



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

May 9, 2019



I. Call to Order

The May 9, 2019 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 Jon Dyson
Commissioner Grace Johnston
Commissioner Erin Kirkland
Commissioner Shannon Kuhn
Commissioner Alison Smith
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Kelly Chang
Commissioner Eric Milliken

A quorum was achieved with six members present.

Commissioner Catherine Bodry has resigned as she has accepted a job overseas. We are seeking a commissioner for her position.

Staff present:

John Rodda
Josh Durand
Steve Rafuse
Brad Muir
Annie DuBois
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Agenda for the May 9, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Kirkland, the Minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

Director John Rodda provided an update on the following items:

The Department continues to work with FEMA and the Disaster Relief Office regarding earthquake damage. More information will be provided to Commissioners at a later date.

Homeless camp cleanup crews began work on April 22 along the Chester Creek Trail corridor. They began at Valley of the Moon Park and will work east toward Gambell. Already this year 65 tons of material from the cleanup has been deposited at the landfill, a 30% increase over last year.

Two park projects have been put on hold for the time being – Frontierland Park and Jewel Lake Park. Estimates submitted by engineers put the projects over budget, so the projects will need to be revised then put out for bid again, probably in January.

Repurposed turf is being installed at Kozinski ballfield #1. This is a joint effort between the Alaska Laborers Trust, American Legion Baseball, and Parks and Recreation. In August they will do the infield at Mulcahy.

An ordinance was passed by the Assembly that will allow trapping in municipal parks. The language in the ordinance is at odds with the Municipal Code, which does not allow trapping or hunting on park land. The Legal Department has been asked for an opinion.

VI. Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests on non-agenda items.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation

There as no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

VIII. Action Items

A. PRC 19-06 Chanshtnu Muldoon Park Phase 2 Development

Resolution 2019-05

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Planner

Chanshtnu Muldoon Park is located in East Anchorage on the southeast corner of Muldoon and DeBarr roads. The Master Plan was finalized in 2014 and Phase 1 of that Plan was completed in 2018. Phase 1 is the westernmost area of the park along the highly visible Muldoon Road corridor. It has year-round features including an inclusive playground, parking lot, community event space, picnic shelter, skating ribbon, and flexible open space.

Phase 2 is the core area of the park – a transition zone between the highly developed Muldoon area and the wilderness-fronting green area at the east boundary. The core area will have a mix of developed facilities and natural areas. Proposed improvements are a 48-space parking lot at East DeBarr Road and Boston Street, community gardens and a food forest, a dog park with separate areas for large and small dogs, a boulder and natural play area, a bicycle pump park, a paved multi-use trail, a soft-surface trail with viewpoints of Chester Creek and the Chugach Mountains, an open field (natural meadow), and natural areas with existing vegetation to remain. Parks and Recreation has worked closely with the Parks Committee and the Northeast Community Council since 2015 to design, fund and construct improvements. Public involvement for Phase 2 included Parks Committee meetings, Northeast Community Council meetings, public meetings and outreach to the public via mail, email, E-newsletters, Facebook Event invites, and project website updates.

Proposed development for Phase 2 is based on the public input gathered through the master planning process and the design and development process. The Northeast Community Council supports the proposed development.

The Parks and Recreation Department requests that the Commission pass a resolution supporting the Chanshtnu Muldoon Park Phase 2 Development.

There were no public appearance requests for this action item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kirkland and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, PRC Resolution No. 2019-05 Chanshtnu Muldoon Park Phase 2 Development was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2019-05
Chanshtnu Muldoon Park Phase 2 Development

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, the 2016 *Muldoon Town Square Park Master Plan* identifies and prioritizes improvements for future development of the Core Area of the park; and

WHEREAS, the improvements proposed for Phase 2 are based on community priorities identified in the *Master Plan* and have been reviewed and confirmed by the Parks Advisory Committee through deliberation and discussion; and

WHEREAS, Phase 2 development will provide an active and social community space with a mix of developed facilities intended to serve the larger community and neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Phase 2 Development will include a community garden and food forest, off-leash dog park space, bouldering and nature play area, bicycle pump park, paved and soft-surface trails, landscaping, parking lot, and viewing points.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed Phase 2 development submitted by the Department for Chanshtnu Muldoon Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 9th day of May, 2016.

Voting record on PRC Resolution 2019-05:

Yea: Commissioners Dyson, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn, Smith and Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Chang, Milliken

B. PRC 19-07 Youth Employment in Parks 2019 Projects

Resolution 2019-06

Presented by Brad Muir, Natural Resources Manager, and

Annie DuBois, Youth Employment in Parks Coordinator

The Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program is beginning its thirteenth year and over the years has employed 350 youth and completed 96 park improvement projects. This year 100 youth were interviewed and 25 hired for YEP positions. Teens receive job training and education in civic engagement, environmental stewardship, natural resource conservation, and land management. Last year, \$206,000 worth of improvements were completed for Anchorage parks and trails, and this summer, they will complete an additional \$334,000 in improvements.

Proposed projects are:

- Castle Heights Park Trail Maintenance – trail maintenance;
- Government Hill Bluff Trail – soft-surface trail construction;
- Campbell Park Creek Access and Improvements – streambank restoration, invasive vegetation removal, planting of native plants and trees, construct ADA stream access, and install interpretive signage;
- Far North Bicentennial Park (FNBP) Creek Restoration – streambank restoration, invasive vegetation removal, and planting of native plants and trees;
- Ruth Arcand Neighborhood Connector Trail – construction of a 1,400 lineal foot trail connecting the Lake Otis Blvd. tunnel to the park; and
- Chester Creek Single Track Trail – construction of two miles of single track trails along the Chester Creek Trail corridor.

Parks and Recreation staff have reviewed and fully support these projects and the Commission is requested to approved a resolution supporting the 2019 YEP projects.

There were no public appearance requests for this action item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kuhn and seconded by Commissioner Smith, PRC Resolution No. 2019-06 was unanimously approved as follows:

**PRC Resolution No. 2019-06
Youth Employment in Parks - 2019 Projects**

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, the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) is a joint program of the Anchorage Park Foundation and the Municipality of Anchorage's Parks & Recreation Department and is focused on providing Anchorage teens with meaningful job experience, outdoor education and environmental stewardship skill in Anchorage Parks and Trails; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, the Anchorage Park Foundation, and various project partners has dedicated or achieved \$334,000 in funding to support the 2019 Youth Employment in Parks projects; and

WHEREAS the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) is in its 13th year of operation with a planned scope of work that includes trail work, bank restoration, single track trail construction, slope stabilization, landscaping and vegetation rehabilitation, and park beautification projects to be completed during the 2019 YEP program season; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the scope of work submitted by the Department for the 2019 Youth Employment in Parks Projects.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 9th day of May, 2019.

Voting record on PRC Resolution 2019-06:

Yea: Commissioners Dyson, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn, Smith and Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Chang, Milliken

IX. Information Items

There were no information items presented.

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, June 13, 2019, at Spenard Recreation Center.

XII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 13 day of JUNE, 2019:



Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission



Director
Parks & Recreation