



Municipality of Anchorage

Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission

Purchasing Conference Room
City Hall
632 West 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

ACTION SUMMARY

12:00 Noon
Wednesday, April 22, 2009

Regular Meeting

I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Daniel Billman
Tamás Deák
Heather Dean
Brett Jokela
Holly Kent
David Nyman
Rick Sinnott

Excused: Dan Bosch
Bill Rice

Staff: Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, MOA-Planning Department
Jeff Dillon, Director, MOA-Parks and Recreation
Brad Dunker, Park Planner, MOA-Parks and Recreation
Holly Spoth-Torres, Acting Parks Division Manager, MOA-Parks and Recreation

Guests: Kevin Donniere, DOWL-HKM Engineers

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:08 p.m.

Staff, acting as temporary Chair, changed the order of business.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Case No. WNRC 09-01: Far North Bicentennial Park Draft Trail Improvement Plan

Holly Spoth-Torres, from the MOA- Parks and Recreation Department, and Kevin Donniere, the project's contractor from DOWL-HKM, presented this project to the Commission. This plan is to serve as a trails planning and management tool for the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Department. Future CIP programs will use this plan for this ~4000 acre Natural Resource Use Park. The Plan will serve as a user group allocation method for the future. The Parks and Recreation Department wants the Commission to provide their perspective on how to balance public use with the Park's natural resources. This is a strategic action plan and all uses proposed are consistent with the 1985 Far North Bicentennial Park (FNBP) Master Plan. The contractor has developed a set of trails classifications and new design standards for each that Parks and Recreation will apply to all trails in the future.

The contractor and Parks and Recreation staff initiated a dialogue with questions and comments with the Commission. Much of this discussion focused on the issue of new trail locations relative to bear and wildlife transit and use areas and potential conflicts. The Plan advocates for spatial separation to balance new needs and trail uses with natural resource areas. It also calls for risk determinations to be made by the Administration and land managers to weigh new uses and designs against natural resource values and wildlife uses. Specifically, there was general concern that the area identified as a new mountain bike trail section (Project #24) lies within a know bear transit corridor and use area. This area was a recommendation from the mountain bike use group.

Following discussion of concerns and possible motions by the Commission, it was determined that the Plan should be approved with some changes and conditions.

Commissioner Deák moved that the Watershed & Natural Resources Commission recommend adoption of the basic elements and items of the *Far North Bicentennial Park Draft Trail Improvements Plan*, including new uses, trail locations, and trail standards, with the following recommendations:

1. All creek channels in the planning area shall include a uniform setback of 200 feet on each side of a channel's ordinary high water, and this zone shall be classified as a no-new-trail-development area (trail creek crossings are permitted). These setbacks and the no-new-trail-development area classification shall be represented in appropriate text sections of the Plan and on Figures 11, 24, and 26.
2. The proposed new bike trails described and shown as proposed project #24 shall be removed from that area of the Park and relocated if an appropriate alternative location can be identified in the Park.

3. The no-new-trail-development area shown (in yellow) on Figure 26 at the Park's east boundary shall be extended north to include the entire northeast section of the Park.

Commissioner Dean seconded.

The motion passed unanimously with the condition that final wording of the full resolution be reviewed and approved via e-mail.

IV. OLD BUSINESS (none)

V. ACTION SUMMARY

A. Regular Meeting of March 25, 2009

Commissioner Bosch moved to approve the action summary for March 25, 2009, as presented.

Commissioner Rice seconded.

The Motion passed without objection

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS (none)

VII. OTHER BUSINESS (none)

VIII. STAFF REPORT (none)

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sinnott moved to adjourn.

Commissioner Billman seconded.

The Motion passed without objection.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.