

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting Minutes – October 11, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on October 11, 2021, at 7:02 pm via Microsoft Teams. Chair Pete Panarese called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Alexandra Hill, Birchwood Community Council
Mr. Will Taygan, Chugiak Community Council
Ms. Jackie Welge, Alternate for Chugiak Community Council Alternate
Ms. Camilla Hussein-Scott, Eagle River Community Council
Mr. Pete Panarese, Eagle River Valley Community Council

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

III. MINUTES

The September minutes were approved.

IV. APPEARANCES

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Audit Report

Josh D. states that HR and municipal legal are no longer conducting the investigation and are now looking at the findings and coming up with a path forward. Regardless of the outcome the findings of the audit will be influential as it relates to the operation of this division including better tracking and use of p-cards. A new internal policy has been created on the g-drive for there to be more control and everything will be in an organized format. There will also be guiding documents for all programs such as BOO. There will be a future presentation with the board going over these guiding documents which will help establish the annual budget, holding the municipality accountable.

B. Parks and Rec Budget

Pete states that the documents they received have 42 projects, with 14 of them 70% or more complete and 15 not started yet. The current budget is \$13.4 million while the original was \$7.6 million. Pete wants to understand the how the original and the actuals

relate. Josh D. explains that if there is an active project that still has funding associated with it, it will show any money spent towards that project as well as any funding that is encumbered with that project. They will use John Rodda as a consultant to create a narrative for each project that describes the intent and what was done and will be closing many of the projects out and putting residual funds in the undesignated fund category. When it comes to the operating funding the difference is inter-government charges. This is the way the municipality pays other departments, such as HR, for their services. Parks and Rec. also receives inter-government charges (IGC) but the amount changes annually.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Parks and Recreation Access Road

There is a new proposal for an access road to Edmonds Lake. Josh D. states that in 2007 there was a land exchange between the Municipality and Eklutna and the beneficiary for the public and the Eagle River service area was the Mt. Baldy access in return ERCP&R is to provide a 100 ft easement in the Mirror Lake/Edmonds Lake park through the property that will be used as access for Eklutna and could later be used as a public use easement and a road for a new subdivision. When approved by assembly in 2009 there were 4 routes proposed and since then the feasibility and possibility of this access has been looked at by all sides and engineering departments. Constraints included existing Nordic Ski Trails as well as trying to avoid wetlands and finding where a road can actually be constructed. The next step is to hear concerns/recommendations from the Board so the project can move forward as an action item for approval in the future. Josh D. believes we need to be cognizant of how this new road will be influential for future development within the park. Will states that he does not see another way for a road to go in without taking out any trails, but he cannot find another route other than what was recommended. He is concerned of the location of trails and where the exit would be. Lexie agrees that we owe them an easement and that the option is as minimal an impact to the park that they are going to get. The Board plans to meet in the next week to view the area.

B. Mirror Lake Trails

Will is worried on how to move forward with the Mirror Lake Trails and he and Josh D. created a proposal for the board to show what they are planning for in 2022. In the construction of the playground, they had to cut some of their trails out due to constraints and setbacks they did not know about until the survey was done. They had already pre-ordered the jumps and still have 2 left with the funding to put them in. Josh D. has given the green light to take the 3rd jump line and move it back to an area they have a larger plan for. Due to the cost of bringing a trail builder out the proposal is to rehabilitate part of the multiuse trail to make a small loop. Pete supports them moving forward with this project. Will does not see any major impact to existing park users. Will also did hire a designer (Happy Trails) which came up with an overall concept of the trail. He is looking for board approval for larger concepts including downhill areas. He motions for the board to support a proposed one-way downhill trail in area G at the Mirror Lake single track.

Camilla seconds. Lexie thinks it is better to only approve lower trail because putting so many trails would change the character. He withdraws his original motion and revises it to approve DH1 and DH4 as well as multiuse trail rehabilitation in area G. Lexie seconds this. The motion is passed unanimously.

C. Beach Lake Trail Maintenance

Will states that the Beach Lake master plan states that there is a proposed trail that was built connecting a new parking lot to the Junk Yard Loop. In building the trail, they have been pulling cars out of old junkyard. The Nordic Ski Club wants to open up where the old cars are and create an area for kids to play. They want to go in and do dirt work and plant it with grass. There is a sink hole and stuff that would need to be moved. Josh D. states that the master plan does support it, but he would want to see a definitive proposal as to what they are doing because there is a lot that needs to be known such as wetlands and vegetation removal as well as what soil and top seed would be brought in. Jackie will take that back to Bob with the Nordic Ski Club. Lexie states that before things get set in stone, she would like it to be brought to the Birchwood Community Council.

VIII. DISCUSSION

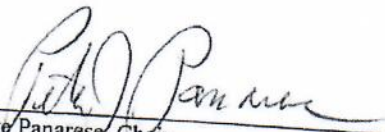
Pete asks Tanya about Boo at the Beach. She is designing the Trick or Treat trail. It will be a canned food drive as the admission, and all will be donated to the senior center and Meals on Wheels. She is working on the budget for 2022 as well as the maintenance contract for the trails. Bill has exceeded the dollar amount on the maintenance agreement, and she is waiting to hear back from them with invoicing. She is hoping to work closer with the ski teams moving forward and discussing their fee payments. Her confusion is that everyone has a different fee structure. The dog mushers have asked if Parks and Rec. can maintain their outhouse, she is trying to find what is in the contract and if it needs to be redone. Loretta French now has drainage and storage units are replaced. Lexie asks about the BL ski trail light circuits. Tanya wants to work on it. Tanya states that she has 2 parks that are not ADA accessible and that she wants to work on. She is also working with MEA to install a light in Firehouse Lane. It will cost about \$4,000.

IX. TABLED ITEMS

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.


Pete Panarese, Chair

Nov. 1, 2021
Date


Josh Durand, Director

11/2/2021
Date