

# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

## ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION



### Frontierland Park Community Advisory Group Meeting #1 Minutes

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Location: Coffman Annex Building, 519 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave

Date: Wednesday, February 21, 6-8pm

The first meeting of the Frontierland Park Community Advisory Group (CAG) was held at the Coffman Annex Building in downtown Anchorage on February 21. The goal of the meeting was to evaluate the existing conditions and begin prioritizing improvements at the park. Parks and Recreation works with a CAG to ensure that future improvements align with the desires of the community.

#### IN ATTENDANCE

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Kate Consenstein (SACC)   | 6. Ed Leonetti (Coffman Engineers)           |
| 2. Eileen Raese (SACC)       | 7. Josh Durand (Parks and Recreation)        |
| 3. Larry Monsma (SACC)       | 8. Michelle Fehribach (Parks and Recreation) |
| 4. Kurt Marsch (SACC)        |  |
| 5. Michael Fredericks (SACC) |  |

#### MEETING OVERVIEW

The meeting began with staff and CAG introductions and a review of the park planning process. This review included information on the role of the CAG, a project timeline, available funding, and project goals. As CAG members introduced themselves, they listed what they currently like and dislike at Frontierland Park. Issues and concerns were discussed and desired improvements were listed. Ed Leonetti of Coffman Engineers presented three conceptual drawings, and CAG members provided additional clarification and input about the design.

#### PARK OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

The following section summarizes discussion points from the meeting. Generally, the CAG committee is supportive of a building a new playground and upgrading existing amenities. The main points of discussion are categorized by amenity and/or topic. These include: parking, playground, foot traffic/connection to Delaney Park Strip, landscaping, and other.

##### Parking

- The group believes there is adequate parking for this neighborhood park

- The group would like to keep the parallel parking on the south side of W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, as they have observed parents watching their children play from their parked cars

## Playground

- The CAG supports replacing the existing outdated play equipment
- The group likes having a dedicated 2-12 year old play area
- Support making the playground ADA accessible, so children and adults of varying abilities can experience the park and play together
- Dislike the existing metal slides
- Swings
  - Popular element of the park
  - Oodle swing, traditional swing, and toddler swing
- Sledding Hill
  - Popular with adults and children
  - Visitors run up and down it during warmer months
  - Provides an elevation change and different view point
  - Would like to keep it, though open to the grade and height potentially changing to incorporate all elements of the park into a cohesive design
  - Make sure it doesn't create hiding spaces for negative uses
- Plaza
  - Would provide seating for adults and caregivers
  - Serve as a green space for downtown adults
- Theme
  - The group generally feels that a theme is a good idea, particularly incorporating elements of Alaska Native art, language, interpretive panels, traditional wayfinding, etc.
  - Keeping elements of the existing footprint make sense from a budgetary perspective
  - Because of the park's proximity to downtown, there's opportunity to connect the design with other entities such as the Dena'ina Center and the Anchorage Museum
  - Indigenous organizations and individuals should be consulted on how and what to incorporate into the park
- Fencing
  - The articulated fence along E St. provides hiding spaces for negative uses and prevents passing APD officers from seeing into the park
  - Keep fence along E St. to prevent children from running into the street, but of a design/material that allows for visibility
  - Fence along W. 10<sup>th</sup> Ave would restrict how the park interacts with Delaney Park Strip, and may not be necessary

## Landscaping

- The current landscaping provides hiding spots for negative uses
- New landscaping should allow for clear sight lines

- Adding trees such as birch would create a green space for respite from city elements, camouflage the adjacent ML&P substation, and provides opportunities to tie in Alaska Native traditions, such as wayfinding

### **Foot Traffic & Connection to Delaney Park Strip**

- The park serves as a thoroughfare for pedestrians from the neighborhood and downtown
- Keeping circulation is important to the group, and can be used to activate the park and discourage some of the negative uses currently happening
- The group would like paths at all four corners of the park, inviting pedestrians in and making access easier
- Local schools and visitors use the park in tandem with larger celebrations happening at Delaney Park Strip, and this should continue

### **Other**

- Add Mutt Mitt stations to encourage good habits
- Upgrade benches and picnic tables
- Parks and Recreation maintenance clearing paths
- Parks and Recreation horticulture training birch trees

## **RESOURCES**

[Berliner](#)

[Kompan](#)

[Goric](#)

[Landscape Structures Inc](#)

## **NEXT MEETING**

- Wednesday, February 28, 6-8 at Coffman Annex Building (519 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave)