

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting Minutes – October 09, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on October 09, 2023, at 6:33 p.m. Vice Chair Stephen Romanelli called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

~~Camilla Hussein Scott, Eagle River Community Council~~

Barbara Trost, Birchwood Community Council

~~Will Taygan, Chugiak Community Council~~

Ruth Armstrong, Eagle River Valley Community Council

Stephen Romanelli, South Fork Community Council

~~Jasmine Carter, Mayor's Appointee~~

Mike Braniff – Parks and Recreation Director

Jeff Urbanus- Parks and Recreation Landscape Architect

Pauline Tise, Eagle River Community Council

III. MINUTES

September 11, 2023, minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Mike Braniff- Director, Parks & Recreation Department thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight on Indigenous Peoples Day. He went on to inform everyone that the Mayor's budget was released a week ago. He went on to inform everyone that there were no cuts were made the Chugiak/Eagle River service area. Director Braniff knows that people wish to discuss the operations and capital split of the budget. He is happy to talk about it as time allows. The decision on the split had to be made in March of last year.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Assemble Member Scott Myers wondered who made up the Boo at the Beach pamphlets and flyers. Director Mike Braniff said he was aware of the subject and had taken care of the matter.
- Mark St. Amour was wondering why the funding for the Eagle River bike paths was cut. He had received an email from Will. He was informed that AMATS was cutting the funding. Jeff Urbanus said that he could give him his contact information and that he could pass the information on to him of who he could get a hold of.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. West Lake Multiuse Trail Update: Jeff Urbanus informed the board that the Department has contracted with Huddle for planning and outreach in preparation for application to the Urban Design Commission. During September, presentations were made at every community council meeting. Stakeholder meetings were also conducted. A Community Meeting for the general public was also held. The UDC application was submitted last week to the Planning Department. We have another week to finalize the application. Prior to the public hearing in December there will be a 90-day comment period. The application should be finalized by next week. During that period the Planning Department will solicit comments from community councils.

Huddle gave a presentation on the project and the process moving forward assuming UDC approval. Huddle requested a for a letter of support for the two-phase concept and the entire trail alignment. Jeff Urbanus said that he would draft a letter of support for the project and bring it to the boards next meeting.

- B. 2024 Capital Projects: The Board requested that approval of the 2024 Capital Projects be delayed to the November Meeting. Jeff requested a letter of support for an RTP Trail Grant Application for work on the 10-Mile Mushing Trail. Jeff will follow up with the Board via email.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Eagle River Town Center Community Room AV Equipment: Parks and Recreation has obtained a quote to upgrade the audio-visual equipment in the Community Room. Mark Littlefield provided a history of how the current configuration of the Community Room came to be. A question arose as to whether any of the other Municipal Departments that use the room will contribute to the costs of the upgrades. There was a discussion of the revenues from rentals; community councils are a big source of revenue. There are other entities that hold monthly meetings. There is a church rental every Sunday. Stephen Romanelli asked whether this should be undertaken as a capital project. Mike Braniff provided some clarification. This item needs further discussion.

VIII. DISCUSSION

There was a discussion of the Capital/Operating split of the Park Service Area mil rate. A history was provided about how that decision was made last year and how things might have occurred differently. Barbara Trost expressed some concern about the budget information that is made available to the Board and how it impacts their decision making. Mike Braniff proposed the idea of a “budget work session” for the Board. It was observed that there is somewhat of a history of the Board not playing an active role in budget decisions. Ruth Armstrong agreed that a work session would be helpful and that she felt that budget information should be in front of the Board now. There was a discussion of the dates and times that might work for a budget work session. The Board has received and email with questions about the budget.

Stephen Romanelli stated that there was an application for a Mayoral Appointee to the Board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Stephen Romanelli- The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

Stephen Romanelli, Vice Chair

Date

Mike Braniff, Director

Date