

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2022

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on August 8, 2022, at 7:05 pm via Microsoft Teams. Vice-Chair Camilla Hussein-Scott called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Barbara Trost, Birchwood Community Council

~~Alexandra Hill, Alternate Birchwood Community Council~~

Will Taygan, Chugiak Community Council

~~Jackie Welge, Alternate for Chugiak Community Council~~

Camilla Hussein-Scott, Eagle River Community Council

~~Pete Panarese, Eagle River Valley Community Council~~

Ruth Armstrong, Alternate for Eagle River Valley Community Council

~~Jasmine Carter, Mayor's Appointee~~

Mike Braniff – Parks and Recreation Director

Karen Richards – Parks and Recreation, Principal Administrative Officer

~~John Rodda – The Boutet Company, Project Consultant~~

**III. MINUTES**

August 8, 2022 minutes were approved.

**IV. APPEARANCES**

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

A. CIP Project Status Report-

**Beach Lake Lodge and Caretaker Pilings** – This project has been completed.

**Beach Lake Road & Parking Lot– Phase II** – The roadway and parking lot paving has been completed. Parking lot striping design has been accomplished and we are awaiting quotes to complete that portion and intend that for this year.

**Schroeder Park Tennis Courts** – Court resurfacing has been completed and final design and striping of the courts will be completed in the Spring.

**Dog Park** – Currently undergoing the Planning Review Process and we are expecting to have a determination from Planning approximately September 26<sup>th</sup> or shortly after.

Clearing and Grubbing quotes are being requested and we plan to have the clearing and grubbing for the parking lot area this year as well as the initial dirt work build up for the

parking area. The dirt work is anticipated for this year with the intent to let materials surcharge over the winter and then final grading and parking lot paving and completion next summer with fencing and park trail and feature design and build following that. **Chugiak Pool** – The pool engineer assessment is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> and should provide a more comprehensive estimated cost report for repairs and improvements needed.

**Loretta French Dug Out Hardening** – The Purchase order is being created and the Contractor is standing by to complete this work of paving the eight dug outs needed.

**Eagle River Town Square Concrete Hazard Repair** – Problem areas were removed, and the new concrete was poured last Saturday and the light pole has been reseated. Final inspections will follow.

**Parks & Recreation Warm Storage Facility** – The letter of non-objection has been executed so power should be established to the facility within the next week and they can proceed with hooking up and energizing the facility to complete the interior needs. Due to the construction delays we will probably not be able to move anything in until winter.

**Beach Lake Ski Trail Improvements** – No new information from the club has been received and the project manager (Taylor Keegan) is in the process of bringing everyone together to coordinate and re-group for the Spring.

- B. Beach Lake Lodge questions from August meeting – Walter was able to compile the 2022 Beach Lake Lodge rental information and year to date permit sales are totaling \$23,500 with total expenses at \$3,500 this year with three months left. Remaining improvements consist of converting heat registers in the caretaker cabin and on demand hot water heaters in both the caretaker cabin and the lodge. Septic system will need some improvements and attention as well in the next year or two.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. AURA Study – (Arctic Urban Risks and Adaptations) – University of Alaska is conducting a climate change impact study on the vulnerability of Arctic urban communities to natural hazards such as unstable permafrost, wildfire, and rain events. They have identified and requested one site study be performed within Beach Lake Park. They will be installing a ground monitoring system with minimal impact to the park and will consist of a buried sensor and box with a short ground wire.
- B. ARPA – Beach Lake Multiuse Trail and Chugiak Eagle River Greenbelt Trails  
Will is meeting with John Rodda and Dave Whitfield from the Planning Department for direction and steps necessary to see this greenbelt project materialize. The bike club received \$450,000 of ARPA grant funds and are interested in supporting development of trails on public lands and connecting park systems. He has been speaking with multiple user groups and organizations to advocate and support the need. They do not have a lot of funds but should have enough to build a nice showcase trail to build some momentum for this.  
He is working with the anchorage park foundation who received \$300,000 for capsis to study, mostly in the Eklutna area but he is hoping they will spend some of that money in

the Beach Lake corridor. He is hoping the board will choose to partner with them in some of these projects to move them from a project concept to real project. He is working on various funding options with discussion on possible bonding for Girdwood, Anchorage and possibly Chugiak/Eagle River for a large trail project to build out sooner rather than later. The assumption is that these would be a Parks & Rec managed trail system for areas that connect parks. Trails along public roads would go through AMATS but areas going through parks and easements through private lands would be considered part of the park greenbelt system. Kevin Cross mentioned that they are working on expanding the residential tax exemption and rewriting that tax provision to allow for a larger percentage of demographic which might provide some enthusiasm for support. They are also working with the native village of Eklutna and Eklutna power to reopen the Eklutna River and trail expansion into that area may be beneficial.

- C. 2023 CIP Proposed Projects – Kevin Cross asked if any current or proposed projects include culvert replacement, drainage issues or soil stability issues. There are IRRA (Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Replacement Act) funds in the amount of 1.6 trillion dollars available in federal grants through 2026.

He encourages that if we have any projects that might include these types of issues in the scope, that the department send a list of projects over to the administration for consideration. There are engineers volunteering and available to help write grants. Now is the time for community councils to bring forward their requests for 2023 priority projects. We will need to discuss and identify a 2023 project list to submit to the administration. We received \$425,000 in CIP funds for 2022 so we should use approximately \$400,000 to \$420,000 as a benchmark for our 2023 project fund list. CMBR received a \$30,000 RTP Grant for multi-use trail improvements at Mirror Lake and he would like to see funds budgeted yearly for trail hardening needs for years to come.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEM**

### **IX. INFORMATION**

- A. BOO at the Beach 2022 – Boo at the Beach 2022 will be on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> and the department intends to operate only the kids trick or treat trail and not the haunted trail due to staffing and some upcoming changes within the department.

### **X. DISCUSSION**

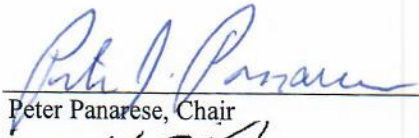
Ruth asked if any new staff have been hired - No additional staff have been hired at this time. We have a Caretaker II lead maintenance position that is vacant and anticipated to go out on the street soon.

Will asked about the designated funding for Gorsuch Road that was identified for CIP funds in 2022 and is looking to possibly divert those project funds for his project needs. Further discussion will be needed on this topic.

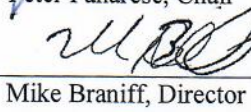
**XI. TABLED ITEMS**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

  
Peter Panarese, Chair

11/10/2020  
Date

  
Mike Braniff, Director

11/14/2022  
Date