

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 2009-055

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MASTER PLAN FOR DELANEY PARK; GENERALLY LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE SOUTH OF 9TH AVENUE AND NORTH 10TH AVENUE AND EAST OF P STREET AND WEST OF A STREET.

(Case 2009-161, Tax ID 002-146-05)

WHEREAS, a request has been received from the Municipality of Anchorage, Parks and Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 7, 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission that:

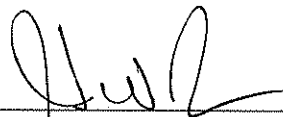
- A. The Commission makes the following findings of fact:
1. Delaney Park is one of Anchorage's oldest and most important public spaces and has witnessed most of the events of the past 90 years and mirrors our experiences as a community. It is enjoyed by thousands of residents and visitors each year for a variety of activities and events.
 2. The Delaney Park Master Plan is a comprehensive design and management strategy for the park. The Park occupies 14 city blocks, approximately 38 acres, and forms the southern boundary of Downtown Anchorage.
 3. The park is heavily used by the public, but there are no plans that provide clear guidance for new development, or that guide management decisions for festivals and special events. There are increasing user conflicts over sports and festivals and a growing demand for new memorial development. These issues require resolution if the park is to be enjoyed by all residents.
 4. The park's aging facilities are in need of upgrades and improvements to meet growing uses and to improve the overall appearance and maintainability of the park for future generations.
 5. The park's periphery or "outer park" is all of the adjacent places and streets that draw people to the area, keeping the park vibrant with a steady flow of users. The "outer park" is what successfully integrates the inner core of the park into the city fabric and allows the park to thrive.

6. If Delaney Park is to achieve its potential as an important downtown place, fast moving traffic on all streets surrounding the park will need to be addressed. Currently, most of the streets in Downtown Anchorage are one-way and designed to move traffic "through" rather than "to" the downtown area.
 7. Allowing the adjacent park roads to become more pedestrian friendly while reaching out into the surrounding neighborhoods is important. Key north/south streets bisect the park and create barriers to pedestrian flow within the "inner park". These include the A/C Couplet, I/L Couplet and E Street Corridor. Treating these arterials as Gateways when they pass through the park for both vehicles and pedestrians can enhance the park environment and provide improved pedestrian safety. Long-term exploration of ways to better connect across major streets should consider pedestrian overpasses that do not compromise the viewshed and tunnels if safely designed. Future plans beyond the scope of this planning window could also look at depressed streets going under the park and connecting to underground parking that could serve the growing downtown while allowing the park to connect over the street.
 8. It is important to use park improvements as a catalyst for redefining the broader downtown area. As the Anchorage Downtown Comprehensive Plan evolves, the commercial district across 9th Avenue on the north edge of the park will develop into a higher density residential and commercial mixed-use district. The area surrounding the park will become the center of a highly desirable place to live and work. The park will play a key role in continuing to improve property values, making the surrounding area attractive to residential developers, as is already evident with new multi-family housing developing within the Downtown area, Fairview, and South Addition.
 9. There are many important memorials in Delaney Park. Key memorials include: Veterans Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Pope Memorial, Victim's Tree, Survey Monument, and the Centennial Rose Garden.
- B. The Commission APPROVES the Draft Delaney Park Master Plan dated October 1, 2007, subject to the following conditions.
1. Redesign the Ninth Avenue entry to the Park in Zone 3 to minimize the visual presence of the existing restroom and its axis with the Veteran's Memorial.
 2. Modify Appendix A, Design Standards and Guidelines, to reflect minimum changes to the footprint and to the height of Pete's Gym.

3. Modify the depiction of the Veteran's Memorial in Zone 3 to reflect the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force for the Redevelopment of the Anchorage Veteran's Memorial.
4. The Memorial Advisory Committee will include at least three members nominated by the adjoining Community Council – South Addition, Downtown, and Fairview with the intent that there will be better public involvement and representation of neighborhood concerns or interests on the Committee.
5. Correct all references in the Plan indicating the Downtown Comprehensive Plan has not been adopted.
6. Change use of the phrase “bike route lanes” to “bike lanes” throughout the document.
7. Page 48, 4th paragraph, Line 9, change the last word from “be” to “by.”

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission on the 7th day of December, 2009.

ADOPTED by the Anchorage Municipal Planning and Zoning Commission this 10th day of March, 2010. This written decision/resolution of the Planning and Zoning Commission is final and any party may appeal it within twenty (20) days to the Board of Adjustment pursuant to Anchorage Municipal Code 21.30.030.



Jerry T. Weaver, Jr.
Secretary

Toni M. Jones
Chair

(Case No. 2009-161)