

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Regular Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/ Chugiak Parks & Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on September 14, 2020 at 7:05 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 (via internet)
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, Administrative Officer
Josh Durand, Parks and Recreation Director (via internet)

III. MINUTES

The June 2020 minutes were approved as corrected.

IV. APPEARANCES - (none)

A.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Harry J McDonald Center – Update (no report from Reid)
Recall that Karen sent out a message that the sound system full quote came in at \$50,000 (best case) to over \$70,000 (worst case). Why is the quote so much higher? Different bidders were quoting on different specs. Facilities makes sure to include all the necessary things like installation and working with existing wiring, etc. The quote right now is \$65000, which she has authorized. Karen has told Reid that she hopes that the amount over the \$18,000 that Finis raised could come from the bequest the Mac Ctr received. Karen has requested the documentation about the bequest but has not received it. She wants to be sure that however the money is used is within the scope of the intent. Josh Durand notes that this may go to the Director level, as when a facility operator like FLAMI gets a quote for improvement of a municipal facility (as opposed to going through the correct process), it's a procurement violation. We could trigger an audit over this issue, and perhaps if we explained it that way, they would be more responsive. Lexi wonders if we need to meet with the FLAMI board again; Brian thinks an audit is a more direct way to get what we need.

Karen is dealing with a public complaint against Reid and an employee over treatment of a youth and their parent. It is just one person complaining. She is working through it with Reid and the complainant. She expects they will be able to work it out. The issue is how the COVID procedures are communicated.

- B. Park/Trail Oversight – Update.

All is going well. We are starting to get hunting, fishing waste (fish heads dumped in

musher's area). There are few rentals, they are budgeting based on no revenue this season. For example, the pool is budgeted at \$250,000 revenue, but actual revenue is only about \$20,000. We are spending as little as possible. Trails have all been mowed. We are replacing the Conexes at Beach Lake Chalet; they are rusted out. The old ones will be repurposed to uses for which they are still suited. Will reports on the CMBR cancellation of kid's event after the Mayor's re-set. Josh D has update on CARES act funding. Eagle River was not selected for any projects in the first round. However, in the mix for round 2 is an Eagle River Nature Center roof and Mirror Lake Singletrack project. This funding should have a longer time span for spending. They also have \$1.5 million that came to Anchorage Parks and Rec to deal with beetle kill. He wants to focus on tree damage next to managed facilities – trails, pavilions, etc. He needs locations in Eagle River identified. Once they get a contract on board, they can send the successful bidder to check out Eagle River sites. Timeline? – he doesn't have a good understanding of how the administration plans to make the funds last longer. Also – he's been getting calls from Eagle River/Chugiak, looking for outside ice-hockey facilities. Parks and Rec doesn't have any outdoor hockey sites – those belong to ASD, which stopped maintaining them due to funding constraints. Our tax funding is supposed to go to our facilities. One approach would be volunteer efforts; a contractor would cost \$30-60,000/yr. to maintain outdoor hockey. Brian notes that we've had trouble in recent years filling the Mac Center ice – so adding money to outdoor ice might not be the best investment. Pete notes that the hockey rinks near the Middle School will need repair and refurbishing before they could be used. Will notes that there's a crew of parents that maintain the Ravenwood rink. At Mirror Lake he sees parents shoveling it off and some pickup use. He sees demand for recreational ice. P&R maintains Town Square, Mirror Lake for skating. Town Square is nice, Mirror Lake has ice fishermen who put holes in random places. We discuss several alternatives.

C. FEMA / Quake repairs

Town square money is obligated, although Karen doesn't have the check yet. At the Beach Lake dock, the contractor is working through the issues to make the dock ADA accessible. Also, the spacing between the rails should be 4", but it's currently 5". We are insisting they fix this at their expense. Street Maintenance is working on the landing at the dock, that will make an accessible walkway between the dock and the accessible ramp from the facility. Then the driveway will be brought up to grade. It will cost \$75-\$80,000. Once all the dock issues are dealt with, she'll return to the roof, which should be the last of the Beach Lake issues. Loretta French hill slope crack – we can't afford the \$700,000 to fix that. She's been working with FEMA. We want to know what FEMA will obligate before committing our funds. We are doing the preliminary drawings and plans needed to try to get FEMA to obligate money. Brian asks what the potential liability is. If there were heavy rains and snows this winter, the slope could slip down to the ball field, and also cut off the road around the back to the archer's area. Also, if we lost the height of the hill, the other side would no longer be a good place for the archery static range.

D. Parks & Rec Maintenance Storage Yard Site (Old Glenn)
Nothing new to report

- E. Mt. Baldy Parking
Street Maintenance has not started– Karen believes it will probably be late September,
- F. NW ¼ JBER Compatible Lands Act Buffer Proposal
We thought we had said no and were done with it. But then JBER asked if we wanted to re-assess because they thought the assessment provided was low. Then HLB got a call from someone in Georgia who was going to come and assess the park – JBER had hired him. It's possible there will be another offer.
- G. Chugiak Eagle River Cemetery
We discuss TBC's very preliminary report, and Will's very helpful comments on the sites. Josh D notes that any site will need to go through a very rigorous public process. We discuss the issues around several sites, and potential trades for sites we need Eklutna Land for. They are focusing on six potential sites. There will be additional meetings to consider these in more depth. Pete notes that they need to consult with people who actually plan funerals and burials to understand what the facility would need to be.
- H. Dog Park
Nothing to report. Karen will work with The Boutet Company to re-start the public process (and add in a connection to the bike path).
- I. Homestead Park
Karen will work with Josh D. and the legal department; hopefully, we'll be digging test holes next week. Temporary fencing is in – it's fully fenced in, including no access from the road without opening the fence. Will notes that his CC was troubled by the lack of code enforcement on park land. Brian reminds Josh D that we had hoped he could talk to assembly members. Josh D replies that that they want us to have our own code enforcers, (Essentially what we've done with Homestead Park). He's not sure that paying for a code enforcement person would be money well spent.
- J. Fire Lake Access
Josh D talked with Jamie Allard last Friday. If we really want to fix this issue, we need to have a proper process; but probably it is not a park issue. And if we try to design a code-compliant boat launch, it might not be viable. Faced with that possibility, it could be that we could make it just a bit better with the approach we've been taking. Will T says that he will bring it up with the head of the Homeowners' Assoc. at his CC meeting. Brian wonders if we should just take out the jersey barriers; Josh feels there's a safety issue that we addressed with the barriers, and that we should try to make it better. Brian notes that this may not be suitable for a motorized lake.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Request for MOA to provide/maintain outdoor rinks in Chugiak/Eagle River area. (see above).
- B. Winter 2020 Chalet Operational hours and use during COVID-19
We are working with ski club on COVID mitigation plans for group meetings, training sessions, etc. It's not clear if the chalet will be open to the public for warming use; but it could potentially be open for rest room use. Karen is holding off on her winter hire as she may have some other staff she could divert.

C. BOO at the Beach - Cancelled

D. Mirror Lake Singletrack improvements (Phase 2 additive alternatives)

The next project CMBR would like to build is the area near the parking area. One purpose is to try to draw people who are waiting for others or for an event to start away from the parking area. This would be a close-in (to the parking area) bike playground. The entry to the main trail area is also full of social trails. They think they can fix that issue as well, providing skills practice at a range of levels in the area. Their original budget for the area was for \$30,000. Since that time, Seward and S Anchorage have approved bike facilities for 10 times that amount. Also, the trails designer is busy building other projects funded through the Cares Act, so this project has to be put off. Some of the lines are defined on the ground, others need more work. The current estimate is to ask for about \$150,000 and could be phased. They had originally planned for volunteer building with lumber, which is less expensive but less durable than manufactured ramps, jumps, etc. He hopes this project could perhaps get some of the next round of CARES act funding. Josh D. is very supportive of the idea but thinks we don't need to make a formal supporting motion, especially since it wasn't on our agenda as an action item this month.


VIII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.



Brian Fay, Chair

Date

10 - 12 - 2020



Karen Richards, Manager

Date

10/12/20