

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting Minutes – ~~REDACTED~~

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/ Chugiak Parks & Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on June 22, 2020 at 7:02 p.m. at 12001 Business Blvd, Suite 170, Eagle River, Alaska. Chair Brian Fay called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Brian Fay, Mayor's appointee
Ms. Alexandra Hill, Birchwood Community Council
Mr. Josh Ream, South Fork Community Council
Mr. Will Taygan, Chugiak Community Council
Ms. Camilla Hussein, Eagle River Community Council
Mr. Pete Panarese, Eagle River Valley Community Council

Karen Richards, Manager
Tanya Iskra, Senior Admin Officer

III. MINUTES

The February 2020 minutes were approved.

IV. APPEARANCES - (none)

A.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Harry J McDonald Center – Update

Reid can't be here tonight. The Mac Center opened on the 15th for a scheduled clinic. Reid submitted a plan for safe operations, and followed it. Karen has stressed the necessity of following the plan (no locker rooms, one-way traffic, etc.) because an outbreak would shut them down. There will only be really structured activities on ice (such as camps) no Learn To Skate, free skating, etc. Karen has asked Reid to open the turf for seniors at designated times. Reid let her know after the fact that FLAMI applied for and received an \$85,000 Covid business loan. Also, he submitted a letter requesting a sole source request to the muni for contract renewal. Karen is not inclined to do that, and probably wouldn't be allowed to. She is checking with Josh Durand. Brian asks if we have end of 2019 report yet – we do not.

B. Park/Trail Oversight – Update.

Bear Paw festival status is unclear - it may be postponed, or cancelled. Hickel took his property (where the vendors are) out of the picture, so it really couldn't be done responsibly. It's an event over 500, and Karen sent the permit to the health department; and discussions continue. Most of the events that really make money are also those hardest to do with social distancing. As of now, it's postponed.

Sports field permits are issued. The Chinooks just cancelled (quarantines make it untenable). American Legion still has their permits, using Chinook and Oberg fields. CSC is using Oberg soccer field. Although soccer and baseball can't realistically social distance, Karen was told to issue the permits. American Legion Eagle River is now being headed by a person who is keeping the fields clean and well cared-for (Bill Luhrman).

Karen helped them set up their plan. They have disinfectant solution – at the end of each night they spray the bleachers, wipe down every lock, every gate that someone has touched, and they're reduced their footprint to touch less. They are distancing as well as they can. Bill has brought the Anchorage Softball Assoc. to the Loretta French complex, and they are working together on filed #4, taking the field down to the base layer, and putting down a new softball field surface. He hopes to hold games in July on field 4. Next year he hopes to use more fields (1 and 2) and bring state softball championships here. This year he's using the fields for free (in return for the labor). We will end up with 1 American Legion dirt field, one turf Chinook field, and 3 softball fields. For several years we've only been using 2 of our 5 fields; it will be nice to get more users.

Siebolt, tennis courts are getting a lot of use, mostly from pickleball. Residents are complaining. Karen was checking on the park earlier this month and found Mr. Siebold power washing his tractor in the park. Karen asked for him to clean up the mess he had left, and he complained to the administration. But did finally clean up the debris. James (a park staffer) talked to the pickle ballers and let them know they needed to have a permit. Karen is trying to get them over to Schroeder courts, where there is more room and more parking.

Our Trails are in good shape, people are using them. Pete notes that park use is way up. Karen has permitted a paddle board rental Alaska Paddle Sports Chris Putnam; he rents out of his home and people bring the boats to Beach and Mirror Lake.

The Mouth of Peters Creek Park has been having bonfire problems. She put a camera up – the bonfires are shooting flames 25' high. Neighbors in the area are harvesting healthy trees for firewood (over 150 trees) from the park. Also, Eklutna wants to dig some test holes to see what conditions were before the neighbors clear cut the trees so they can re-vegetate properly. We can't enforce the restrictions on fires and tree cutting because APD won't enforce and code enforcement won't enforce. Brian wonders if the problem is that we're independent financially from the community. Karen offered to pay but they were not willing.

Brian reminds us of a similar situation with Homestead Park (Ferndale Avenue in Peters Creek, where an adjacent neighbor had a conex and various other things on the park property. Some things have been removed. But Karen recently learned that the property had been cleared and was being developed. Karen told him to stop, He did not stop (complained to the mayor); Karen went out today with the forester and a planner, to assess the situation. She found that the neighbor had dumped construction waste (concrete) over the bluff. Karen has called around and may be making some progress on getting enforcement. She'll be showing a municipal attorney the site tomorrow. She will also work on re-surveying and putting up a fence, which was supported by the board. Lexi suggests that we bring these issues of code enforcement refusing to enforce on our parks, to our Community Councils, and to our Assembly people. Will asks for a list of code enforcement-type problems. Josh Ream thinks we should also pass a resolution and also have someone from the Municipality to explain to us why there's no code enforcement in Eagle River parks. We would like to get someone to explain the code enforcement problem to us.

C. FEMA / Quake repairs

Karen has to file extensions on all the FEMA projects, which would otherwise expire on 7/31. The dock should be done in a few weeks, but there are issues to work out. We may not get any FEMA money if we don't insure the property.

D. Parks & Rec Maintenance Storage Yard Site (Old Glenn)

We have to go through M&O for project management. When Karen originally talked to them, they assigned a manager that she had worked with unsuccessfully, before, and we

have not made good progress. But that person has retired, and we have a new person. However, we have to start from scratch. Now they are asking Karen to delay the bid until next spring and build next year instead of this summer. She did argue successfully to plan to bid in January.

- E. Engineering Contract Services
As previously discussed, The Boutet Company (TBC) is now on contract. The TBC contract was overspent by the downtown office, which went to the assembly to add money to the contract. That could not happen; because they asked to double the contract on a change order, and now the contract will have to go out to bid again. Until that process is complete, we can't get any engineering services. So, we can't move forward with projects.
- F. Mt. Baldy Parking
Karen asked Road board if we could do diagonal parking (instead of parallel) but it would cost much much more.
- G. Position /Staffing status update
Covid shut down hiring, and Karen could not get her summer staff hiring done – she is a month behind and just now has summer staff. She'll be posting the project manager position soon. One of her lead maintenance people has resigned, and she will be replacing him.
- H. NW ¼ JEBER Compatible Lands Act Buffer Proposal –Update
We rejected their offer and asked for different terms. They refused, but also said that they were surprised that the assessment was so low and wondered if we wanted to re-assess. Karen does not think that would add enough to be worth our while.
- I. HLB – Rambler Road Property (24238)
That property is sold
- J. Carrol Creek Property Development:
We have not heard anything new – there was supposed to be a public hearing on April 6 but Karen doesn't know the outcome.
- K. Dog Park
On hold because we have no engineering services

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Board members
Chugiak Council new member – Will Taygan. Camilla got her council approval and submitted around the first week of March.
- B. CIP Project List
Karen was going to have fund balances on our projects, but the system was not working. Once it works, she'll send it. She had to submit for 2021, and submitted phase 2 of the maintenance building; three years of that being our only CIP project will pay for it. If we decide we need to divert some from that use to an urgent project, we can also do that. Will notes that they've started the assessment for more Mirror Lake bike development; they're hoping to ask for development money in 2021.


C. Fire lake Public Access

There are homeowners on the lake who would like to ban power boats, because they say motorboats are eroding the shore. Fire Lake is one of only two lakes in Anchorage where motors (50hp or less) are allowed. When the complaint arose last fall, John had jersey barriers put up to limit motorized access in the winter. There were immediately complaints by homeowners and boaters about access. It's not clear how to resolve these issues. No action for us at this time.

D. Barbara Falls Land Proposal

This proposal doesn't work for us – the area would need significant development and would make more sense for Chugach State Park,


VIII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.



Brian Fay, Chair

7-13-2020

Date



Karen Richards, Manager

7-13-2020

Date