

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

Regular Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks and Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on June 13, 2022, at 7:02 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

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

Camilla Hussein-Scott, Eagle River Community Council The facility build is still in progress and garage doors just went in. The next step will be site improvements as it relates to vehicle access, drainage, and landscaping. With the completion of this facility, it does position us to re-evaluate and consider future change as it relates to Loretta French equestrian activities etc.

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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

Approval of the May 9, 2022, meeting minutes was deferred to July's meeting.

IV. APPEARANCES

Cook Inlet Archers –

Vicki Gross and Mike Quinn are present from the Cook Inlet Archers.

They are attending in response to requests of public access to the Loretta French Archery and Fun Flyers permitted areas adjacent to the horse park and wanted to speak to the board with concern for open public access to people and dogs.

Joyce O'Conner -

Joyce wanted to continue previous discussion of Loretta French Horse Park access. She does not have horses right now but wants to open up the horse park to all horse users. She has contacted people in the horse and rodeo community. Her major concern is that

the park is basically closed to horses and inconvenient to get a permit. She mentioned safety concerns with the secure access, as well as maintenance concerns. Multiple arenas have been closed in the community and rodeo groups are having to go to Abbott Loop to conduct their activities. She feels the seasonal permit fee of \$150 for a 5 month period (\$1 a day usage) for use of the park from 6am to 11pm daily is not reasonable. She would like to see a cooperative effort to open the horse park fully to the public without fees or the restricted permit access.

Karen explained that the equestrian center has a gated and permit restricted access the same as the Archer's and Frontier Fun Flyers area. If fully opened for public access with no restrictions, other users and public will frequently access this area with other intentions and results than that of the equestrian owners. Several existing permit holders have contacted the Parks & Recreation Department in the last month with avid concern associated with Joyce's request for changing this area to a full and open access. They are comfortable and satisfied with the current form of access and the seasonal fee pricing is more than reasonable compared to other equestrian facility use fees throughout the state. They prefer the current method of operation. Many feel that with an open access their safe riding options will be greatly diminished with distractions of random public users accessing the area with no intent of conducting equestrian activity. Previous user group management of the equestrian park existed in the past much like the Archers and Fun Flyers, but that organization dissolved some time ago.

Vicki Gross feels that the fees and access Parks & Recreation organization has outlined is very reasonable.

Sabrina Holland- is attending with interest in the equestrian park. She is a horse owner and veterinarian, who also conducts large horse events in the community. Her user group is interested in conducting equestrian programs within the Loretta French Horse Park as they are currently traveling either to Anchorage or the Valley to conduct their operations. She feels that the fees are reasonable but has been misinformed on scheduling availability when contacting the Parks and Recreation front office. Karen will work directly with Sabrina to discuss possibilities of various club programs and activities that could be accommodated within the equestrian park.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS –

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A.B.C. CIP Project Budget Expenditures

Josh provided a spreadsheet of current project expenditures requested by Jamie Allard. Peters Creek Dog Park – has not gone out to bid yet, there is some pending administrative review on site lines and parking area design.

Schroeder Park Tennis Court Resurfacing – The two tennis are courts being resurfaced to accommodate both tennis and pickleball. Planners are currently in discussion with user groups to accommodate both pickle ball and tennis at this park.

Beach Lake Road Phase II – Has just been completed with asphalt and striping or parking lot will follow.

Park Maintenance Facility Update

The maintenance facility build is still in progress and garage doors just went in. The next step will be site improvements as it relates to vehicle access, drainage, and landscaping.

With the completion of this facility, it does position us to re-evaluate and consider future change as it relates to Loretta French equestrian activities etc.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Report – Overview of invasive species effecting Loretta French ball fields and proposed treatment. Invasive species currently impact all our parks and Loretta French Park as well. There is a very strong municipal code that determines how we can address invasive species, and esthetics is not one of them. The best way to adhere to code is through a licensed professional that specializes in this field. To deal with impacts we are having from thistle and a variety of other invasive species within Loretta French ball fields and surrounding spaces, Alien Species Control was contracted to address this issue. They first addressed invasive species within the ballfields and those near them. We will have them back in the fall to address the remaining locations within Loretta French Park and a specific species that is more beneficial for pesticide application in the fall.

- B. Summer Field Trip – Peter would like to look at the Maintenance Facility to see what we are accomplishing there. He also thinks the board should look at the Chugiak Pool Issues and the Beach Lake Lodge that came under mismanagement challenges last year. Barbara suggests that we also walk the lakeside trail that is problematic in bringing loose dogs to the mushing trails and referenced in the Beach Lake Master Plan as needing grade separation if developed.

VIII. ACTION ITEM

IX. INFORMATION

- A. Informational Briefing – Jamie Allard on Chugiak/Eagle River Cemetery
- *No briefing - Jamie Allard did not attend the meeting*
- B. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding requests.
Requests for funds have been made by Cook Inlet Archers, The Lions Club, Arctic Heat Softball and CMBR at this time.
Will informed that the bike playground grand opening was successful, and the playground is open. The two additional trails that were cut from the playground and approved last winter are now occurring further back in the trail system and equipment should be out of the area within the month. The AMAT projects being worked have an additional deadline coming up in the next couple of weeks for their 20/50 new projects. The Recreational Trails Plan is being sent to Parks & Recreation. Those trail plans as well as the long trail plan pass through Beach Lake and Mirror Lake Parks. There is an amazing opportunity with a lot of interest for building out our greenways that we have

been working on. Will has been approaching clubs for feedback on improvements that they would like to see, feels that we don't have a good selection of summer trails. Will proposes to look at what trails need to be improved and possibly getting money to clubs for improvements and hardening of trails. He feels it is best to start with trails that exist within the greenbelt corridors already approved and in the existing plans. The main one is the one through Beach Lake along Fire Creek. He is also speaking with Eklutna Inc., and Great Land Trust as there are some private land owners, and conservation easements involved. He noted that trail easements do exist for approximately 90% of the intended route at this time. He would like to see Eagle River connected to the coast first and hopes to receive approval to build. CMBR intends to partner with Alaska Trails on the statewide project and, also the Anchorage Park Foundation has put funds into the capital budget for the long trail planning and route finding. He is estimating costs of \$250,000 per mile of trail for a hardened (un-paved) multi-use trail. If his funding request is approved, he would need to complete the work within two years time.

- C Mt. Baldy Parking– Peter mentions how challenging the existing parking conditions are at Mt. Baldy and wants to continue to monitor this and the plans for possible improvements that have been previously discussed.

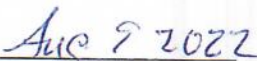
X. DISCUSSION

XI. TABLED ITEMS

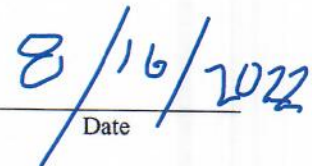
XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8: 25pm


Pete Panarese, Chair


Date


Mike Braniff, Director


Date