

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS AND RECREATION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on April 11, 2022, at 7:06 pm via Microsoft Teams. Chair Pete Panarese called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

~~Barbara Trost, 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

Jasmine Carter, Mayor's Appointee

Josh Durand – Parks and Recreation Director

Karen Richards – Parks and Recreation, Principal Administrative Officer

~~John Rodda – The Boutet Company, Project Consultant~~

III. MINUTES

February 14, 2022, and March 14, 2022, minutes were approved.

IV. APPEARANCES

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Title 17 Leash Laws

Will notes that Animal Control's determination of dogs being required to be on leash while biking unless in a designated dog park area does not fit with how the Mirror Lake Single Track Trails were being managed before the Title 17 language update. Single Track trails are notably more narrow than standard trail widths and pose a safety risk to both bikers and dogs if dogs are required to be on leash for this activity. It is expected and required that dogs be always under command and control of their owner though. He feels that Single Track Mountain biking should be included as a listed exemption as an allowable off leash activity without a park having to be designated as an off-leash dog park as Title 17 identifies. He is not asking for a change to Title 17 current guidelines, but instead is wanting added leash exemptions under Title 17 to include Single Track

Mountain biking as a leash exempt activity. Josh recommends that we state that “to mountain bike with a dog on narrow trails with current limitations precludes the ability to do this activity with a loose dog” may be a more effective approach for them to consider.

Will made a motion that “Eagle River/Chugiak Board of Supervisors would like to clarify that mountain biking with dogs under control on designated mountain bike trails within the Eagle River/Chugiak Service Area is an allowed activity under Title 17”. The motion passed 3 to 1.

Parks and Recreation will carry this forward to Animal Control consideration and implementation if needed or as needed.

B. Loretta French Equestrian Park

Board members visited the Loretta French Equestrian Park last Thursday with Josh and Karen and explored the full area arrangement including the Archers and RC Flyer activity areas and found the park to be well managed now by current users. It was discussed whether this area could be opened freely to be used by all people who want to go into it. After visiting the site there are strong concerns regarding the current users involved in the area such as the Archers and RC Flyers and the Equestrian Park area has limited activity use areas such as the arenas, but no trail riding areas.

Joyce O’Conner feels it is not accessible to horse owners as it was designed and would like it opened fully to all public use. She feels that the equestrian area is unknown to much of the horse community and needs to be open, accessible, and inviting. She mentioned that horse owners cannot come from out of town and access the equestrian park without having to first contact Parks & Recreation for a planned permit in advance of the weekend when the office is closed. Anyone should be able to show up at any time and drive on in without accessing a gate and lock.

Peter acknowledged that it is not possible to provide full and free open access to the Loretta French Equestrian Park fully at this time, due to the nature of the other activities in the immediate area and that of the public. This is something that the board and Parks & Recreation can continue to consider for future change and growth to expand opportunity in the parks and in the sport though. Parks & Recreation will look to provide greater informational outreach and possible advertising of the Loretta French Equestrian Park to the horse community while continuing to explore possible increased future opportunities and use of the Equestrian Park.

C. Peters Creek Dog Park

Josh provided update that Dog Park plans are progressing with designs being developed based on the community feedback, and on noted safety concerns. By working closely with the consultants and the Parks & Recreation design team, as well as the board we have created a design that mitigates those concerns. Geotech should have been performed last week and is the last hurdle for the consultants to gather additional information to see how the Geotech information guides subgrade improvements for the new parking lot. Once that is complete, we will be positioned to put the project out to bid to build the parking lot.

There are still some things not defined yet in the design: 1) Maintenance access – where will that be located? 2) Accommodation of an open grass area which most public users like to see. The current plan is limited to soft surface network of trails 3) How much of the park should be fenced?

We do have some flexibility and noted volunteer opportunities in the elements of where the maintenance access will go, where the open grass area will go and what the soft surface trail network will look like, as well as the fence type and placement. Josh anticipates that we will be on site meeting this summer to further establish and identify these flexible items, but the parking lot construction is not a flexible component of the project. Updates to the community will happen via community councils.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. ACTION ITEM

A. *Motion made by Will Taygan and seconded by Lexi Hill:*

*“Eagle River/Chugiak Board of Supervisors would like to clarify that mountain biking with dogs under control on designated mountain bike trails within the Eagle River/Chugiak Service Area is an allowed activity under Title 17”.
The motion passed 3 to 1.*

IX. INFORMATION

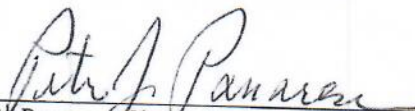
Camilla informed that recent zoning discussions at her community council meetings regarding new development plans may have impacts to board coverage areas and asks that members be aware of new development plans and access issues in their areas through public lands, encroachment etc., in the event oversight and action is needed.

X. DISCUSSION

XI. TABLED ITEMS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm


Pete Panarese, Chair

May 11 2022
Date


Josh Durand, Director

5/16/2022
Date