MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING

January 14, 2016

I. Call to Order

The January 14, 2016 regular meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Jon Dyson at 6:00 p.m., at Spenard Recreation Center.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Josh Durand, Park Superintendent:

Commissioners present:
  Commissioner Jon Dyson
  Commissioner Peter Murphy
  Commissioner Richard Mystrom
  Commissioner Harlow Robinson
  Commissioner Alison Smith
  Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent/excused:
  Commissioner Jim Balamaci
  Commissioner Michael McCambridge
  Commissioner Levi Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff present:
  Josh Durand
  Steve Rafuse
  Maeve Nevins
  Taylor Keegan
  Diana Cramer

IV. Consent Agenda

A. Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Richard Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Peter Murphy, the Agenda for the January 14, 2016 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 Jim Winchester, the Minutes of the December 15, 2015 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

In the absence of Director John Rodda, comments were provided by Josh Durand, Park Superintendent. Mr. Durand asked Commissioners if they wished to reschedule the March 10, 2016 meeting to accommodate the Anchorage School District spring break. Commissioners feel that the current date of March 10 should be maintained.

Mr. Durand also reminded Commissioners that they need to submit their 2016 financial disclosures to the Municipal Clerk’s Office. Forms were provided to the Commissioners.

VI. Appearance Requests

There were no public appearance requests for non-agenda items.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Andrew Mullins, Programs Manager for Anchorage Park Foundation (APF), reported on APF’s 2016 construction plans, which include a skate park, 3 inclusive playgrounds, challenge grant projects, and Youth Employment in Parks projects. APF is actively promoting the trail and park bond package, which was presented to the Assembly on January 12, 2016, and continues to work with interested organizations to further the Park Inclusive Play initiative. The ARC of Anchorage has become a valuable partner working with APF on this initiative.

VIII. Action Items

A. PRC 16-01: Muldoon Town Square Master Plan
   Resolution 2016-01
   Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Planner

Presentation

Details of the Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan were presented. Public involvement including outreach, presentations to the Northeast and Scenic Foothills community councils, two public planning workshops, monthly meetings with the Park Advisory Committee, an online survey, and meetings with involved agencies and local students was undertaken to produce this plan. The Plan as presented to the Commission has received broad support from the community.

The intent of the plan is to provide a long-range vision for development of Muldoon Town Square Park, to identify community needs, address public expectations, and establish a framework for future development. The Plan seeks to develop the Park as a community destination for everyone, provide safe and accessible connections to the park, encourage year-round use, enhance the natural features of the park, develop a community garden space and edible landscapes, maintain the natural characteristics of the park, maintain the park’s ecosystems as important habitat, celebrate community diversity with public and performance art, implement green infrastructure, maximize available resources, and engage local, state and federal partners to fund park improvements.
Muldoon Town Square Park is comprised of three distinct use areas. From west to east the park transitions from high-use along a major road (the Muldoon area) to a natural landscape suitable for active recreation (Core) and passive recreation (Chugach). A network of trails within the park will connect the three areas.

Improvements identified in the plan include developed access to Chester Creek, a destination inclusive playground, parking lots, community event space that can support the Muldoon Farmers Market and Spirit of Muldoon Picnic, a pavilion, restrooms, a multi-purpose year-round ribbon, bicycle pump park, boulder play area, community garden, community orchard, fenced dog park, open recreation space, space for a park host, view points of the Chugach Mountains, a mix of hard and soft surface trails, and improved neighborhood access.

**Department Recommendation**

The Department recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission pass Resolution 2016-01 in support of the Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan.

**Public Testimony**

Kristi Woods, Northeast Community Council, expressed confidence in the Plan, that it meets community desires and interests, and both she and the Council fully support the Plan.

**Discussion and Resolution**

After discussion, and upon motion duly made by Commissioner Peter Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Richard Mystrom, Resolution No. 2016-01, Muldoon Town Square Master Plan, was unanimously approved as follows:

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PRC RES NO. 2016-01
Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan

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 Muldoon Town Square Park master plan provides a 20 year vision that will address issues and guide future development at the park; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department hosted two public workshops and worked with an advisory group to assist the Department in identifying and prioritizing desired improvements for Muldoon Town Square Park; and

WHEREAS, the improvements proposed in the master plan are based on community and stakeholder input and have been vetted by the advisory group through deliberation and consensus; and

WHEREAS, the improvements proposed in the master plan have received support and approval from both the Northeast and Scenic Foothills Community Councils;
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WHEREAS, the improvements identified in the master plan include developed access to Chester Creek, a
destination inclusive playground, parking lots, community event space that can support the Muldoon
Farmers Market and Spirit of Muldoon Picnic, a pavilion, restrooms, a multi-purpose year-round ribbon,
bicycle pump park, boulder play area, community garden, community orchard, fenced dog park, open
recreation space, space for a park host, view points of the Chugach Mountains, a mix of hard and soft
surface trails, and improved neighborhood access.

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 Muldoon Town Square Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of

Voting Record

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B. PRC 16-02: Kiwanis Fish Creek Park & Barbara Street Park
Playground Improvements
Resolution 2016-02
Presented by Taylor Keegan, Park Planner

Presentation

The Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) and Parks for All have worked to raise funds to construct inclusive
playgrounds in Anchorage and through their efforts Anchorage now has five all inclusive playgrounds
which exceed ADA accessibility standards. This year the Department hopes to improve three
playgrounds with updates to surfacing, equipment, and site amenities, which will increase the number of
inclusive playgrounds. These projects are funded by a combination of private donations and grants.

Although Kiwanis Fish Creek Park is located with in the Turnagain Community Council’s area and
Barbara Street Park is located in the Spenard area, because of the close proximity of the playgrounds,
only one community advisory group was formed. The advisory group prioritizes park improvements and
assists with neighborhood fix-it projects. Working with the advisory group included several individual
input sessions, three public design workshops, two community council meetings, and a design planning
session with the Girl Scouts of America.

The proposed improvements have been selected by the community advisory group and are supported by
the Spenard Community Council and the Turnagain Community Council.
Kiwanis Fish Creek Park Playground – 2016 Improvements

Work to be performed by contractors includes purchase and installation of new play equipment, adding ADA accessible surfacing to the play area, and formalizing existing circulation patterns and creating an ADA accessible path to the existing picnic pavilion.

Volunteer work to be performed includes landscaping activities, tree planting, storm water management and riparian health education for the Fish Creek corridor, and removal of invasive trees.

Barbara Street Park Playground – 2016 Improvements

Work to be performed by contractors includes updating play surfacing to artificial turf, retrofitting existing play equipment, and installing updated play equipment.

Volunteers will be removing invasive bird cherry trees along the Fish Creek greenbelt to promote ecosystem recover and improve sightlines within the park.

Department Recommendation

The Department recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission pass Resolution No. 2016-02 Kiwanis Fish Creek Park and Barbara Street Park Playground Improvements.

Public Testimony

Cathy Gleason, Turnagain Community Council and Community Advisory Group member, spoke in support of this project. She and her husband have donated trees to be planted in Kiwanis Fish Creek Park. Both community councils fully support the project. She also spoke about the Turnagain Blvd. upgrade project and stated that parallel parking spaces will be added along the road that will provide closer access to the picnic shelter at Kiwanis Fish Creek Park.

Dan Gleason, who also served on the Community Advisory Group, talked about the plan to have parallel parking spaces along Turnagain Blvd., as part of the road upgrades, and said the Advisory Group proposed that a trail be laid from the parking spaces to the picnic shelter in order to minimize damage to the park turf, and he wanted to bring that to the Commission's attention. His other suggestion is that the slide on the slope at Barbara Park be designed so that it cannot be used by skateboarders. Otherwise, he supports the project.

Discussion and Resolution

After discussion, and upon motion duly made by Commissioner Richard Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Peter Murphy, Resolution No. 2016-02 Kiwanis Fish Creek Park and Barbara Street Park Playground Improvements, was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC RES NO. 2016-02
Fish Creek Playground 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, Parks and Recreation planning staff utilized input from Spenard Community Council, Turnagain Community Council, the Fish Creek Community Advisory Group and the Girl Scouts of Alaska to guide the improvement of the playground at Barbara Street Park and Kiwanis Fish Creek Park; and

WHEREAS, the improved playground as presented will provide new all-inclusive turf surfacing, upgraded circulation patterns, updated play equipment, and other amenities to improve the park users experience;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed design for the Playground Improvements at Kiwanis Fish Creek Park and Barbara Street Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of January, 2016.

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C. PRC 16-03: Kincaid Park Ropes Course Playground Improvement
Resolution 2016-02
Presented by Maeve Nevins, Park Planner

Presentation

Kincaid Park, located at the west end of Raspberry Road. The play equipment includes outdated, unsafe, non-inclusive play equipment for both 5-12 year olds and toddlers. It has a picnic table, benches, and a picnic shelter with access by way of an asphalt pathway.

The concept for the improvements was derived by recreation staff at Kincaid Park. They desired a naturalistic rope course that would blend in with existing amenities. Proposed improvements are supported by the Sand Lake Community Council.

2016 improvements include a natural-themed, all-age, fully inclusive climbing ropes course playground with the following features:

- A Charlotte’s Web sculptural play feature,
- “Timber cave” and “hollow log” features,
- Obstacle challenge stepping stones,
- Woodland log themed vertical nets,
• Tree vine with net climber, and
• A life-size bull moose climbing boulder.

In addition the old wood timber edging will be removed and the artificial turf will be replaced with fall safety material.

Department Recommendation

The Department recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission pass Resolution No. 2016-03 Kincaid Park Ropes Course Playground Improvement.

Public Testimony

There were no public appearance requests for this action item.

Discussion and Resolution

After discussion, and upon motion duly made by Commissioner Peter Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Alison Smith, Resolution No. 2016-03 Kincaid Park Ropes Course Playground Improvement, was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC RES NO. 2016-03
Kincaid Park Ropes Course Playground Improvement

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, Parks and Recreation planning staff utilized input from Sand Lake Community Council meetings and the Kincaid Park Recreation Staff to guide the improvement of the playground at Kincaid Park; and

WHEREAS, the improved playground as presented will provide fully ADA inclusive, all-age nature-themed ropes course playground for the Sand Lake community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed design for the installation of a ropes course playground at Kincaid Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of January, 2016.

Voting Record

In favor
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Peter Murphy
Commissioner Richard Mystrom
Commissioner Harlow Robinson
Commissioner Alison Smith
Commissioner Jim Winchester

Opposed
None

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IX. Information Item

PRC 16-04: South Anchorage Sports Park Implementation Plan
Presented by Mavee Nevins, Park Planner

An update to the South Anchorage Sports Park Master Plan was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The master plan provides a guideline for future development. It ensures that future improvements align with the recreational needs of the community. The implementation phase has begun. Feedback from the community regarding priorities is being refined to into design drawings. The phased construction plan is moving forward based on the priorities identified in the master plan update, which priorities were established through ongoing community outreach, and identified maintenance and safety needs. Public outreach is ongoing. Funding has been designated for utilities, site survey, geotechnical analysis, and construction documents. Funding for construction improvements in 2016-17 has been tentatively designated. This item will come before the Commission again in February or March, and is schedule to go to the Urban Design Commission in April.

X. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Peter Murphy discussed his concerns regarding motorized vehicle traffic on the trails.

Commissioner Rich Mystrom inquired as to the agreement Parks and Recreation and the paintball group that uses South Anchorage Sports Park. Josh Durand stated that he would obtain the details of the agreement and provide them to the Commission.

XI. Upcoming Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled to be held at 6:00 p.m., February 11, 2016, at the Spenard Recreation Center.

X. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Jim Winchester, seconded by Commissioner Peter Murphy, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 11 day of Feb 2016:

Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Director
Parks & Recreation