

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2022

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on February 14, 2022, at 7:04 pm via Microsoft Teams. Chair Pete Panarese called the meeting to order.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Barbara Trost, Alternate for Birchwood Community Council

~~Alexandra Hill, Alternate Birchwood Community Council~~

Will Taygan, Chugiak Community Council

~~Jaekie Welge, Alternate for Chugiak Community Council~~

Camilla Hussein-Scott, Eagle River Community Council

Pete Panarese, Eagle River Valley Community Council

Ruth Armstrong, Alternate for Eagle River Valley Community Council

Josh Durand – Parks and Recreation Director

Karen Richards – Parks and Recreation, Principal Administrative Officer

John Rodda - The Boutet Company, Project Consultant

**III. MINUTES**

January 10, 2022, meeting minutes were approved

**IV. APPEARANCES** – Dean Karcz with PTS Engineering (Professional Technical

Services) attended on behalf of PM&E (Project Management and Engineering)

Department in regard to Resolution 2022-01 - Eklutna Access PUE, that is an action item on the Agenda this evening. He is here to answer any questions the board may have regarding this project.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS** –

John Rodda questions the process moving forward with the Eklutna access PUE. What are the steps and expectations after this PUE, considering the future development projects associated with the access into the Eklutna lands? Will PUE possibly be converted into a Right of Way and development options that will appear before Parks & Recreation so we in tandem with Eklutna Inc., as part of their development still have access to the Mirror Lake/Edmonds Lake property and options that were discussed many years ago? Josh says that as project development moves along, it is a fairly strong assumption that this access will eventually become a ROW and a public road leading to a subdivision. He sees our instrumental role as a department and a board, will be to develop a new Master Plan for Mirror Lake/Edmonds Lake Park and how a road through this area can provide increased access and opportunities for planned and desired development within the park

while providing a good balance between development and the preservation of natural spaces, and that is best achieved through a Master Plan effort.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Final Report - CIP/Fund Balance for 2022

John feels this is a good package that is presented and reflects a good path forward. Josh agrees with John and appreciates the research John has put into the topic of identifying bond debt costs in relation to and association with our current capital fund model. Karen presented the revised report with proposed Bond Debt Payoff removed and alternate project identification of Gorsuch Roadway Improvements in the amount of \$600,000 provided as an alternate use for those funds.

An additional change occurs in the project identified as the Eklutna PUE with a cost of \$500,000 being replaced with Mirror Lake Road and Parking Improvements for the same amount.

### B. Peter's Creek Dog Park Status

Josh provided an update on the draft design of the dog park based on the public input received in the past and provides a better alignment with the community wishes in relation to the access drive and parking lot placement that minimizes neighboring property impacts and optimizes maintenance needs of snow removal etc. Future design processes will identify fencing need and placement, as well as interior park development of options for possible trail network and amenities.

### C. AMATS MTP Project Application Status

At last month's meeting some possible AMATS funding opportunities were identified by Will and along with Peter and Camilla they pulled together five project applications for submittal. The five identified projects are **1) MTP 418 Eagle River Road path (Glenn to Mile Hi) 2) NMP 69 Birchwood Loop path (Beach Lake Park section) 3) MTP 505 Glenn Hwy path (Peters Creek to Eklutna) 3a) NMP 160 Eastside Dr. section of Glenn Hwy path (submitted as a smaller separate project) 3b) NMP 224 Thunderbird Dr. section of Glenn Hwy path (submitted as a smaller separate project)**. Further support for these projects may be needed as these applications move forward in the process. Camilla describes the projects focused on as safe pedestrian and bike paths to schools, and neighborhoods. Will referred to the historical guiding documents that call for development of parks and greenbelts that this thought process was based on in identifying the projects submitted for consideration but in the end will realistically depend on the availability of State funding to be realized. Connectivity to parks is essential now after parks & rec has done well to create parks. It is important for each community council to be represented in these projects to meet the wishes of the community. Barbara would like to have been included sooner in the process and before projects were submitted on her council area's behalf and would like to be better informed in the future.

John reminds the board that we should proceed with caution in the further planning of these projects until the responsibilities of who owns it and who is to take care of it and maintain it once it is developed, are clearly identified in advance. Josh explains the

process moving forward as the AMATS policy group will now go through a ranking process for the projects submitted and be voted on. Our projects will fall under the non-motorized transportation category. Approximately \$14 million dollars comes to the state of Alaska for a period of four years to fund these projects. The AMATS policy group will rank and identify funding for approved projects to be covered for the funding period. Once one of the projects rise to the top, the real discussions will start as to responsibility and ownership of upkeep. The state often will accept the construction portion but then tends to create a TORA (Transportation of Responsibility Agreement) which then pushes all future maintenance and upkeep onto other parties.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

## VIII. ACTION ITEM

- A. **Verbal Board Approval Vote of CIP/FB Report with formal Resolution documents to be provided at the March 14, 2022 board meeting.**
- *Verbal Approval received by the Board and will be submitted as formal Resolution 2022-02 at the March 14, 2022 Board meeting.*
- B. **Resolution 2022-01 – Eklutna Inc., Mirror Lake Park Access PUE**  
**John Rodda questions the process moving forward and what are the expectations**
- *Resolution 2022-01 was approved by the Board*

## IX. INFORMATION

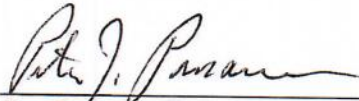
- A. **Operational Challenges for 2022**  
Staffing shortages continue to be a challenge for Maintenance, Administration and Lifeguards for the pool. The department has not received the applicants needed to fill current open positions for operations and programs and anticipates several more months to come with these same issues. Parks & Recreation is holding job fairs and posting job flyers around the community in hopes of increasing outreach to potential job applicants.

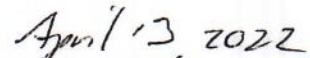
## X. DISCUSSION

## XI. TABLED ITEMS

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm

  
Pete Panarese, Chair

  
Date

  
Josh Durand, Director

4/13/2022  
Date