



## **Municipality of Anchorage**

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

City Hall, Room 525  
632 West 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska

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

12:00 Noon  
Wednesday, February 27, 2019

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

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

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

*One Vacancy*

*Staff:* Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, Planning Department, Long-Range Planning Division  
Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Senior Parks Planner, Parks and Recreation Department

*Guests:* David Evans, Rogers Park citizen  
Gino Graziano, UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Anchorage Outreach Center  
Janice Nyman, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Jim Renkert, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry  
Tim Stallard, Anchorage Park Foundation, Invasive Plant Program  
Hans Thompson, South Addition citizen

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

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:06 p.m.

### III. ACTION SUMMARY

#### A. Regular Meeting of January 23, 2019

*Commissioner Sinnott* moved to approve the January 23, 2019 minutes as written. *Commissioner Deák* seconded.

*Commissioner Sinnott* began the discussion on the following changes:

On page 2, under V.A., New Business:

Second paragraph:

- on third line, change "...public *access*—all..." to "public *safety*—all..."
- end of fourth line: delete "Although" at beginning of sentence to reads as "Some research..."
- on fifth line, delete "negative" in front of *impacts* to reads as "... chemical to have impacts on ..."

Third paragraph:

- On first line, change *Tim Stellar* to *Tim Stallard*, and delete "s" on *experts*.
- On fifth line and last sentence, change from "...and to apply the herbicides with the MOA creek setbacks." to "...and to apply *glyphosate* and the *other* herbicides within the MOA creek setbacks."

**The minutes for the January 23, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved as amended above.**

*NOTE: The agenda order was changed to take up V. New Business first, and Old Business was taken up after.*

### V. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. WNRC Case No. 2019-02, Chester Creek Single-track Trail Project – MOA Parks and Recreation

*Maeve Nevins-Lavtar*, Senior Park Planner from the Parks and Recreation Department, introduced a new parks bond-funded planning, design, and construction project for portions of a new single-track bike trail in the Chester Creek Greenbelt. These will be slow-speed designed trails. The project spans the area from Valley of the Moon Park to Goose Lake. The action focuses on upgrading certain existing trails and adding minor new sections for a continuous new system off the main paved bike trail. New neighborhood connections to existing social trails will be included. It is in the design phase now. Phase 1 is planned for 2019 construction. Essentially all of the current trail alignment will be more than 25 feet from Chester Creek. Safety is a key design component.

The Commission asked questions and offered concerns about impacts to the creek and where new trails meet existing trails. *Ms. Nevins-Lavtar* described how these will be addressed.

No action by the Commission is needed at this stage.

*NOTE: The remaining agenda resumed from here.*

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. WNRC Case No. 2019-01, Use of Herbicide on Bird Cherry along Chester Creek**

*Commissioner Sinnott* suggested further discussion was needed after additional review of MOA Parks and Recreation information and policies about the hazardous material code.

*Tim Stallard* reported that the glyphosate impacts issue was studied on some fish populations. Negligible impacts were found in limited studies. The Commission continued to ask questions and concerns, especially about the use of herbicides, of the experts and proponents present, in order to understand the breadth of potential impacts to fish, water quality, native plants, and people. The experts shared new research reports and findings. The Commission also asked questions about the various methods of bird cherry control and whether this program is sustainable over time. This would likely be a long-term project.

Other studies produced data about how bird cherry eradication affects other species. *David Evans* from Rogers Park offered his concerns about the near monoculture of bird cherry in the greenbelt and how this enhances homeless camps.

It was clarified that the Commission is being asked about the use of herbicides within 150 feet of Chester Creek. The Commission should participate in public education on the invasive impacts of planting bird cherry and recommended a long-term eradication plan be developed. The Commission agreed to entertain a motion for the Commission to support the use of herbicides as one method to eradicate and control bird cherry within 150 feet of Chester Creek.

*Commissioner Quinn-Davidson* moved that the Commission consider a resolution in support of this request. *Commissioner Sinnott* seconded.

**The motion to draft and consider this resolution passed unanimously**

##### **B. WNRC Case No. 2015-02, Bears-Garbage Conflicts – Solid Waste, Garbage Proposed Standards, New Concepts**

Postponed.

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

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**The motion passed without objection.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.