



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION

Memorandum PRC 08-42



DATE: June 2, 2008

TO: Parks & Recreation Commission

FROM: Brad Dunker, Park Planner

SUBJECT: PRC 08-42 – Russian Jack Springs Park May 21st Meeting Summary

Background

The May 21st public workshop on the proposed improvements to Russian Jack Springs Park (RJSP) was attended by about 50 citizens. The meeting was structured into two distinct parts. The first approximately 45 minutes offered participants to join a facilitator to take a walking tour of 5 different park areas created in the cardinal directions (North, South, East, West) with the addition of a chalet area group. Each member was given a survey that asked questions about their likes and dislikes about the area as well as an opportunity to suggest changes for the area or make recommendations on what should not change.

The second half of the meeting was structured to create topic-based tables inside the chalet. The topics were based on input received at the community council meetings during April and May as well as the April 15th public meeting. Table topics included activating the park, green golf course design, golf course business model, and “greenprinting” the Northeast Park District. Participants were provided 60 minutes to visit tables that they were interested in. Some stayed at the same table while others moved between tables at 20 minute intervals. A summary of the results from each portion of the meeting is provided below.

Additional information on the project can be found at the project website

<http://www.muni.org/parks/RussianJackSummerWinterImprovementsHome.cfm>

Walking Tour Summary (all areas included)

- Upgrade chalet- windows, handicapped access, aesthetics
- Good views
- Make sledding/snowboarding safer with few trees cut and possibly re-grading instead of removing trees
- Add interpretation signs to areas such as the springs, history of park and its namesake, etc.
- Create expanded parking with drop-off zone
- Improve golf facilities
- Relocate picnic area closer to chalet
- Don't take too many trees
- Blind trail corners/trails
- Open areas with benches along trails
- Improve greens and tee boxes
- Remove rope tow

Table Topic Summary

- Activate the park by creating or relocating active recreation spaces (ex. relocated picnic shelters, camping, create great lawn), safe sledding, outdoor education, interpretation and programming.
- Greenprinting NE Park District- balance development and nature, create good human and wildlife habitat (Living with Wildlife Plan), monitoring park use and wildlife use of parks, establish limits of acceptable change.
- Green golf course design and environmental design considerations including water usage, pest/weed management, wildlife management, tree clearing.
- Business plan and programming consideration included golf course operations and driving range operations assumptions. No formal business plan has been completed at this stage.