

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS & RECREATION  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Regular Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2020

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Eagle River/ Chugiak Parks & Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on November 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at 12001 Business Blvd, Suite 170, Eagle River, Alaska, with participation also via Teams. 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 October minutes were approved.

**IV. APPEARANCES - (none)**

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Harry J McDonald Center –**

Pat McCormick has let Josh D. and Karen know he will be requesting a subsidy for next year; we can discuss that once we see the year-end figures. The 480 Volt electrical for the Zamboni is up and running. (it cost about \$4200 once everything was done). The sound system is still going through the bid process – they are working on creating of a bid request, along with an estimate of what it will actually cost. The FLAMI board feels they should decide if the Brenda Rogers Estate should be used for this – he's inclined not to use it, wants us to use our funds instead. Lexi asks about the reserve account – it's down because of buying the Zamboni and we want to be sure there's enough in reserve for emergencies. Karen has not had a response from the estate lawyers about the intended use of the money. She's trying a different branch of the firm now. Josh R. wonders what our board role is when FLAMI requests a sole source contract – are we advisory. Josh D notes that for some things our approval is explicitly required, but in all things we also serve in an advisory matter. It seems to him that this Board has been involved and could provide insight into issues of how the contract might be revised for better functioning, and also whether a sole source is justifiable and desirable. This coming spring is the time to start looking into the contract issues. Brian asks Josh D. about whether there are other entities around who are interested/ capable of managing, and how the downtown rink management might inform that. Josh says that when SMG was absorbed by a larger company, some changes took place in allocation,



and in new local people managing the downtown rinks. So there is room for improvement. Josh thinks one way to make ice more equitable and affordable is outside ice. Will notes that we only plow/hot mop town square and Mirror Lake. Karen notes that ASD has outdoor rinks at Ravenwood and Alpenglow. Karen is checking with ASD if any others are maintained. Camilla notes that her kids were at Ravenwood, and at that time, ice rink maintenance was by volunteers.

B. Park/Trail Oversight – Update.

The Town Square rink should be established in 2-3 weeks. Mirror Lake will start next week – depending on ice depths. Neither kki team (ASD or Jr. Nordic) has put in for their permits yet. Jr Nordic start has been pushed to January. We are putting out a new grooming contract; the contracting folks want to change the language. Hopefully the bid will be out this week; grooming has already started (without contract) but we only anticipate one bid. Brian notes that it's interesting the language is changing, as he recalls we had a lot of problems in the past when the language was too lax. Karen says these proposed changes are too restrictive, rather than too lax. We need to keep enough flexibility in the contract to react to weather quickly. Will offers his services as peacemaker, if needed. Josh R asks if we can review the contract; Karen will send him a copy. The Beach Lake project is complete; pavement looks good and was less than quoted (\$65,000) and the dock is complete and also looks good. We can't rent yet but may do an open house so that people can see the improvements. Veteran's Affairs has already reserved the lodge for 2 weeks next summer for retreats. Karen has been approached by folks wanting to run commercial dog sled rides out of the mushers' area; Karen is talking to them tomorrow, letting them know about the fees; and they would have to work closely with the Chugiak Dog Mushers. Woodcutting is still going on in various areas – as people see wood stacked in parking lots, it's free for the taking, after 4 PM

C. Cares Act Funding.

Beetle kill clearing will continue to the end of the year. They are close to an agreement to fund the CMBR Mirror Lake Singletrack improvements. Will's having some trouble getting good estimates from the shipping company. Josh D. notes that there's not a hard deadline, but sooner is better for getting things funded. Will adds that the original bid was just for the dirt work, and didn't include signing, fencing, etc. MEA approached them and asked them to put in for funding to help; there might be up to \$10,000 more.

D. FEMA / Quake repairs

Town Square has been obligated, completed, and reimbursement requested; Beach Lake is completed and obligated, but we don't have all the invoices to make a payment request yet. An Anchorage project, Suzan Nightingale, has been obligated; Karen may need to extend that as well as Loretta French. She thinks Loretta French will be obligated soon. Streets and parking lots were recently obligated; once Karen gets the paperwork from Street Maintenance, we'll be able to request reimbursement. Quake repairs were never made to Mac Center – the project may have been dropped by M&O, and she's following up on it with them. Josh R asks if there are financial repercussions; Karen has asked but does not have an answer.

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



- F. Mt. Baldy Parking  
No update on this year's work; however, Karen has asked Mark Littlefield at Street maintenance to see what it would cost to split the property so that the roadway/parking area would fall under CBERRRSA and the rest, stay in Parks.
- G. Chugiak Eagle River Cemetery  
No update, no scheduled meetings.
- H. Dog Park  
Karen hopes that in the spring we'll have a list of projects to Josh D. to take forward through the public process, and the dog park will be one of them. There was money left from the previous contract, but we don't have a PO with TBC; and Maeve has no room in her workload, so there is no-one to do the work this winter. Brian asks for clarification about Karen's expected timing. Josh D wants to sit down with Karen and Maeve and determine what can be done in-house. They did an internal site selection for a Hillside site, and Josh D thinks we can do it, rather than spending on consultant fees. Brian wants to see it sooner rather than later. Will thinks there may be resistance from neighbors; Josh D thinks that with a well-defined selection process, we can involve neighbors in the development plan to mitigate concerns
- I. Homestead Park Nothing to report.
- J. Eklutna Request for Easement/Access to Mirror Lake Park.  
Josh D suggests we take this item off the agenda until we hear something – he expects to hear in the short run that Eklutna needs more time; and then a couple more years before they are ready. Will notes that there are routes that Eklutna didn't suggest that would minimize impact as well as cross fewer wetlands. Will also notes other possibilities, and wonders about the value of staking our claim with a trail; Lexi suggests prioritizing a master plan process. Lexi notes that Anchorage did an overall parks plan several years ago, but Eagle River wasn't part of it. Josh D notes that the 2006 effort could be replicated fairly easily by applying it to our community. He doesn't recommend a large \$200K planning effort, but he would recommend picking a park every 2 years or so, for a planning effort. For Mirror/Edmonds, he thinks it we can't do an effective planning process until we know what Eklutna plans. There's a natural resource value to the park, which would imply soft surface trail development is most likely. Given that, we could consider how that value interacts with what Eklutna wants to do. Karen notes that in her mind, the Northwest Quarter is a higher priority because there's nowhere in that area for people to go in the winter if they don't ski or dog mush. And we have had money set aside for it for years. Referring again to Mirror Lake – what is the public access to the ski trails? Could we work with Eklutna to improve legal access as we negotiate the road easement?
- K. Real Estate Services Land Disposals  
Karen left this on the agenda because of the Sleepy Hollow and the other parcel up for disposal. Josh D has a meeting set up to go over the Chugach State Park access plan and also look at HLB parcels that might go up for disposal. Every time a parcel comes up, we see the interest in providing better access, but we should do our due diligence in advance on what parcels might actually work. MOA and CSP need to work together better to

identify what could work, and what is needed. Once we know what's needed, there's a potential to bring in non-profits like Greatland Trust. But we also want to be sure we consider community impacts and use staff and consultant time effectively.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

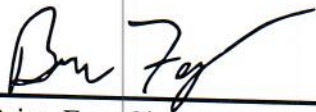
A. Spirit Park broken equipment

The broken backhoe toy in Spirit Park is going away, because continued abuse by some users keeps breaking it. Karen is looking for a replacement, a different toy that will hold up to the use. Brian asks about safety and compliance issues. Karen notes that we go through vendors who have certified compliance with all those issues. Also in Spirit Park, some of the neighbors have offered to put an ice rink in the basketball court. It's a great offer but might destroy the basketball court faster. They are considering the best way to proceed.

B. Hunting in Mirror Lake Park

Will asks about hunting seasons in Mirror/Edmonds Lake park; there's an archery hunt (1 person with a permit) there.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.



Brian Fay, Chair

1-11-21

Date



Karen Richards, Manager

1-11-21

Date