



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

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**



September 11, 2014

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Joey Caterinichio at 6:05 p.m. on Thursday, September 11, 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 Levi Robinson  
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner James Balamaci  
Commissioner Carl Propes  
Commissioner Harlow Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda  
Holly Spoth-Torres  
Tom Korosei  
Diana Cramer

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Agenda:**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Levi Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Jon Dyson, the Agenda for the September 11, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

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

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Richard Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Peter Murphy, the Minutes of the August 14, 2014, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

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

John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation

Nike Site Summit: Last week was the meeting of the Nike Site Summit. Tours of the former Nike Hercules missile sites at Kincaid, Goose Bay and Arctic Valley were provided to participants, and guest speakers, including Col. Rogers who was the last commanding officer of the Nike missile program in Alaska, and special programs were presented. The push is being made for these sites to be designated as historical sites.

Women's Rugby 7s: A youth rugby clinic and exhibition game by the Women's Rugby 7s will take place on the Delaney Park Strip on Saturday, September 13. The women's team will be trying out for the 2016 Olympics. The program will promote public interest in the team and support for its goals.

South Anchorage Sports Park: The wood lot that was operated at South Anchorage Sports Park turned out to be not as good an idea as anticipated and therefore has been removed. Cleanup of the park area is in progress.

Kincaid moose hunt: A proposal for a 2-week moose hunt for handicapped participants has been made to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. If Fish and Game approves the application, it will then fall on Parks and Recreation whether or not to approve the hunt and make decisions on how to proceed.

Downtown Rotary: A plan for installation of planters as a replacement for trees that had to be removed along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue between E and I streets has been made by the Downtown Rotary. Those planters will be installed in the near future.

Waldron Lake: Whether or not to maintain the Waldron Lake property or how best to utilize said property is currently being discussed by the Administration, Parks and

Recreation, and others. The property is presently owned by the Boys and Girls Club. Commissioners will be kept advised as this topic develops.

Hilltop zipline: A proposal to operate a zipline at Hilltop is being developed by a private vendor. After Parks and Recreation has received and reviewed the proposal, and the vendor has complied with Parks and Recreation conditions, details will be presented to the Commission.

Kincaid snow-making equipment: The snow-making equipment at Kincaid is still not complete, but hopefully within the next month it will be ready and responsibility for operation will be turned over to Nordic Ski Association.

## **V. Park Superintendent Report**

Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent

Bridge failure and replacement: As discussed at the August meeting, an engineer's "report of failure" regarding the Westchester Lagoon bridge failure and a "structural analyses" of the remaining four bridges that were built at the same time were requested and received. All five bridges are in bad shape and will be replaced in order of priority beginning, of course, with the Westchester Lagoon bridge that failed in June. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue bridge is also in bad shape and will be the second bridge replaced. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue bridge will receive interim structural support to make it usable. Some funding for design of the new bridges is available. However, the cost for replacement of the bridges is estimated at between \$750,000 and \$2,000,000 each. Funding requests will be in the 2015 bond and state capital funds requests. Those requests will be seen yearly for many years.

Park(ing) Day: Anchorage Park Foundation and Parks and Recreation will be holding a "Park(ing) Day" on Friday, September 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They will take over the parking lot at City Hall and turn it into a park for the day. The event designed to bring attention to the need for parks and open spaces, and is open to the public and Anchorage Assembly and School Board members will be present. Food vendors will be onsite. Commissioners are invited and encouraged to attend.

## **VI. Action Item**

### **PRC 2014-15: Proposed Site Plan for Fire Station 9; Proposed Subdivision and Dedication of Rabbit Creek Park**

Tom Korosei, Park Planner

In October 2012, the Public Works Department presented possible sites for the new Fire Station 9 to the Parks and Recreation Commission. One of those possible sites was

located on a portion of Rabbit Creek Park. The Commission considered the impacts of locating the Fire Station there and stated specific recommendations and conditions for transfer of park land for the project. Those recommendations and conditions were included in PRC Resolution No. 2012-08. In November 2012, the Planning and Zoning Commission incorporated those recommendations and conditions into its Resolution No. 2012-053 recommending selection of the Rabbit Creek Park site.

Parks and Recreation finds that the conceptual plans include design features that address its concerns. The plan uses no more than two acres of the park, provides a 50-foot wide or greater buffer between the station and adjoining residential properties, and retains substantial existing vegetation and provides for additional landscaping. Conceptual architectural designs indicate that the station will be aesthetically pleasing and will enhance the neighborhood.

The project should be presented to the Assembly in December of 2014 or early 2015 and will include a request for formal dedication of the remaining park land. Parks and Recreation will continue to work with the design project team as plans are refined and formalized, and recommends commission approval.

Michelle Ritter, DOWL HKM, and Jonny Hays, Landscape Architect, were part of the design team for this project. The plan included design plans, zoning and platting, and dedication of park land. They provided Commissioners with an overview of the project, details of the design plans, and answered questions. Considerable public outreach and public input was accomplished, with members of the community acting as part of the design team. Community concerns, as well as Parks and Recreation recommendations, have been incorporated into the design. This design is preliminary and refinement of the details will continue.

### **Public Input**

Dianne Shellenbaum, Rabbit Creek resident, spoke regarding her concerns about improved trails and public access in the park. The community wants the park to remain in a natural state with no paved trails or amenities. They do not want an improved trail in their backyards or improved public access.

Mr. Rodda encouraged Ms. Shellenbaum to make sure her concerns and the community's are brought to the attention of the design team, if it is felt that something was left out or not in accord with community wishes, as the plan is still in its developmental stages.

Mr. Rodda told Commissioners that Parks and Recreation has requested a 2-inch water line access to be incorporated into the building plans for Parks and Recreation's potential future needs.

## **Motion and Resolution**

Being full advised, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Peter Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Richard Mystrom, the Commission unanimously approved Resolution No. 2014-18, Resolution of Support of Proposed Site Plan for Fire Station 9, Including Subdivision of Rabbit Creek Park, as follows:

### **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT OF PROPOSED SITE PLAN FOR FIRE STATION 9, INCLUDING SUBDIVISION OF RABBIT CREEK 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, the Parks and Recreation Commission at its October 11, 2012, meeting made recommendations applicable in the event that Rabbit Creek Park was selected as the site for a new municipal fire station to improve safety and otherwise serve the community; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission at its November 5, 2012, meeting approved selection of a portion of Rabbit Creek Park as the site for the facility subject to the Parks and Recreation Commission recommendations, and

WHEREAS, as a condition of support for this use of municipal park property, the Parks and Recreation Commission has the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed site plan for the facility to verify that the plan mitigates potential impacts on the park and park neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the plans as presented, including site plan and subdivision, retain substantial existing vegetation and incorporate vegetative buffers at the perimeter of the site, and the plans indicate an architectural design to visually complement and enhance the park and neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the project as presented also addresses the other recommendations of the Commission, including formal dedication of the remainder of Rabbit Creek Park and continued involvement of the Parks and Recreation Department in refinement of the plans with potential park improvements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission supports the conceptual plans for Fire Station 9, subject to conditions of Planning and Zoning Commission Resolution No. 2012-053.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 11th day of September 2014.

## **VII. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Richard Mystrom reported on the successful neighborhood park fix-it day at Balto Seppala Park, and the new zipline feature for children at Oceanview Park. He encouraged commissioners to participate in future neighborhood park fix-its.

Commissioner Joey Caterinichio expressed her opposition to hunting in Kincaid Park.

## **VIII. Upcoming Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., October 9, 2014, at Spenard Recreation Center.

## **IX. Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Peter Murphy, seconded by Commissioner Jon Dyson, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

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

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

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