

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on February 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Chair Stephen Romanelli called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Barbara Trost, Birchwood Community Council
Will Taygan, Chugiak Community Council
Stephen Romanelli, South Fork Community Council
Pauline Tise, Eagle River Community Council
Mark Littlefield, Mayoral Appointee

Staff Present:

Mike Braniff
Kellie Jorgensen
Jeffrey Urbanus

III. MINUTES

January 8, 2024, minutes were approved unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Community member John Rodda pointed out that the minutes from previous meetings had not been posted to the website for viewing and requested those be posted electronically for review. Another community member Tab Key requested that there be expansion or Oberg Park to include updating playground equipment and updating the park area as a whole. Another community member Cole Sullivan requested that there be consideration of more amenities to support Pickelball. Another community member Hannah Key requested that there be more of a destination playground location for Eagle River/Chugiak.

V. Director's Update

Mike Braniff let the BOS know that it had come to the attention of Parks and Recreation via Fire Lake Arena Management Inc. (FLAMI) and the MAC center that it appears embezzlement took place within their operation by a prior employee. FLAMI contacted APD and APD assigned a detective to the case which is actively being investigated by the primary means of a financial audit. Parks and Recreation has been in contact with the detective as well and was informed that APD does not believe the Municipality or Parks and Recreation is affected at this time. There are little details about the investigation at this present time. The contract with FLAMI requires a blanket fidelity bond in the

amount of \$25,000.00 in case of such occurrences. Parks and Recreation confirmed the bond is current. As this process will take time, it was recommended that the BOS request an executive session to share more details without putting into public record prior to a prosecution or trial. The operational status of the facility will not be affected.

Kellie Jorgensen gave the following updates. The FLAMI contract is up for renewal and initiation of the Request for Purchase (RFP) process has begun to initiate a new contract. Ruth Armstrong's appointment for the Board of Supervisors will be presented at the next Assembly meeting (13 FEB). The Mirror Lake/Edmonds Lake Park Master Plan project is starting. The last master plan for Edmonds lake was in 1984 and we are seeking input towards new plans going forward. The Peters Creek Dog Park Project will be presented this week at the Chugiak Community Council Meeting as well as the Eagle River Valley Community Council Meeting. There will be a public meeting on 7 March. The Chugiak Pool is closed at this time for improvements specifically involving the heat exchanger. Gutter supports have been completed, and there is addition work to be done on valves, pipes, and joint seals. There is not an estimated time of completion at this time but we are hoping for completion by Summer 2024. The Community Survey update we are requesting to have more input on for Capital Improvement Plans to create and revise going forward. The Beach Lake Multi-use Trail is in design phase as this time moving forward. We are developing a scope and budget for the Mount Baldy Project. Lastly, we wanted to notify the BOS that per the 2017 amendment of the FLAMI contract, it is a requirement that BOS nominate two board members for FLAMI. The two members of FLAMI there were appointed by the BOS are ending tenure and need to be replaced.

Project Update

- Beach Lake Multi-use Trail: The ARPA grant is going through RFP for federal funding requirements, it is close to completion. The project consists of 4 elements of construction; the main trail, smaller portion main trail, the mushing trail relocation, and the start/end points and the crossing. We are working with an engineering firm for more specific construction needs and requirements to make sure the start/end points and crossing are built correctly, although it is more time restrictive.

A question was raised about the trail camera on this trail and was asked who's it is and if they had a permit for. It was confirmed there is a current permit for the camera and it was used to gather metrics for survey analysis of trails in support of RTP grant. It was mentioned there was apprehension with cameras in parks. It was requested that the BOS or Parks and Recreation make determinations of trail camera policies due to privacy concerns.

The requested grant supporting the Dog Musers with \$250k made it through the scoring priority of trails committee. If it is recommended for approval, it will be approved for 2025.

Mount Baldy: We are reviewing the scope and making revisions and budgets for completion.

Peter's Creek Dog Park: We are moving forward with the project and gathering public comments and completing notifications. The informational public hearing will be held 7 March 2024.

Dashboard Concept

Kellie Jorgensen presented a document that presents metrics analysis pertaining to Parks and Recreation to key stakeholders and the public. The request was to review the draft document and present comments and feedback to develop a better product that has pertinent information for the public and Board of Supervisors to review and keep abreast of. The proposed consisted of project updates and statuses, programming and events in the community, as well as operational objectives.

It was requested to ask various community partners to present and be present at future BOS meetings to help make connections and grow awareness of programs and organizations.

BOS letter of support for Chugiak-Eagle River Pathways

After review municipal code, Will Taygan stated he believes it is within the scope of BOS to comment on all projects in the Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation Service Area, not just those on dedicated park land. We have the ability to fund and recommend projects. The overall non-motorized pathway is our responsibility to follow and make sure it happens. This is a large project costing \$61 million currently. The CIP Transportation project to redo Eagle River road Mile 0-5.2 was successful. AMATS announced two weeks ago they are going through funding requirements of this project. Assemblymember Kevin Cross made an amendment that was approved but not funded to separate out path from project and build a more affordable version to extend the bike path to Mile 5. It is not being addressing Mile 0-5 which is currently funded but may be soon cut. It is being asked this board and the Eagle River Valley Community Council to write letter of support to help state and municipality to keep the project in Eagle River due to the fact that AMATS has not funded this bike path in decades. It was motioned to write a letter of support for funding to extend Eagle River Bike Path. The timeline public comments is only for 45 days. Since the trail extends to Hilcrest Park the, it is being asked that the Eagle River Valley Community Council submit a letter of support as well. It was agreed to have the Eagle River Community Council bring input and letter of support if chosen to complete to the next BOS in March. It was mentioned that the AMATS is slow process for projects but with a 10-90% match of funding it make projects possible that otherwise wouldn't be possible.

VI. DISCUSSION

Mark Littlefield had asked about the past status of projects being brought forward and also requested what was being considered for the Horse Park. Jeff Urbanus stated he would like to hear from user groups inputs for utility and needs. Jeff Urbanus also let the BOS know that the Loretta French scoreboards were being changed and next month there would be more information on the status of this project because of a different scoreboard

A citizen raised concerns about the operation and the contract of the McDonald Center and also mentioned concern of contract compliance and asked how this would be done in the future. Kellie Jorgensen stated that there would be new contract language and inputs as well as a Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan integrated in the contract that would be completed on a monthly/quarterly basis affirming compliance with contractual obligations. It was requested that the BOS reviews the current RFP for the McDonald Center Contract. It was mentioned by Stephen Romanelli that there would be a request for an executive session to discuss findings of the current investigation of the McDonald Center/FLAMI and the board will present the information appropriately to the public when obtained.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Stephen Romanelli asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made, Pauline seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM



Stephen Romanelli, Chair

20240311

Date



Mike Braniff, Director

3-11-2024

Date



Kellie Jorgensen, Deputy Director

2024 0311

Date