

**EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2021

**WORK SESSION**

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation Board of Supervisors first held a work session before the monthly meeting. It is Josh Ream's final meeting due to other job opportunities. The main focus of the work session is on the directors' financial report. Tanya guides the capital budget by breaking down each line item that she provided the members with. This included items such as Beach Lake trail lighting, projects in Town Square and Commons that will be done in 2 weeks, the Chugiak Pool deck and drain as well as Beach Lake and the storage facility. There are projects that require an engineer and others that are planned for 2022. Pete would like to look more at operating budget and have more time to process and understand the capital budget. Josh D takes over for the operating budget and states that we are 45% of the yearly operating budget while being 70% of the way through the year. This is partly due to the pandemic and significant hiring being in a holding pattern. The labor has only used 43% of its budget. There is money for the MAC center if a subsidy is needed. Due to the 10% mill rate \$393,000 went to capital and was allocated for the new storage facility. The board agrees to look further at the budget information provided to them to get a better understanding. John Rodda asks what the current undesignated capital project funding balance and what is available. The work session ends with Lexie stating that after next month her and Barbara will be switching jobs, making Barbara the representative and Lexie the alternate.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on September 13, 2021, at 7:40 pm via Microsoft Teams. Chair Pete Panarese called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Ms. Alexandra Hill, Birchwood Community Council  
    Ms. Barbara Trost, Birchwood Community Council Alternate  
Mr. Josh Ream, South Fork Community Council  
Mr. Will Taygan, Chugiak Community Council  
Ms. Camilla Hussein-Scott, Eagle River Community Council  
Mr. Pete Panarese, Eagle River Valley Community Council  
    Ms. Ruth Armstrong, Eagle River Valley Community Council Alternate

Josh Durand – Parks and Recreation Director  
Tanya Iskra – Parks and Recreation Senior Officer

### III. MINUTES

The August minutes were approved.

### IV. APPEARANCES

Appearances were made by Brian Fay, John Rodda, Dan Traxinger, Patrick McCormick from the MAC center as well as members of the public.

### V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Terry Nicholls and Vicki ask if the MAC center is considering taking up the soccer field for pickleball. Pat says that they are interested but not sure. They state that they have been working with Tanya on indoor opportunities. They are not a formal group but have almost over 100 players in Eagle River/Chugiak area and there is only one court located at the Alaska Club which does not allow much access. Tanya says that she had spoken with Steve on his thoughts of having a temporary flooring or cover for the turf to play pickleball. The goal is to get Schroeder Park ready for next summer and find an accommodation for indoors for winter. Will thinks that its great for the user groups to come to meetings and connect with the Board of Supervisors. And says we should build the Parks and Rec program for indoors

### VI. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Harry J McDonald Center

Tanya begins by saying that she believes that Steve, Pat, and the FLAMI board are asking for more time to fix the operational issues they are having. Pat begins by saying they had an independent audit done on the 2020 year which stated that all financial statements are correct. For 2021 they are tracking as they hoped they would and due to COVID and PPP plan they are better off. They had \$85,000 forgiven for 2020 that was approved in 2020 creating a breakeven in profit/loss. They currently have more cash on hand than they have ever had. If they meet the budget, they should have a little over \$160,000 by the end of year. They did lose user groups due to COVID, but programs are back on for the fall. Anchorage's new junior team may be looking to have some games at the MAC center. He states that things look healthy for the future for MAC center. Josh R. asks if when there is a net positive if the money rolls over for the next year or not. Pat states that if they make a profit that is passed on to the city. John Rodda states that historically the money does not get returned to the city but goes as an addition into the reserve account to support the facility for future work. Pat adds that Steve the manager has submitted his resignation as of last Monday and they are actively looking for a new manager. Steve will remain available until they fill that position.

#### B. Dog Park

The dog park is still progressing as planned and is moving forward. Josh D. states that safety mitigations have been considered but will include an increase in cost from \$318,000 to \$360,000. He also mentions that an open grass area should be considered but it will have a larger hit to the operations budget, and we need to discover the most ideal

cost-effective location. He believes that we should re-visit the community council and be positioned to start construction next spring. Josh R. asks about the consequences of the grass feature and how it compares to simply having trails. Josh D. states that they should aim to provide an area where people can throw a frisbee/ball to their dog. Lexi agrees that the grass area would serve more people than either the grass or trails alone. Brian Fay states that he is concerned that there is no plan for grass at this point and does not want to endanger the entire project with the late addition of grass being discussed in a community council re-visit. Camilla agrees with Brian but does think grass would be fun. They agree to move forward with the current mitigation and come back to the idea of putting in an open grass area later.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Mirror Lake Bike Trails**

Will wants to discuss a confirmation vote on his prior projects. In February 2018 Will came to the board about phase 2 of the bike trails. He has been using the motion that passed as a guiding document. This year they are working on E which is building the skills loop that was proposed. This year there was CARES funding, and he hopes to move the approval by the board into something official in order to move forward on these projects. There are features they have purchased for install that they hope to install next summer due to grant deadlines that need to be met by June 2022. He wants to move forward and start the public process to enable them to use the funding and materials to move forward on sections of trail that are already approved by the board. He needs the project to move forward so that there is plenty of time. Josh D. states that he may need to generate a new design document to get approval from the body. They then must get approval from the planning department. Pete suggests writing up a memo of what Will needs for the board to understand, discuss, and support.

### **B. Loretta French Ball Field Construction**

Dan Traxinger discusses the renovations and upgrade requests on the Loretta French Ball Fields. Refurbishing on field 4 began in 2020 and through a partnership with ERCP&R they added turf materials to fields 1 and 4, leveled and compacted the infield and installed bases. All work was done with volunteers with over 500 hours of volunteer time. Due to this they hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> Birchwood Jamboree and the Junior Olympics. In 2021 they have continued improvements and logged over 150 hours in field clean up. This allowed Eagle River and Chugiak High to have a home field. They also refurbished fields 2 and 3 where everything was donated. They were able to hold the 2nd Jamboree with over 200 players as well as hosting the second Great Alaska showcase. They are requesting for 2022 capital moving forward for projects such as: hardening dugouts (approx. \$20,000), the purchase of turf to continue hardening of fields 1-4 (approx. \$19,600), purchase of clay brick materials to harden the pitcher's mound and batter boxes (approx. \$3,648) as well as a portable mound for field 4 (approx. \$5,269 w/o shipping). This all adds up to a total capital improvement request of \$48,517.99. John R and Lexie both firmly support

this partnership. Tanya states that some of the requests have already been approved and that there is funding in the budget.

C. Motion to Approve Vehicle Replacement

Tanya would like to purchase two vehicles for \$140,000 for Eagle River Parks and Rec. There has been a yearly allocation of funds to replace vehicles in the budget. There is currently \$120,000 allocated and she is requesting to move \$20,000 from the undesignated funds into the vehicle line item to purchase the new ones. There is a Prius that she wants to return. If they are purchased outright Anchorage will maintain them, but they will belong to Eagle River. There is need for a small SUV and a larger truck such as an F250. The majority of the current vehicles have over 100,000 miles on them, and one has some damage to it. Josh R. states that he has a concern of money coming from the reserve account and thinks it would be useful to consider prioritization for the reserve account. Brian Fay agrees with Josh and would like to see a long-term plan and what the big picture costs will be. Pete states that they will support a motion idea if they are given more information. John R. thinks that it would be helpful to look at lifecycle for vehicles and the make, model, and mileage of each vehicle to show justification of replacement along with the purpose of use of vehicles.

**VIII. TABLED ITEMS**

- A. MT. Baldy Parking
- B. Chugiak/Eagle River Cemetery
- C. Capital Projects for 2022

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

  
Pete Panarese, Chair

Sept. 30, 2021  
Date

  
Josh Durand, Director

10/4/2021  
Date