

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date: 12-10-02
IMMEDIATE RECONSIDERATION
FAILED 12-10-02

Submitted by: Assembly members TRAINI
and TESCHE

Prepared by: Department of Assembly

For reading: October 29, 2002

ANCHORAGE ALASKA

AO NO. 2002-165

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY AMENDING THE UPDATED FAR NORTH BICENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR AND DEVELOP LITTLE LEAGUE BALL FIELDS IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE PARK; ENACTING A NEW SECTION 25.65.010 TO THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE REQUIRING DEVELOPMENT OF THAT AREA FOR LITTLE LEAGUE BALL FIELDS; ENACTING MEASURES NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING FOR EFFECTIVE DATES.

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1: The Updated Far North Bicentennial Park Master Plan, page 15, second paragraph is hereby amended to read:

The active recreation area in the southwestern portion of the park is severely limited for development because of preservation wetlands in the vicinity. A branch of Little Campbell Creek runs near the area. The slopes, while not extensive, are more pronounced than within the revetment road system which is better suited to sport field development. It appears that a trail system connecting the southern portion of the BLM area and Hillside Park should be a major focus of development within this unit of the park. There is a substantial need for community park development within the Abbott Loop area (see Anchorage Park, Greenbelt, and Recreation Facility Plan, February 1985.) Consequently, the 30-acre area north of Zodiac Manor and east of Abbott Loop Road should be reserved for community park purposes. [RATHER THAN THE INTENSE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH SOME COMMUNITY PARKS, SUCH AS EXTENSIVE SPORTS FIELD DEVELOPMENT, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THIS "ABBOTT LOOP ROAD COMMUNITY PARK" BE CHARACTERIZED BY "LOW-KEY" ACTIVITY AREAS. THESE WOULD INCLUDE A "PLAY MEADOW" FOR LIMITED ACTIVE PASTIMES, PICNIC SITES, AND TRAILHEAD ACCESS. CAMPBELL PARK COULD SERVE AS A PROTOTYPE FOR THE TYPE RECOMMENDED IN THIS INSTANCE.] The site plan for this community park should include the retention of a forested buffer between proposed active recreation areas, such as sports fields, and a residential neighborhood adjoining the park to the south. The site plan should also include improvements to trailhead facilities that serve an existing multi-use unpaved trail system within Far North Bicentennial Park and provide convenient and safe trail connections to neighborhoods located south and west of the park site.

Section 2: Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 25 is amended by enactment of a new section 25.65.010 to read:

25.65.010 Far North Bicentennial Park: Little League Fields.

Ball fields for little league use shall be developed at a site in the southwest corner of Far North Bicentennial Park that the Assembly determines to be suitable for ball fields, in accordance with the Updated Far North Bicentennial Park Master Plan (as amended.) The Assembly shall determine the size, number, and configuration of the ball fields.

All attendant and related facilities that the Assembly determines to be appropriate for the enjoyment and use of the ball fields, such as (but not limited to) dugouts, bathrooms, snack shacks, parking, equipment sheds, bleachers, backstops and fences shall be developed along with the ball fields.

Section 3: Ball field development and site plan.

The Department of Cultural and Recreational Activities is authorized and directed to complete a Little League ball field development and site plan acceptable to the Parks and Recreation Commission for construction of the ball fields under Section 1 and 2 of this ordinance. At a minimum, the plan shall address the appropriate number and configuration of ball fields, related site amenities, parking, traffic flow, buffering, and noise abatement. Consistent with the intent of Section 1 and 2 above and all other provisions of law governing use of municipal facilities and parklands, the plan shall integrate other recreational uses of the property and facility with the ball fields and benefit surrounding neighborhoods. To the maximum extent possible, the site plan shall also adhere to relevant development guidelines set forth in the Updated Far North Bicentennial Park Master Plan including, but not limited to the following:

- 1 The siting and design of facilities should take maximum advantage of the characteristics of the natural environment;
- 2 Perpetuation of existing vegetation, particularly upland vegetation, should be sought in site planning.
- 3 Location of facilities should be made to promote functional relationships between other park uses.
- 4 Off-street parking should include landscaping around and within parking areas.;
- 5 The provision of safe, convenient access for non-motorized modes of transportation shall be assured;

6. Recreational access through the developed area to other areas of the park shall be made by reservation of trail corridors, trailheads and grade-separated trail crossings;
7. Architectural design: the exterior fabric, color, shape and other details of buildings shall complement the natural setting; and
8. Signs: the design and placement of signs should be compatible with the park setting.

After a minimum of two public hearings, the Plan required by this Section shall be completed and presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission within twelve (12) months of enactment of this ordinance.

Section 4: Mitigation measures.

Within ninety days of enactment of this ordinance, the Parks and Recreation Commission shall consider and recommend such measures as it deems appropriate to mitigate the loss of natural open space park land to development of a ball field complex required by this ordinance. It is the intent of the Assembly that mitigation measures recommended by the Commission be capable of implementation within twenty-four months of enactment of this ordinance. In this section, "mitigation" means the transfer of land to park status and exemption of such land from future clearing, filling or development, or other such actions as will accomplish the objectives stated below. Land transferred should be of comparable ecological and natural value, and should be situated to allow inclusion in Far North Bicentennial Park through future revision of the park plan. The objectives of mitigation are to ensure the integrity and continuance of Far North Bicentennial Park as public lands with the principal purpose of preserving those lands in as natural a state as possible and allowing for the public enjoyment of the same.

If recommended, mitigation measures include transfer of PLI land adjacent to Bicentennial Park identified in the Updated Far North Bicentennial Park Plan as "PLI-3." While containing extensive wetlands, this tract also contains limited uplands similar in nature to those to be developed in the southwest corner of the park. Additionally, while not accessible by road this tract contains a significant trail system primarily for dog mushing in winter and multi-use in summer. The natural and ecological value, the natural open space recreation value, and the lack of road access all make this tract not only a strong choice for mitigation, but may also warrant the added protection of inclusion within the park for the benefit of future generations simply on its own merits.

Section 5: Amendment to Far North Bicentennial Park Master Plan

That section entitled "PROHIBITED USES" set forth on page 29 of the Updated Far

1 North Bicentennial Park Master Plan is amended to read:

2
3 PROHIBITED USES.

4
5 In view of potential degradation of the park, [AND] as a measure of public safety, and
6 consistent with the objectives of this Far North Bicentennial Park Master Plan to 1)
7 maintain the lands described in perpetuity as a public park for the benefit of the citizens
8 of Alaska; 2) to preserve the streambeds, watershed areas and wildlife habitat in as
9 pristine a condition as possible allowing for compatible use of the area for nature
10 appreciation by the public; and 3) to provide regulations and controls which will accomplish
11 these objectives and insure the continuous maintenance of these lands in a nearly natural
12 state for the benefit of future generations the following uses are [SHOULD BE] prohibited:

- 13
14
15 5. Given the extent of development within the park, including significant
16 revision of the plan to allow extensive sports field development within the
17 southwest corner of the park, and given development in adjacent PLI land
18 conveyed to the Municipality of Anchorage with the park: no further clearing
19 of land, or draining or filling of wetlands shall be allowed within Far North
20 Bicentennial Park.

21
22 The enumeration of prohibited uses in this Plan shall not prevent or restrict the following
23 activities:

- 24
25 1. Maintenance of existing trails, improvements of trailhead access, and
26 improvement or expansion of the existing trail system
27
28 2. fire prevention and public safety
29
30 3. development of a Little League ball field complex within the Southwest
31 corner of the park, as authorized by amendment to the Plan
32
33 4. expansion and on-going activities at Hilltop Ski Area, as authorized in the
34 current lease with the Municipality of Anchorage
35

36 All clearing, draining, or filling done in connection with these activities shall be
37 documented as to purpose and scope, and shall include written justification of need for
38 such clearing, etc. in each instance. Each written explanation and justification shall be
39 maintained on file as a public record with the office of the Director of the Department of
40 Cultural and Recreational Activities.

41
42 The restrictions above shall take precedence over all other sections of this plan.
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Section 6: Intent and Interpretation

By enacting Sections 1 and 2 of this ordinance, the Assembly intends to enact "substantially the same measure" as the Little League Ball Field Initiative certified by the Municipal Clerk in September, 2002 and relating to development of ball fields in Far North Bicentennial Park. If there is any conflict between the terms of the measure enacted by Sections 1 and 2 of this ordinance and the remaining provisions of this ordinance or any action, including preparation and approval of a development and site plan the Parks and Recreation Commission or mitigation required under Section 4 above, the provisions of Sections 1 and 2 shall govern. Sections 3-5 of this ordinance shall be interpreted to implement or carry out rather than restrict or condition the measure enacted in sections 1 and 2 of this ordinance.

Section 7: Effective dates

Except for section 5 above, all provisions of this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and approval. Section 5 shall become effective within ninety (90) days provided that the Parks and Recreation Commission is given the opportunity to make recommendations and comments to the Assembly on the amendment proposed to the Updated Far North Bicentennial Park Master Plan set forth in that section.

PASSED and approved by the Anchorage Assembly this 10th day of Dec, 2002.


Chair

ATTEST:


Municipal Clerk

EGJ/2002ORDINANCES/AO41



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

NO. 631-2002

Meeting Date: October 29, 2002

From: Assemblymembers Traini and Tesche

Subject: AO 2002-165 RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF LITTLE LEAGUE BALL
FIELDS IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF FAR NORTH BICENTENNIAL
PARK

To resolve a continuing controversy over use of portions of the Far North Bicentennial Park for Little League Fields, AO 2002-165 is presented to the Assembly for enactment.

AO 2002-165 would enact a measure substantially the same as¹ the Little League Ball Field Initiative" which was signed by several thousand registered voters and recently certified by the Municipal Clerk for a vote at the April 1, 2003 regular election. Sections 1 and 2 simply repeat the substance of the proposition and identify a location in the Municipal Code for the language contained in Section 2 of the initiative.

Section 3 directs the Department of Cultural and Recreational Services to prepare a Little League ball field development and site plan for approval by the Parks and Recreation Commission. At a minimum, the plan will address the number and configuration of ball fields, related site amenities, parking, traffic flow, buffering, and noise abatement.

Section 4 directs the Parks and Recreation Commission to recommend, within ninety days, mitigation measures capable of implementation within two years that would compensate for the loss of natural open space within the Far North Bicentennial Park used for development of a ball field complex. Mitigation would include the transfer of land to park status and exemption of such land from future clearing, filling or development. Land transferred should be of equal or greater ecological and natural value, and should be situated to allow inclusion in Far North Bicentennial Park through future amendment to the

Under Sec. 3.02(d) of the Home Rule Charter, an initiative petition "is void if the Assembly enacts substantially the same measure prior to the election". Except for elimination of an unnecessary reference to what sponsors understand to be BLM's current policy regarding construction activities in the Campbell Tract, sections 1 and 2 of the ordinance are identical to the same sections of the Little League Ball Field Initiative.

2 park plan. Mitigation would ensure the integrity and continuance of parklands within Far
3 North Bicentennial Park in a natural a state and allowing for the public enjoyment of the
4 same.

5 Section 5 would amend the existing Far North Bicentennial Park Plan to prohibit further
6 clearing of land, or draining or filling of wetlands within the Park except as necessary to
7 build the Little League fields, maintain existing trails and improvements ,fire prevention and
8 public safety, or to operate and expand the Hilltop Ski Area. Through Section 7 (effective
9 dates), the amendments to the Far North Bicentennial Park Plan set out in Section 5 would
10 not become effective until the Parks and Recreation Commission has first reviewed and
11 offered comments to the Assembly as required by AMC 4.60.090.

12
13 Section 6states the Assembly's intent to enact substantially the same measure as that
14 contained in the Little League Ball Field Initiative recently certified by the Municipal Clerk
15 for placement on the April 1, 2003 ballot. The section also provides a means for resolving
16 potential conflicts between the measure enacted by Sections 1 and 2 and the remaining
17 provisions of this ordinance, and requires that sections 3-5 be interpreted to implement or
18 carry out rather than restrict or condition the measure enacted in sections 1 and 2.

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20 Enactment of AO 2002-165 is recommended.

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23 Respectfully submitted,

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25 

26
27 Dick Traini
28 Chair



29
30 Allan Tesche
31 Assemblymember

Municipality of Anchorage
MUNICIPAL CLERK'S OFFICE
Agenda Document Control Sheet

AO 2002-165

(SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION)

1	SUBJECT OF AGENDA DOCUMENT	DATE PREPARED	
	AO 2002-165 - Amending the Updated Far North Bicentennial Park Master Plan	28-Oct-02 Indicate Documents Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AO <input type="checkbox"/> AR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> AIM	
2	DEPARTMENT NAME	DIRECTOR'S NAME	
	Assembly	Greg Moyer	
3	THE PERSON THE DOCUMENT WAS ACTUALLY PREPARED BY	HIS/HER PHONE NUMBER	
4	COORDINATED WITH AND REVIEWED BY	INITIALS	DATE
	X Mayor		
	Heritage Land Bank		
	Merrill Field Airport		
	Municipal Light & Power		
	Port of Anchorage		
	Solid Waste Services		
	X Water & Wastewater Utility		
	X Municipal Manager		
	Cultural & Recreational Services		
	Employee Relations		
	X Finance, Chief Fiscal Officer		
	Fire		
	Health & Human Services		
	X Office of Management and Budget		
	Management Information Services		
	Police		
	Planning, Development & Public Works		
	Development Services		
	Facility Management		
	Planning		
	Project Management & Engineering		
	Street Maintenance		
	Traffic		
	Public Transportation Department		
	Purchasing		
	X Municipal Attorney		
	Municipal Clerk		
	Other		
5	Special Instructions/Comments		
	<i>Addendum - Introduction</i>		
6	ASSEMBLY HEARING DATE REQUESTED		
	2002 OCT 29 PM 1:55 M.O.A. 10/29/02		
7	PUBLIC HEARING DATE REQUESTED		