

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on September 11th, 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

Pauline Tise, Eagle River Valley Community Council

~~Jasmine Carter, Mayor's Appointee~~

Mike Braniff – Parks and Recreation Director

Jeff Urbanus- Parks and Recreation Landscape Architect

III. MINUTES

August 14th, 2023, minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Mike Braniff- Director, Parks & Recreation Department Informed the board a staff member has been dismissed and it is a Human Resource matter. Mr. Braniff was looking at other vacancies and getting them filled as well.

Barbara Trost -asked if it was possible to get a copy of the organizational chart to see the vacant positions.

Mike Braniff -replied he could provide an organizational chart.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Stephen Romanelli** -Mayor Dave Bronson was present for the meeting. Informed all that attended that he was there for any questions about the budget or the Artillery Road project. He stated that he would be meeting with other legislators and assembly members the following day to talk about the details and they should be passing along the information once the meeting is completed. Mayor Bronson also agreed he could not make comment on the matter of current staff dismissal for the same reason as Mr. Braniff. Mayor Bronson stated there will be no change in services.
- **Barbara Trost** asked if the vacant position would be filled and when.

- **Mike Braniff** stated that the position has been posted for a week and planned to keep it listed for six weeks before filling it. Mr. Braniff stated it was going to stay an executive position.
- **Barbara Trost** asked if there was going to be a budget cut 2% or a 4%.
- **Mayor Bronson** stated Chugiak/ Eagle River would be participating in the exercise and that it is up to the director on how much and where cuts and additions would be within their departments. He and the executives would be sharing their 120-day letter with the Assembly on October 2nd and that will be the final budget.
- **Mike Braniff**- there is one Parks & Recreation Department with multiple service areas. Mr. Braniff did a zero cut, a 2% cut, and a 4% cut analysis for all service areas.
- **Jaime Allard** – Representative Jamie Allard raised concerns over what was said by the Mayor citing a cut of \$164,000 (one hundred sixty four thousand dollars) for Eagle River with no information how or where that money is being used. Representative Allard suggests lowering the mill rate.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Fire Lake Areana Management Inc. (FLAMI) Contract extension-

Mike Braniff-FLAMI contract will expire at the end of 2023. Mr. Braniff suggests extending the FLAMI contract to 2024. The department would have to put out an RFP for a not for profit operator. Mr. Braniff is asking the board for approval of a year extension on FLAMI's contract. Mr. Braniff also stated the 2021, 2022, and 2023 contracts extensions were never signed. FLAMI proceeded to operate as if they were under contract even though the contracts were unsigned. The Parks & Recreation Department went through the process of getting the above noted contracts signed and up to date. The Parks & Recreation Department then asked for a contract compliance audit of FLAMI in late 2022 to be done in 2023. The audit was performed; however, the auditors ran into trouble late in the process when they realized we were not under contract. So, it limits our ability to share the findings. Mr. Braniff informed the Board of Supervisors that the department has the findings and they shared them with the board. **Scott**- said that it is not an official audit.

Mike Braniff- we will need to be under contract by January 2024 for FLAMI to continue running the facility. The audit handed out at the meeting stated there was no current contract.

Will Taygen- stated that the board just needed the department to tell the board their recommendations.

Mike Braniff- I would like the contract to be extended a year and within that year have another audit done while they are under contract. He stated that the department will make

sure that the 2024 contract will be signed. FLAMI was asked to appear in front of the board quarterly to give a presentation to keep the board up to date.

Will Taygen- made a motion to approve the Eagle River Chugiak Board of Supervisors 2023-07 Resolution Fire Lake Area Management Inc. contract extension presented by the Parks & Recreation Department.

Barbara Trost- seconded the motion. Board of Supervisors made a recommendation to the department to require a contract compliance audit be done before the next RFP is done after the 2024 contract. Motion passed.

- A. **2024 Capital projects approval.** Tabled to next months meeting so all the board members could take them back and present them to their councils.

VII. DISCUSSION

Jeff Urbanus- will have projects projected out for 2025 and into 2026.

Bob Stehn- Asked for more parking for the Junior Nordic Ski Club. Asked why the railroad parking lot has a gate and why is it not open.

Mike Braniff- went into the budget process that will guide what future projects happen.

Jeff Urbanus- briefly covered all the projects that are looking to be done in 2024. Jeff recommends having an assessment and inventory of existing playgrounds and developing a strategic plan for updates and improvements.

Barbara Trost- Asked if the BOS could be informed on what is happening at the pool at the next meeting.

Jeff Urbanus- He will inform the board at the next meeting, after having a meeting with the pool contractor.

B. ADJOURNMENT

Stephen Romanelli- The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Stephen Romanelli, Vice Chair

Date

Mike Braniff, Director

Date