



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

December 13, 2018

I. Call to Order

The December 13, 2018 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission, held at Spenard Recreation Center, was called to order by Chair Jon Dyson at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Catherine Bodry
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Grace Johnston
Commissioner Erin Kirkland

Commissioner Shannon Kuhn
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner Alison Smith
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Kelly Chang

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda
Josh Durand
Tom Korosei

Maeve Nevins Lavtar
Steve Rafuse
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion made by Commissioner Kirkland and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, the Agenda for the December 13, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Minutes of the October 11, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

Director John Rodda, provide updates and status reports on Parks and Recreation activities.

The homeless camp abatement has concluded for the year as it is no safe to work on the camps in winter weather. This year 244 tons of material were removed. This is a 40% increase over last year. Last year was 170 tons. Community Work Service has other work to do in addition to camp cleanup. They assist Horticulture in the winter months, assist with snow and ice removal on stairs and walkways, move offices, and provide many other services to municipal offices.

All of our Parks and Recreation facilities were impacted by the recent earthquake. There is significant cracking on the Coastal Trail near Lyn Ary Park, on the trail at Martin Luther King Parkway, on the bluff at Jodhpur. Two bridges at Kincaid are in questionable condition, as well as a bridge and pedestrian overpass on Raspberry Road. The new replacement bridges fare well, including the new bridge at Westchester Lagoon. All of the pools sustained damage, with East and Chugiak being the worst. It is not known when those two pools will re-open. The recreation centers came through pretty well – lots of breakage from things falling and cleanup needed. Within 24 hours Fairview Recreation Center was being used as a shelter. City Hall offices sustained some damage and was closed to the public for awhile. Things seem back to normal there now. Eagle River Town Center sustained damage, but it is hoped in can be repaired and the Center re-opened by week's end. All playgrounds and play equipment are fine. Iced at the rinks is being maintained. We did not go out onto lake ice to take measurements or perform any kind of measurements as that is simply dangerous to do right after an earthquake. We need the ice to thicken to at least 12 inches before we can begin ice maintenance.

The Municipality is compiling information on earthquake damages to prepare a request for disaster relief from FEMA. It is unknown the value of the damages sustained at this time. In the meantime, bills for repairs are being paid from the municipal emergency fund.

VI. Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

There was no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

VIII. Action Items

A. PRC 18-26 Proposed Assembly Ordinance amending Anchorage Municipal Code section 25.30.025, Public notice procedures when municipal land disposal requires voter approval, by reducing the notice requirements to be consistent with Heritage Land Bank notice requirements

PRC Resolution 2018-19

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner,
Deitra Ennis, Deputy Municipal Attorney, and
Robin Ward, Director, Heritage Land Bank

The Assembly has asked the Parks and Recreation Commission to consider and make recommendations regarding a proposal to amend the Municipal Code in order to reduce public notice requirements for disposal of municipal land requiring voter approval. This would pertain to land formally dedicated for park and recreation purposes. A draft of AO 2018-117 was provided which would for the proposed amendment, a AM 762-2018 to provide background information. The ordinance was introduced at the December 4, 2018 assembly meeting. Specifically, as drafted, the ordinance would eliminate the requirement that first notice of a proposed disposal be at least 180 days prior to the date for final action a the ballot proposition and reduce the time requirement for notice by signage from 180 days prior to public hearing by the assembly on the ordinance authorizing the disposal, to 14 days prior to action before the Parks and Recreation Commission. Other notice requirements would remain, including public notice by publication, mail, and posting, Notice of Parks and Recreation Commission action would remain a minimum of 14 days. In addition, Assembly action on a bond proposition must be at least 63 days prior to an election. Details of the proposed change and reasons for proposing the change were discussed by Deitra Ennis, Deputy Municipal Attorney. Robin Ward, Director of Heritage Land Bank, was available to provide background information and answer questions from the Commissioners.

The Parks and Recreation Department generally concurs with the proposal, noting that disposal of dedicated park land happens infrequently, the Department's experience with current notice requirements is limited and the scope or extent of interest in park land can vary from a limited easements to substantial fee-interest holdings. The Department concurs with efforts to establish these notice requirements but does not have enough information to conclude that notice requirements should align with Heritage Land Bank requirements. Therefore the Department recommends notice requirements be not less than what is required for Heritage Land Bank, and requests that the Commission consider the proposed resolution.

Commissioners then had lengthy discussions regarding the language of the proposed resolution and the adequacy and applicability to park land of that language. Commissioners Smith and Milliken both stated they would oppose the resolution as written, as 14 days was simply not enough time. Commissioners also expressed the opinion that Parks and Recreation Commission notice requirements need not align with Heritage Land Bank requirements. Ultimately Commissioners agreed that 45 days was appropriate and changes to the proposed resolution were made as follows:

Strike the line where it says, " WHEREAS, public notice for disposal of land held by the Heritage Land Bank is a minimum of 14 days" completely.

In the paragraph, 3rd paragraph from the bottom, replace "14" with "45."

Strike the last paragraph that begins "BE IT RESOLVED."

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner Kirkland, PRC Resolution No. 2018-19, Proposed Ordinance Amending AMC 25.30.025 to Reduce Notice Requirements for Disposal of Certain Municipal Park Land, as amended by Commissioners, was approved by a majority of Commissioners present, with 6 "Yea" votes, 1 "Nay" vote, and 1 abstaining (voting record follows the final resolution). The final resolution, as amended, states:

PRC Resolution No. 2018-19
Proposed Ordinance Amending AMC 25.30.025 to Reduce Notice Requirements for
Disposal of Certain Municipal Park Land

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage Municipal Code provides public notice requirements for actions to dispose of interest in municipal lands, including land dedicated for permanent or long-term park or recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the disposal of interest in municipal land, in particular interest in dedicated park land should be done only when determined after careful consideration to be in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the disposal of interest in dedicated park in addition requires voter approval; and

WHEREAS, public notice for disposal of dedicated park land is a minimum of 180 days prior to final action on a ballot proposition; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Anchorage Assembly amend the Municipal Code as appropriate to make notice requirements for disposal of dedicated park lands not less than 45 days.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of December, 2018.

Voting record, PRC Resolution No. 2018-19:

Yea:	Commissioners Bodry, Dyson, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn and Smith
Nay:	Commissioner Milliken
Abstaining:	Commissioner Winchester
Absent:	Commissioner Chang

B. PRC 18-27 Folker Park 2019 Improvements
PRC Resolution 2018-20

Presented by Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Park Planner

Folker Park is located at the intersection of Folker Street and E. 42nd Avenue in the U-Med district in Anchorage. Just west of the park is Horizon House, a residential assisted-living home. North of the property is an undeveloped site owned by Anchorage Community Mental Health Services, Inc. Residential property with a mixture of single and multi-family housing units is located to the east and south. Ms. Nevins-Lavtar provided a history of the park and description of the neighborhood activities. She discussed the Parks and Recreation Folker Park Site Plan Update that was initiated in 2016. The update was intended to address community concerns, issues and provide a vision for management, maintenance and development of the park. This plan identifies current and future needs, addresses issues and concerns, and establishes a guide for future development. The final site plan was unanimously approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in May 2017. The plan brought before the Commission here identifies priorities as they relate to the available budget and is supported by the University Area Community Council. The Advisory Group, along with the Community Council and the Alaska Reflexology Association, continue to be engaged as the project develops. A project design team has been working on designs with Phase 1 construction to begin in 2019. With the approval of the proposed resolution, the construction bid January will be put out in January 2019. Details of the priorities and funding sources were contained in the packet provided to Commissioners and discussed in Ms. Nevins-Lavtar's presentation. The Parks and Recreation Department recommends approval of this plan.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Smith, PRC Resolution No. 2018-20, Folker Park 2019 Improvements, was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2018-20
Folker Park 2019 Improvements

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility and duty to provide for the long term vision of our park system by ensuring that a balance of parks, natural resources, and recreation facilities provides for the health, welfare, and safety of all residents of the Anchorage Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Folker Park is a 2.02 acres neighborhood park located in the University Area with a heavily forested area including soft surface trails, picnic table, benches and an entry garden bed; and

WHEREAS, Folker Park 2017 updated Site Plan provides a 5-10 year vision that will guide future development at the park; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department partnered with the University Area Community Council stakeholders and park users to establish an advisory group to assist the Department in identifying and prioritizing desired improvements for Folker Park; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Folker Park Improvement Plan is based on priorities as identified in the approved 2017 updated Site Plan and available funding, and

WHEREAS, the improvements proposed in the 2019 improvement plan have been vetted by the advisory group through deliberation and consensus, and have received support and approval from the University Area Community Council during their Oct. 3, 2018 meeting; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the 2019 Improvement Plan submitted by the Department for Folker Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of December, 2018.

Voting record, PRC Resolution No. 2018-20:

Yea:	Commissioners Bodry, Dyson, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn, Milliken, Smith and Winchester
Nay:	None
Abstaining:	None
Absent:	Commissioner Chang

IX. Information Items

A. PRC 18-28 Chester Creek Single Track Project Update

Presented by Maeve Nevins-Lavtar

The Parks and Recreation Department is exploring options for construction of an urban, singletrack trail system along the Chester Creek Trail from Valley of the Moon to Goose Lake. This project received \$150,000 in the 2018 bond package. Consultants, including a professional trail builder, have been hired to develop the project. Existing social trails will be utilized to create a network singletrack trails that will parallel the paved Chester Creek Trail. An advisory group is being formed and the first meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., December 20, 2018 at City Hall. Commissioners were invited to attend. The advisory group will include members from all segments of the community, not just biking groups. There will be a public open house in January. The project has been put on a fast track as it will have to be presented to the Urban Design Commission for approval and that process is a lengthy one. Commissioners will be kept apprised of pertinent dates and details of the process as it develops.

B. PRC 18-29 Russian Jack Springs Park Master Planning Process Overview

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Planner

The Parks and Recreation Department is undertaking a Master Plan update for Russian Jack Springs Park. Russian Jack Springs Park is a 300-acre park located in east Anchorage and has both developed facilities and natural areas, and year-round recreational opportunities. Amenities include softball and soccer fields, playground, skatepark, off-leash dog park, and ski trails in North Russian Jack, and a golf course, chalet, public greenhouses, sledding hill, learning labs, and ski trails in South Russian Jack. The park has important habitat for birds, fish and wildlife. The original master plan was developed in 1979 and updated in 1997. This update will identify current and future needs, address community concerns and issues, and provide a guideline for future management, maintenance, and development of the park. The public involvement process will commence in January 2019. The process will include 2-3 public workshops, online surveys, community council involvement, school workshops, social media, and a community advisory group. The timeline is for planning and public involvement from winter-fall 2019; development of the plan in fall 2019-winter 2020; approvals of the plan in spring-summer 2020, and implementation of the plan in summer 2021. An important component of this Master Plan is the completion of a natural resource inventory. Mr. Rafuse requested that a Parks and Recreation Commissioner be part of the advisory group. Updates will be provided as the plan is developed.

C. PRC 18-30 Town Square Park Master Plan Update

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Planner

The Town Square Park Master Plan process almost complete. Mr. Rafuse presented to the proposed Public Hearing Draft for the Town Square Park Master Plan to the Commission. The master planning process involved intensive public involvement with 7 stakeholder interviews, 2 roundtable focus groups with downtown businesses and public safety and social services entities, 7 meetings with technical and citizen advisory groups, 3 public workshops, 1 open house, and 2 online surveys. The planning phase that followed was driven by the public's desire for positive changes in the park and to address public safety and security, which is of primary concern. Essentially the recommendations were broken down into 4 categories: programming, public safety, design and management. This document will next be provided to the advisory groups for final editing and brought back to this Commission for public comment and approval in February or March. It is anticipated that presentation to the Planning and Zoning Commission will occur in May.

X. Commissioner Comments

There were no commissioner comments.

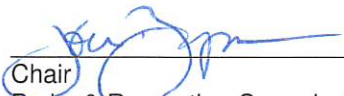

XI. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 10, 2019, at the Spenard Recreation Center.

XII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester, seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 10 day of JANUARY, 2018:
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 _____ Chair Parks & Recreation Commission	 _____ Director Parks & Recreation
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