



## **Municipality of Anchorage**

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

Virtual Teams Meeting

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

12:00 Noon

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

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

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:04 p.m.

#### **A. Establishment of Quorum**

*Present:* Emily Creely  
Tamás Deák  
Brett Jokela  
Holly Kent  
David Nyman, Chair  
Rick Sinnott

*Excused:* Paul McLarnon  
Stephanie Quinn-Davidson, Vice Chair  
Simon Wigren

*Staff:* Thede Tobish, Senior Planner, Planning Department, Long-Range Planning  
Steve Rafuse, Parks Division Manager, Parks and Recreation Department  
Brad Muir, Natural Resource Manager, Parks and Recreation Department

#### **B. Disclosures**

No disclosures.

### **II. ACTION SUMMARY**

#### **A. Regular Meeting of August 26, 2020**

*Commissioner Jokela* moved to approve the August 26, 2020 meeting minutes as written.  
*Commissioner Kent* seconded.

***The August 26, 2020 minutes were approved unanimously as written.***

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. WNRC Case No. 2020-01, Land Clearing and Bird Nesting**

*Steve Rafuse and Brad Muir* gave an overview of land clearing and tree removal practices by the Parks and Recreation Department maintenance crews and contractors.

Parks and Recreation traditionally have followed the USFWS bird timing window guidelines. They typically do most land clearing and tree removal in late summer through the fall. Occasional projects need clearing in summer. In those cases, they use staff to search for bird nests prior to clearing and adjust maintenance actions accordingly.

Parks and Recreation maintenance activities have never been found in violation of the bird timing windows. Recent Cares Act funds have been used for land and tree clearing projects, which requires adherence to USFWS guidelines. Staff takes necessary steps to avoid bird nests and the nesting season as much as possible.

The Commission recommended that Parks and Recreation coordinate with the USFWS on restarting collaboration with the Urban Bird Treaty agreement.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

The Commission asked staff to invite the project manager of the Chester Creek restoration action at Arctic Boulevard to provide an overview of the project.

#### **V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (none)**

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

### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

***The motion passed without objection.***

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.