



## **Municipality of Anchorage**

### **Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission**

Planning Conference Room 170  
Planning and Development Center  
4700 Elmore Road  
Anchorage, Alaska

#### ***ACTION SUMMARY***

12:00 Noon  
Wednesday, December 19, 2018

#### ***Regular Meeting***

### **I. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

*Present:* Tamás Deák, Chair  
Brett Jokela  
Holly Kent  
Paul McLarnon  
David Nyman  
Stephanie Quinn-Davidson  
Rick Sinnott, Vice Chair  
Simon Wigren

*One Vacancy*

*Staff:* Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, Kristine Bunnell, Senior Planner, Planning Department, Long-Range Planning Division

Josh Durand and Steve Rafuse, Parks and Recreation Department

*Guests:* Kristi Wood, Northeast Community Council

### **II. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:03 p.m.

### **III. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

#### **A. Introduction of New Commissioners**

New commissioners McLarnon and Wigren went over their backgrounds and work histories for the Commission.

## **B. Election of Officers**

*Commissioner Nyman* nominated Stephanie Quinn-Davidson for Chair. *Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

*Commissioner Jokela* nominated David Nyman for Chair. *Commissioner Quinn-Davidson* seconded.

**Commissioner Nyman received the majority of the floor vote and was elected Chair.**

*Commissioner Deák* nominated Stephanie Quinn-Davidson for Vice-Chair. *Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

*Commissioner Quinn-Davidson* nominated Brett Jokela for Vice-Chair. *Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

**Commissioner Quinn-Davidson received the majority of the floor vote and was elected Vice-Chair.**

Commissioner Nyman took over the meeting as Chair.

## **IV. ACTION SUMMARY**

### **A. Regular Meeting of November 14, 2018**

*Commissioner Deák* moved to approve the November 14, 2018 minutes as written. *Commissioner Quinn-Davidson* seconded.

**The minutes for the November 14, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved as written.**

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Collaboration Process for Commission's Review of Parks and Recreation Department Plans**

*Steve Rafuse* represented the Parks and Recreation Department (Parks and Recreation) and wished to discuss the Parks and Recreation master plan process, the upcoming Russian Jack Park Master Plan project, and collaboration between the Watershed & Natural Resources Advisory Commission (Watershed Commission) and Parks and Recreation.

In general, park master plans are a one- to two-year process that begins with research, a natural resources inventory, and public outreach. They typically include an advisory group in a six-month public involvement process. They then prioritize improvements for the plan, which can go to the Watershed Commission for advisory review in the approval process.

For the Russian Jack Master Plan, the department completed a draft natural resource inventory, which is being reviewed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG). Once that is complete, Parks and Recreation plans to initiate the master plan process and convene an advisory group in January. They generally strive for stakeholder consensus. They would like a member of the Watershed Commission to join the advisory group. They recognize that there has been public concerns about their planning process, specifically with the Russian Jack Park plan and individual projects.

*Commissioner Deák* reiterated the concerns the Commission heard in that regard. There were public concerns voiced to the Watershed Commission about the STA trail project in Russian Jack. The STA trail issues were not adequately covered in the original Russian Jack plan and some felt the master plan should be updated to include that and other new issues before new trails are considered.

Parks and Recreation staff agreed, and that's part of the impetus to begin that effort now. This issue served as a reminder of the need for collaboration and inclusion of the Watershed Commission. Project update reports would benefit this.

Parks and Recreation seeks a more proactive collaboration. The Parks and Recreation master plan approval process includes a community council resolution of support, Parks and Recreation Commission approval, and then Planning and Zoning Commission approval, all of which include public input.

The Watershed Commission asked that Parks and Recreation staff report as needed to them, preferably early in a planning process.

**The Commission agreed to have *Commissioner Wigren* serve on the Russian Jack Park Master Plan advisory committee, with *Commissioner Jokela* as the alternate.**

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Persons to Be Heard (none)**

## **VII. OTHER BUSINESS/STAFF REPORT (none)**

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*Commissioner Jokela* moved to adjourn. *Commissioner Deák* seconded.

**The motion passed without objection.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.