighting from Westchester Lagoon all the way to Russian Jack Springs Park. The project is already 4 weeks along and should be completed in November.

2. **Chantshnu Muldoon Park.** Phase 1 of the project is completed. Phase 2 will be completed next year with parking, community gardens, dog park, and other amenities.
3. **Northeast Connector Trail.** This trail will connect Chugach Foothills Park from the end of Klutina Street to Campbell Airstrip Road in Far North Bicentennial Park. Federal dollars have been received to begin engineering and design work on the project.
4. **Jewel Lake Park.** There was a delay in receiving playground equipment, however, that is expected to be delivered very soon with installation of the equipment accomplished next year.
5. **Frontierland Park.** A delay in receiving the playground equipment for this park was also experienced, however, the equipment was received yesterday and that, too, will be installed next year.
6. **Whisper Faith Kovach Park.** This project is complete and has been well received by the community. It includes a new inclusive playground and a fenced dog park.
7. **Chugach Foothills Park.** The planning process is nearing completion. All that is left is working out details on the play equipment.
8. **Folker Park.** The design process is in progress. It is anticipated this project will be constructed next year.
9. **Fairview Recreation Center Indoor Playground.** The Department is currently working with the community on the final details for this inclusive playground.
10. **Jodhpur Parking Lot.** The parking lot was completed yesterday and includes an upgraded, organized parking lot, LED lighting, striping, and a designated camp host spot. Because they actually performed the work, MOA Street Maintenance deserves our thanks for the successful completion of this project.
11. **Fish Creek Trail.** This is a State Department of Transportation managed project and is being completed with federal funds. Phase 1 was completed this year; phase 2 will begin this spring.

12. **South Anchorage Sports Park.** The playground is finished and open for use, parking lot improvements have been made, lighting has been installed, and the small dog park is almost finished.

13. **Wayfinding.** There are active projects right now on the Coastal Trail, Chester Creek Trail, and Ship Creek Trail, all in different stages of completion and moving along nicely. The Coastal Trail has some of the mile markers in place and Chester Creek Trail has its markers. The sign bases are all in but we are waiting for the signs.

14. **Westchester Nature Trail.** This trail project will be constructed early next summer.

15. **Town Square Park Master Plan.** The Department continues to work with the community and technical advisory groups to finalize plans before presenting it to the Planning and Zoning Commission. This will be done in the near future.

16. **Planning and Zoning Commission Approvals.** The Planning and Zoning Commission has approved the Taku Lake Master Plan and the Tikishla Park Master Plan. As those plans are realized, individual projects will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval.

17. **Russian Jack Springs Park Master Plan.** A community advisory group is being formed and work is beginning on this master plan process.

18. **2018 Youth Employment in Parks Projects.** All projects have been completed with the exception of the disc golf course at Davis Park. It has some work that still needs to be done and this is being completed by volunteers from the Disc Golf Association. It should be open in a couple of weeks.

D. **2019 Bond Package.** Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, also provided details on the items included on the 2019 bond package to come before voters at the April 2019 election. The total bond package is \$3,950,000. Items included on the bond are:

1. **Dave Rose Park —** \$50,000 for parking lot improvements and ADA access to the playground and picnic shelter.

2. **Cuddy Family Midtown Park —** \$250,000 for a warming facility near the skating oval.

3. **Russian Jack Springs Park** — \$350,000, for community priorities established in the master plan.
4. **Hamilton Park** — \$200,000 for renovated trail and playground.
5. **Government Hill Community Park Plan** — \$150,000 for community council priorities.
6. **Ure Park** — \$100,000 for community priorities determined by the updated site plan.
7. **Elderberry Park** — \$500,000 for implementation of the Master Plan, including new access to the Coastal Trail and renovation of the existing plaza and playground.
8. **Campbell Creek Trail Rehabilitation and Wayfinding** — \$750,000 to continue trail resurfacing and install safety improvements and directional signage.
9. **William B. Lyons Park** — \$300,000 for a new inclusive playground and lighting.
10. **Northeast Connector Trail** — \$300,000 for a new trail, boardwalk, and bridge to provide a non-motorized connection to Far North Bicentennial Park. This is a match for an AMATS federal grant.
11. **Tikishla Park** — \$400,000 to implement master plan priorities including an inclusive playground, new plaza, picnic shelter, and safety improvements.
12. **Facility Building Health, Safety and ADA upgrade requirements** — \$200,000 to include lead paint abatement, wheelchair access into buildings and toilet areas, and security system installation.
13. **Chester Creek Complex** — \$400,000 for facility safety, security, and ADA upgrades.

VII. Action Item

PRC 18-25 Coastal Trail/Chester Creek Trail Kiosks at Westchester Lagoon
PRC Resolution No. 2018-18
Presented by Josh Durand

In order to improve wayfinding at Westchester Lagoon, the Department proposes to add a small wayfinding kiosk and map near the intersection of the Coastal Trail and Chester Creek Trail, replace a large wayfinding kiosk now located at the playground parking lot, and, in order to improve vehicle and pedestrian circulation and reduce pollution, relocate the restroom facilities to the northwest corner of the parking lot. The Department worked with landscape architects from Huddle AK on the design and siting of the kiosks. Trail users who participated during the wayfinding development process were also involved. The project is part of the new mile marker and emergency locate signs that are being installed on major greenbelt trails. Information on the project was presented to the South Addition Community Council at its September meeting and the project was unanimously approved. The Department requests a resolution by this Commission supporting the project.

Commissioners and staff then participated in a discussion on trail wayfinding in general and this project specific. Upon motion made by Commissioner Johnston and seconded by Commissioner Chang, Resolution No. 2018-18 Approval of Proposed Coastal Trail/Chester Creek Trail Kiosks at Westchester Lagoon was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2018-18
Approval of Proposed Coastal Trail/Chester Creek Trail
Kiosks at Westchester Lagoon

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, through the Anchorage Park Foundation's "Trail Sign Sponsorship Program" and in collaboration with the Anchorage Park Department, two kiosks will be installed to improve wayfinding from the parking area, the Coastal Trail and the Chester Creek Trail; and

WHEREAS, the restroom facilities will be relocated to the accessible parking space located in the northwest corner of the playground parking lot and the accessible parking space would be reconfigured to improve maintenance access to the restroom facilities; and

WHEREAS, the project would help address current safety issues between the Chester Creek Trail and Tony Knowles Coastal Trail intersection with the through-traffic user conflicts and restroom users; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2018, the South Addition Community Council considered the project and gave its unanimous support; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: The Parks and Recreation Commission approves the Proposed Coastal Trail/Chester Creek Trail Kiosks at Westchester Lagoon.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 11th day of October 2018.

Voting record on PRC Resolution No. 2018-18:

Yea: Commissioners Bodry, Chang, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn, Milliken, Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Dyson, Kirkland, Smith

VIII. Information Items

Information items were presented by staff as part of the Director's Comments.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Winchester and Director Rodda then had a conversations about the materials used on sports fields, and how the Department maintains a reserve of materials from each project for future maintenance.

Commissioner Winchester commented on the success of the volunteer projects on the trail system.

Commissioner Milliken asked about the possibility of a water feature at Westchester Lagoon. Mr. Durand responded that although that possibility had been considered, it was deemed to costly to construct and maintain.

X. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., November 8, 2018, at Spenard Recreation Center.

XI. Adjournment

Upon motion made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2018:

Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Director
Parks & Recreation