



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

REGULAR MEETING

June 11, 2009 Minutes



CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kathleen Plunkett at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2009, at Spenard Recreation Center.

I. ROLL CALL

Roll call taken by Deputy Director Beth Nordlund

Commissioners Present:

Chairperson Kathleen Plunkett
Commissioner Tim Benintendi
Commissioner Sara Boario
Commissioner Zareena Clendaniel
Commissioner Meagan Krupa
Commissioner Victor Mollozzi

Commissioners Excused:

Commissioner Allyson Beischer
Commissioner Peter Crosby
Commissioner Dan Frank
Commissioner David Wigglesworth

Staff Present

Beth Nordlund, Deputy Director
Holly Spoth-Torres
Chris Conlon
Brad Dunker
Tom Korosei
Joe Gallagher
Diana Cramer

II. Consent Agenda

No changes to the Agenda or the Minutes of the May 2009 meeting were made. Commissioner Mollozzi moved to approve the Consent Agenda and May 2009 minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Benintendi. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

III. Director's Comments

Beth Nordlund, Deputy Director, invited the Commissioners to attend the farewell barbeque for Jeff Dillon on Wednesday, June 17, 2009, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. at Mann Leiser Greenhouse.

IV. Staff Reports

A. PRC 90-30: Planning & Natural Resources Report

Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Development & Natural Resources Manager, discussed the status of the Russian Jack Springs sledding hill improvement project which was heard before the Urban Design Commission on May 13, 2009, and the draft minutes of that meeting. The final decision of the UDC should be released at the next UDC meeting. Ms. Spoth-Torres then discussed the construction project spreadsheet provided to the Commission, which provides some detail about this summer's construction projects as to staff involvement, a description of the project, consultants, work force, and funding information.

B. Recreation Superintendent's Report

Chris Conlon, Recreation Superintendent, gave a verbal report regarding recreation programs and activities. He stated that work on the Goose Lake project is moving along nicely and nearing completion; and that a walk-through tour of the Service and Bartlett pool projects would be arranged in the near future for the Commissioners.

C. PRC 90-31: Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Beth Nordlund, Deputy Director, gave an update on the neighborhood park improvement projects. Standish Park has been completed and Red Bridge Park will be completed the week of June 15. The Delaney Park Strip tennis courts have been completed and are already in use. The Youth Employment in Parks program is underway with the teams working in parks and in the Park & Play program. The artists have been hired and are working with the children in the Park & Play groups.

Ms. Nordlund and Commissioner Mollozzi talked briefly about the Anchorage Park Foundation Assembly Information Memorandum presented to the Anchorage Assembly on June 9 and referred Commissioners to that report which was attached to the Commissioners' packets for further information.

V. Information Items

A. PRC 09-32 2009: Creek Restoration Projects

Brad Dunker, Municipal Creeks Coordinator, gave an update and description of the creek restoration projects. Three of the projects involve restoration of 600 feet of creek bank along Campbell Creek. The Youth Employment in Parks crew has been involved in these streambank restoration projects, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's Streambank Restoration Workshop, providing the youth with a great learning opportunity and on-hands experience. Other projects involve Ship Creek revegetation and access improvements which will involve blocking some streambank access points and formalizing others to spread out the fishery and reduce impact to streambank vegetation, and the Chester Creek Aquatic Restoration Project to be completed by mid-June. A celebration of completion of the Chester Creek project is planned for June 19, 2009, at 3:30 p.m. at Westchester Lagoon.

B. PRC 09-33: Baxter Bog – Alicia Iden Nature Trail and Overlook

Joseph Gallagher, Assistant Park Planner, introduced Tanya Iden, the daughter of Alicia Iden, who then gave the Commission the background, history and a status report on the nature trail and overlook challenge grant project. The Baxter and Scenic Park elementary schools and the Aurora Waldorf School (a private school) have been involved in the project and the intent is to be able to use the overlook and the trails as an outdoor classroom. In particular, the Aurora Waldorf school has been a partner in the project and its students will be helping to develop the content of the interpretive signs planned for the nature trails and adapting the design of the entrance archway to the park using natural materials. Mr. Gallagher discussed the project schedule and funding. Due to the successful funding by the challenge grantee, and the overwhelming community support the project has, it is anticipated the work with Aurora Waldorf school students and other interested parties will begin this Fall. In November 2009 construction of the elevated overlook will begin. Construction while the ground is frozen will minimize impact to sensitive wetlands vegetation. It is anticipated the project will be complete by summer 2010.

VI. Action Items

A. PRC 09-34 Jodhpur Motocross Area (Kincaid Park) Utility Easement

Tom Korosei, Park Planner, reported on the Request for Electric Utility Easement by Chugach Electric Association (CEA) for the Jodhpur Motocross Area in Kincaid Park. The Anchorage Racing Lions, a successful challenge grantee, has a project to extend electricity and lighting for the parking lot adjacent to the motocross track at the southeast corner of Kincaid Park. The easement requested is required so that CEA can install a service line extending from an existing line to bring electrical service to the parking lot. Staff requests that the Parks & Recreation Commission recommend that

the Assembly adopt a resolution to authorize the easement with the conditions listed and some amendments requested by CEA. The restoration of disturbed areas within the easement will be the responsibility of CEA. Any amendments to the easement documents will be up to the Anchorage Municipal Attorney and the Assembly.

Commissioner Mollozzi moved that Resolution 2009-22, Proposed Easement for Electric Utility within Kincaid Park, be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benintendi.

The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-22

Proposed Easement for Electric Utility Within Kincaid Park

WHEREAS, Chugach Electric Association requests an easement for extension of electric service for lighting and similar park purposes to enhance the area within Kincaid Park known as the Jodhpur motocross track, including the adjoining parking lot; and

WHEREAS, the proposed easement would substantially overlap an existing electric utility easement and an existing driveway; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission believes that the lighting would enhance the park by improving safety and convenience for the benefit of park users; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission believes that the proposed easement would not conflict with existing or planned improvements to the park, or would otherwise diminish the potential use of the park; therefore,

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Assembly authorize the requested easement generally as proposed, subject to review and approval of the Municipal Attorney.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Parks and Recreation Commission this 11th day of June, 2009.

B. PRC 09-35 Chugach Electric Association Substation Lease (Far North Bicentennial Park)

Tom Korosei, Park Planner, discussed the proposed land exchange for the Chugach Electric Association Substation Lease. The Municipality is seeking transfer of approximately 0.38 acre from Campbell Park for lease to Chugach Electric Association (CEA) in exchange for an equal area to be relinquished by CEA for the East Dowling

Road extension project. Staff recommended that the Commission adopt the proposed resolution allowing the conveyance requested.

Ed Jenkin of CEA discussed the Dowling Road Substation, its purpose, and the need for expansion and improvement of the substation in the near future for which the land in question is required.

Commissioner Molozzi moved that Resolution 2009-23, Proposed Conveyance of Park Land for Chugach Electric Association Substation Lease, be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boario.

The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-23

Proposed Conveyance of Park Land for Chugach Electric Association Substation Lease

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities proposes to extend East Dowling Road through dedicated park land to connect to Elmore Road consistent with Municipal Transportation Plans; and

WHEREAS, the proposed route traverses a portion of Municipal Heritage Land Bank Land leased to Chugach Electric Association for a substation serving the surrounding neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Chugach Electric Association has requested that an equal area adjacent to the west boundary of the remainder of the lease tract be made available for future utility use to replace the land taken for right-of-way use; and

WHEREAS, the subject area is classified wetlands subject to additional regulations and permitting, is not currently used for trail or other active recreation purpose, is not shown in current plans for active recreation development, and was previously identified by the Parks and Recreation Commission for possible use related to the road extension project; therefore,

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission has no objection to the proposal to transfer management of approximately 16,500 sq. ft. of dedicated park land to Heritage Land Bank for lease to Chugach Electric Association, to be used for future substation expansion, and recommends that the proposal be submitted to the Anchorage Assembly for approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Parks and Recreation Commission this 11th day of June, 2009.

VII. Appearance Requests

Dale Williams – Anchorage Springboard Diving Association. Mr. Williams spoke about diving board safety, funding for new diving boards, and in particular regarding his concerns that the 3-meter diving board at Service High School would be removed as a result of safety concerns as a result of the Service High swimming pool improvement project, and asked to be included in any decision-making process with regard to the fate of said diving board. After discussion between the commissioners and Mr. Williams, Chris Conlon, Recreation Superintendent, agreed to discuss the situation in depth with Mr. Williams and to keep him apprised of actions being taken by Parks and Recreation with regard to the diving board. It was also noted that funding for a new diving board might be accomplished through an Anchorage Park Foundation challenge grant and Commissioner Mollozzi and Ms. Nordlund encouraged Mr. Williams to look into that possibility.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. The Far North Bicentennial Park Trail Improvement Plan Subcommittee

Holly Spoth-Torres reported that the consultant was still in the process of compiling all the changes to create a document to be presented to the Commission. The subcommittee will meet the week of June 22 to review the document.

B. Section 36 Master Plan

The plan has been taken “on the road” to the community and a lot of input is being gathered. It is anticipated a draft of the strategic action plan will be available in June.

IX. Commissioner Comments

There were no commissioner comments.

X. Upcoming Meeting

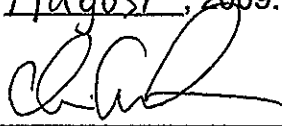
Next Commission meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, July 9, 2009, at Spenard Recreation Center.

XI. Adjournment


Commissioner Mollozzi moved for adjournment.
Commissioner Benintendi seconded.
Unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 13th day
of August, 2009:

for 

+Director, Parks & Recreation



Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission