



Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Department

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519
Tel 907-343-4355

URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 6, 2016

To: Parks & Recreation Commission

From: Parks and Recreation Department

Project: **PRC 2016-27: Proposed Placement of "Vote by Mail" Ballot**
Drop Boxes at Parks & Recreation Facilities

Proposal

The Anchorage Assembly proposes placing ballot drop boxes at certain Municipal Recreation Centers among other places as part of the implementation of the voting by mail program.

Attached is additional information further explaining the proposal and identifying the specific proposed locations: Fairview and Spenard Community Recreation Centers, and Sullivan Arena.

This item was presented as an information item at the Commission's September 8 meeting.

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission adopt the attached resolution in support of placing "Vote by Mail" ballot drop boxes at recreation facilities as proposed.

Attachments



Municipality of Anchorage

August 29, 2016

Jon Dyson, Chair
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Re: Municipality of Anchorage vote by mail ballot boxes on MOA properties used for recreational purposes

Dear Chair Dyson and Commissioners:

As you may have heard, the Municipality of Anchorage is implementing voting by mail. Part of the project is to provide drop boxes around the Municipality that can be used by those voters who would like the option of using a free drop box over placing their voted ballot into the mail. The drop boxes are about the size of a traditional U.S. Post Office mail box. Attached is a picture of one of the ballot boxes, which was successfully used on a trial run last year at the Fairview Recreation Center.

In addition to other sites around Anchorage, the Municipality has selected three sites for which the Municipality would appreciate the support of the Parks and Recreation Commission: Fairview Recreation Center, Spenard Recreation Center, and the Sullivan Arena. Please see attached maps.

These sites have been identified as good locations for the following reasons:

- High visibility and lighting; security.
- Good off-street traffic flow.
- Accessibility for both walk-ups and vehicles, with nearby parking if needed.
- Snow removal and sanding services already in place.
- Municipally owned, to avoid lease and liability costs.
- Convenient location for the general public.

The proposed locations have been vetted with the Municipal Traffic Department.

The plan is to temporarily place a single municipal ballot drop box at each location during municipal election cycles - currently early March through the first Tuesday in April each year, starting in 2017. During the election cycle, each box would be open 24/7 for people to drop off their ballot. Facilities managers will be able to control traffic and other issues that may arise. The Municipality would be responsible for the placement, care, usage, and removal of the boxes.

The Municipality of Anchorage would appreciate a resolution in support from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.

Regards,


Elvi Gray-Jackson
Chair, Anchorage Assembly


Barbara A. Jones
Municipal Clerk

Fairview Community Recreation Center

DRAFT

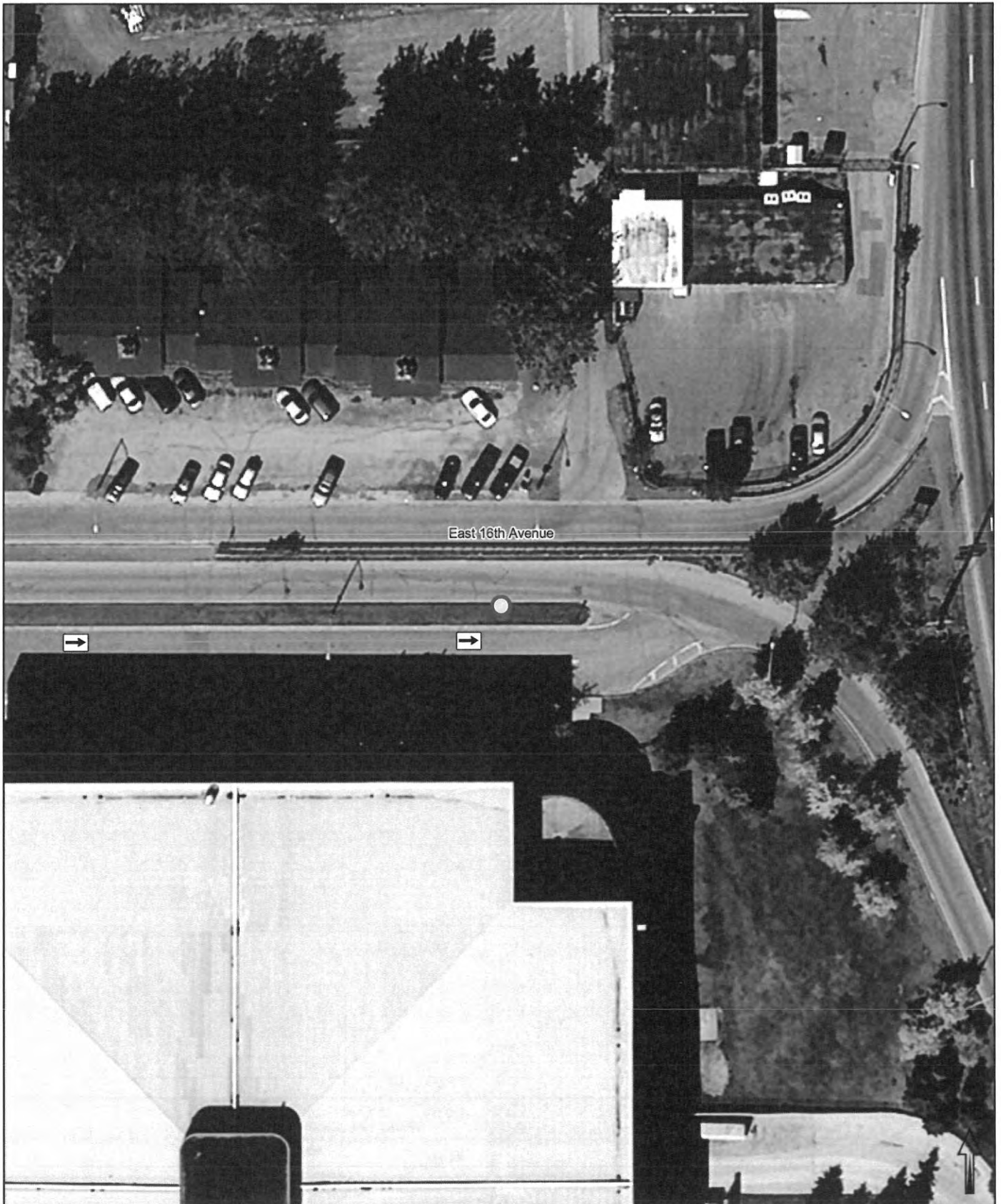


Date: 5/3/2016

Spenard Community Recreation Center
Anchorage Bowl
2020 W 48th Ave
DRAFT



Sullivan Arena
Anchorage Bowl
1600 Gambell St
DRAFT





Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska
Parks & Recreation Commission

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519



Resolution No. 2016-21

Request for Approval to Place Ballot Drop Boxes at Recreation Centers

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, Municipal recreation centers serve the community and neighborhoods in a variety of ways; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality offers voting by mail and desires to make the process convenient for the public; and

WHEREAS, Municipal recreation centers such as Fairview Recreation Center and Spenard Recreation Center, as well as the Sullivan Arena, are potentially convenient sites to accommodate ballot drop boxes to accept vote-by-mail ballots; and

WHEREAS, hosting ballot drop boxes at these sites would not impair recreational uses of these sites; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission does not object to the placement of ballot drop boxes at Fairview and Spenard Recreation Centers and at the Sullivan Arena, and potentially at other Municipal recreation facilities if approved by the Municipal Clerk and Parks and Recreation staff.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of October 2016.

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

John H. Rodda, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

WHEREAS, the recommendations proposed in the University Lake Park Master Plan attempt to balance the diverse wants and needs of all park users and are based on community and stakeholder preferences for desired future conditions, are informed by best practices, have been vetted by the advisory group, and have received a resolution from the University Area Community Council; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations proposed in the University Lake Park Master Plan provide strategies to retain the natural character of the park; improve water quality, wildlife and natural resource management; provide trails to support a variety of uses including an off-leash trail, improving signage and wayfinding, providing parking that meets demand, and upgrading maintenance and amenities to support park use; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the Master Plan submitted by the Department and the advisory group for University Lake Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 8th day of September, 2016.

Voting Record on Resolution 2016-20 University Lake Master Plan:

In favor	Commissioner Balamaci
	Commissioner Jon Dyson
	Commissioner Michael McCambridge
	Commissioner Peter Murphy
	Commissioner Harlow Robinson
	Commissioner Jim Winchester
Opposed	None
Abstained	None
Absent	Commissioner Richard Mystrom
	Commissioner Levi Robinson
	Commissioner Alison Smith

VIII. Information Item

PRC 16-26 Vote by Mail – Ballot Drop Boxes at Recreation Centers

Presented by Dennis Wheeler, Resource Data

Dennis Wheeler discussed the Anchorage Assembly's plan to implement voting by mail. The plan is to place ballot drop boxes around the city in convenient, accessible locations that can be used by voters. It is hoped the convenience will encourage more voter turnout. The boxes are about the size of a traditional U.S. Postal Service mail box. One box was placed on a trial basis at Fairview Recreation Center last year and

the experiment was considered a success. There are three sites selected that require the support of the Parks and Recreation Commission: Fairview Recreation Center, Spenard Recreation Center, and the Sullivan Arena. Initially a single box will be temporarily replaced at each location during the election cycle, with an eye toward permanent placement if the chosen locations and the plan in general are successful.

Parks and Recreation staff will present this item for resolution at October's Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, and provide a recommendation and proposed resolution for the Commission's consideration and approval.

~~IX.~~ Commissioner Comments

~~Commissioner Peter Murphy asked if the recycling station placed at Westchester Lagoon was working out. Mr. Durand replied that it seemed to be working well. The Department had had no negative feedback.~~

~~Commissioner James Balamaci reported that his term expires in October but he will be unavailable to attend that meeting; therefore, this meeting will be his last. He said he appreciated the opportunity to work with the Parks and Recreation Commission and regrets that he will be unable to continue.~~

X. Upcoming Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., October 13, 2016, at Spenard Recreation Center.

XI. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Peter Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Harlow Robinson, the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2016:

Jon Dyson, Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

John Rodda, Director
Parks & Recreation