

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS & RECREATION  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Regular Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2021

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Eagle River/ Chugiak Parks & Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on April 12, 2021 at 7:04 p.m. via Teams. Chair Pete Panarese 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  
Josh Durand, Parks and Recreation Director

**III. MINUTES**

The March minutes were approved.

**IV. APPEARANCES**

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Harry J McDonald Center –nothing to report

B. Dog Park development

There will be a public meeting on the dog park Site selection next Monday 6:30 – 7:30. Information is on the website. Brian notes that he started looking at properties for dog parks because he had a particular dog in mind, who never quite got a park. He would like to request that we name this park, Mylo park in recognition of that dog. Josh's council was excited to hear the dog park report; and he supports Brian. Josh D notes that there is a process for naming public parks; if we want to name the park as suggested we could start that process. Ultimately it requires Assembly action. He is seeing lots of good questions come in, especially about the Firehouse Lane site – the questions are good ones, and Firehouse Lane might be a good site, but this input will identify issues for mitigation. Karen notes that so far, all the comments have been on Firehouse Lane, and none on Peters Creek. This is probably a good sign, but we'll know more at the Monday night meeting. That is the point at which Maeve plans to separate the two sites, and they will follow separate processes. Will did have one comment he sent to Maeve – that we extend the trail from the Peters Creek parking lot uphill to the dog park.

C. Park/Trail Oversight – Update.  
nothing new to report.

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

This is continuing to move forward. Brian brings up the question of whether we could name the building for John Rodda, because of the emphasis he had on taking care of what we have.

Pete wonders if it's problematic to name things for people. Josh D says that the muni does name things for people, but only when they have passed. He thinks that there are other avenues that might be better – and different items – probably a sports field or the like. Josh notes that getting a name right initially is important, because changing a name is harder.

E. CARES Act funding – Mirror Lake Single Track

Mirror Lake Single Track: Chugach Mountain Bike Riders is continuing to apply for lots of grants. As the funding situation has changes, and they brought in a professional designer, cost has gone up but the quality of the park is much higher than in the original plan.

Other Cares Act funds: Josh D notes that there will be additional funding soon. Assembly members have been soliciting ideas, and we could also make suggestions. Anchorage Parks and Rec is looking for new infrastructure in parks that would make commercial operations possible - e.g., a spot for a food truck with power. They are also looking at more programming that would provide immediate jobs. For example the beetle kill removal program had good optics and employed people out of work. Mayors office ideas include permit fee relief for our partners; more beetle kill work; 50 bikes for 50 kids; expanding grooming of winter trails to accommodate increased use. Other ideas are procuring snow dog groomers (can groom single track); seasonal positions to do the grooming; buying a piston bully. Josh encourages us to reach out to him, Karen, and the mayor's office with our ideas.

Josh R asks about costs to repair the Chugiak HS pool. We don't have an estimate at this time because Karen thinks that once we open it up to get an estimate, we won't be able to re-open the pool until we complete repairs. She guesses we will need almost a complete re-build – perhaps \$2 million? Josh R wonders if CARES act funding could be applied to that need. Josh D thinks the first round is less about capital projects, and more about direct Covid relief. The second round may be better suited for capital projects. Will thinks some of the small items could be good for the community. He thinks permit relief could be good, especially if aimed at non-profits. He likes snow dogs, but they are less suited for the steeper trails that need snow machines. Camila wonders if it would be cheaper to rebuild the pool from scratch rather than repair it? We don't know, but Karen has been saving into fund balance to cover pool costs. We have \$4 million in fund balance, \$2 million for the pool, and perhaps \$2 million to finish phase 2 of warm storage. Right now we are holding the pool together, but there are two pools in Anchorage currently closed and we are picking up their slack. Once those pools re-open we should move forward to get someone who knows pools to help us. Josh R notes that it's concerning that just two projects could use our fund balance; his council is really interested in public-private partnerships for Parks and Rec. Karen notes that the pool is full this summer. Brian thinks about the large investments in the pool, and whether they are justified. He thinks we should consider how many people are benefitting from the large amounts of money spent. His other issue is that we are 'parks and recreation'. He would love to see us put people to work with pop-up recreational activities that would be free, needing only waiver signatures. Tanya notes that this idea has come up in her process of planning for the summer as well. She's reached out to federal agencies, as well as to Native Corporations. Camilla notes that is similar to what the Nature Center is doing. Tanya's partnered so far with Performing Arts Center, APU

F. FEMA / Quake Repair Project Status  
no report

## VI. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Eagle River Nature Center RTP Support Letter  
 Eagle River Nature Center (ERNC) would like our support for a grant they are writing to repair and improve the viewing deck on the Rodak nature trail. ***A motion is introduced and seconded to send a letter (copy provided) of support.*** Brian asks how that deck interfaces with bears and closures. The deck is almost always outside of seasonal closure for bears. However, there have been seasons when closure area included both the Rodak trail and deck. ***The motion passes unanimously.*** Pete will sign and send letter. Josh R asks if there's a problem with the Chair (Pete) who is also a member of the ERNC board, writing the letter. Pete points out that we are a small board., and everybody counts. Brian thinks it could be good to have it introduced by another member, but it's critical to preserve council representation. Camilla agrees. Will thinks that it's a non-issue because of the small size of the group. That by stating the potential conflict of interest, Pete had dealt with the issue. Josh R disagrees, and thinks the chair has to be cognizant of potential conflict of interest issues.
- B. Will reports that Chugach Mountain Bike Riders (CMBR) is also writing a grant (due in 2 weeks) to harden an area around the work that's being funded with the CARES grant. He presented a map of the entire skills/entry area. He would also like to request a letter of support from us for this application. Consideration paused while we deal with the rest of the agenda. Josh R returns us to this item later in the meeting. He thinks it's good for us to support those looking for funds elsewhere that move us forward. Will would be happy if someone made a motion. ***Lexi moves that we write a letter in support of CMBR's grant application for funds to improve the entry area around the new bike park at Mirror Lake Park. Josh R seconds. The motion passes unanimously.***

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

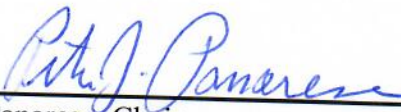
- A. By-Laws  
 Pete introduces the proposed bylaws and notes that several people (Brian, Josh R, Pete) have drafted bylaws for our consideration. The proposed bylaws stipulate jobs of officers; a term of chair as 2 years. We still need procedures to deal with chronic absence. He invites comments:  
 Karen asks about item J – agenda items for next month – is that feasible? Brian notes that it wasn't intended to establish all agenda items, just an opportunity to note any that we wanted to request.  
***Josh R moves to approve the by-laws as written,*** understanding that there will be discussion. Brian seconds. Will notes that by-laws are a living documents, and change. We can approve them and if something doesn't work, we can amend them. Josh agrees, and notes that the last clause speaks to how to amend. He also likes in the voting clause that once a motion has been defeated twice, it goes away. ***The motion passes unanimously.***
- B. Other items for our consideration:  
 Pete has several issues he would like the board to consider going forward  
 Budget: we are supposed to review and approve the budget. He thinks we should schedule time to work with Karen on it so that we understand it. He is less sure it's appropriate to approve it. Brian notes that those responsibilities are part of the code, so hard for us to tinker with, and it's crucial that we keep in mind that it was put there to protect our service area.  
 Summer meetings: Pete would like us to think about adjourning for the summer, as the Councils do every year  
 Park dedication: Pete asks Josh D to explain what this means. If a park is dedicated, its use can't change to some non-park purpose (like snow disposal) without a vote of the people. Typically it's not associated with a trail, but with an area of land. With a trail, it is more likely to mean that the trail has been formally recognized. For example, a dedicated trail

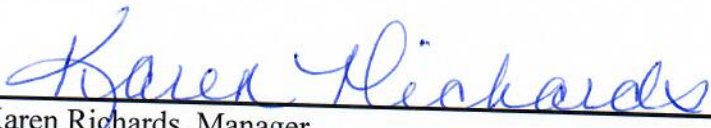
easement. Josh D is not total sure of the process of getting a dedicated trail easement; it might take buying the easement at fair market value. Lexi asks about obtaining a list of our parks, with dedicated/non-dedicated status. Birchwood Council has requested this. Josh says they can do that. He also explains that downtown they are working area by area to get parks into the right zoning categories. As this housekeeping exercise goes on, it raises the question of parks that are not yet dedicated. But first they have to get the right zoning nomenclature for current park parcels.

**VIII. TABLED ITEMS** (nothing pressing on these items this month)

- A. MT. Baldy Parking
- B. Chugiak/Eagle River Cemetery
- C. AMATS Non-Motorized Transportation Plan

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

  
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Pete Panarese, Chair May 17, 2021  
Date

  
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Karen Richards, Manager 5/17/21  
Date