



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

April 12, 2018



I. Call to Order

The April 12, 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 Josh Durand, Park Superintendent.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Catherine Bodry
Commissioner Kelly Chang
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Shannon Kuhn
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner Alison Smith
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Grace Johnston
Commissioner Erin Kirkland

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda
Josh Durand
Maeve Nevins
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Josh Durand requested that the Information Item be moved forward on the Agenda before the Action Items. Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Agenda for the April 12, 2018 was amended and unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Minutes of the March 8, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

Josh Durand provided the following information:

Spring activities in park maintenance have started – snow clearing on the trail has begun and sweeping will occur thereafter. No more ice maintenance on lakes or rinks is being done. "Thin Ice" signs have been placed at the lakes and people cautioned to use at their own risk.

The Department is still waiting for approval from the Employee Relations Department to begin recruitment for the new weekend supervisor position.

The Department will begin hiring for the Park Ambassador program in May. The program's first summer was considered successful, with positive feedback from the community received.

Hiring for the Youth Employment in Parks program has been completed. 110 applicants were interviewed to fill 20 positions to begin work in June.

Voters approved the park bonds on the last election ballot. Mr. Durand thanked everyone who voted for our bond.

VI. Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director of the Anchorage Park Foundation, provided information about the upcoming neighborhood park fix-it projects, challenge grants, inclusive playground installations, Youth Employment in Parks projects, trail and wayfinding projects. She also gave Commissioners a map showing the location of all of this summer's park projects and a draft calendar containing the dates when events will take place. As plans are finalized, the calendar will be updated. Ms. Nordlund talked about the various publications being put together, such as maps, brochures, etc., to be provided to the public to enhance their park experience. She will be providing the Anchorage Park Foundation annual report to the Assembly in May.

VIII. Information Item

PRC 18-13 Proposed Naming of a Public Facility to Commemorate Bree's Law

Jared James, Mayor Berkowitz's staff, is the Mayor's staff member assigned to work with the naming panel on the proposal for Bree's Law Memorial, an art installation to be placed on park land. Although there is support for placement of the Memorial at Delaney Park Strip, there are other sites being considered to determine the most appropriate location. If anyone has questions about the project or wishes to reach out to the naming panel, they should contact Mr. James by email at JamesJS@muni.org or by telephone at (907) 343-7150.

Breanne Richelle "Bree" Moore was a young woman who was a victim of dating violence and lost her life in 2014. In 2015 The Alaska Safe Children's Act, which included Bree's Law, was passed by the Governor. Bree's Law requires that the school district adopt and implement a policy establishing training program for employees and students, and provide parental notices, relating to dating violence and abuse in grades seven through twelve.

The naming panel proposes a public art installation, art for social change, in recognition of Bree's Law to further educate people about dating and domestic violence prevention. The Assembly appointed a naming panel consisting of Laura Eakes, Ivy Eakes, Lory Miebs and Lynn Stuhr to assist in naming an art installation after Bree's Law.

Addressing the Commission on the importance of community education and how the art installation can assist that education were Bree Moore's parents Butch and Cindy Moore; and naming panel members Laura Eakes, Lory Miebs, and Lynn Stuhr.

After a site is chosen and final plans for the installation prepared, and the public process completed, the naming panel will again come to the Commission to request a resolution in support of the project.

IX. Action Items

A. PRC 18-11 Frontierland Park Improvements

Resolution No. 2018-06

Presented by Josh Durand, Park Superintendent

Frontierland Park is located at 10th Avenue and E Streets, across from Delaney Park Strip. The Department proposes to install new, inclusive play equipment, provide ADA accessible surfacing to the play area, construct a plaza and picnic area for families and downtown visitors on top of the existing sledding hill, and increase and improve pedestrian access to the park and circulation within the park.

Parks and Recreation will be using part of the existing playground footprint and incorporating other elements into the park to create a new park design. It hopes to provide accessible play equipment and create a positive community space.

Funding for the projects includes \$250,000 from the 2017 municipal park bond, \$45,000 from the Anchorage Park Foundation, and \$125,000 from municipal inclusive play surfacing funds.

The public process undertaken included a community advisory group, presentations to the South Addition Community Council, and community outreach in order to determine community desires. The advisory group and community council were involved in the planning process. The final proposed plan will be presented at the April 19, 2018 South Addition Community Council meeting and, because council members were involved in the planning efforts and community process, the Council is expected to give its resolution in support.

Parks and Recreation staff recommends the proposed upgrades and requests a resolution from this Commission in support of the Frontierland Park Improvement project.

There were no public appearance requests on this action item.

After discussion between Commissioners and Mr. Durand, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Chang, PRC Resolution No. 2018-06 Frontierland Park Improvements was unanimously approved as follows:

Resolution No. 2018-06
Frontierland Park 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, Parks and Recreation planning staff utilized input from the South Addition Community Council and the Community Advisory Group formed for the design development of the design; and

WHEREAS, the improved playground as presented will provide inclusive unitary surfacing, upgraded circulation patterns, updated play equipment, elements to celebrate the Dena'ina culture, and other amenities to improve the park users experience;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed design for the Frontierland Park Improvements pending receipt by Parks and Recreation staff of a signed resolution of approval from the South Addition Community Council during its meeting on April 19, 2018.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 12th day of April, 2018.

Voting record – Resolution 2018-06

Yea: Commissioners Bodry, Chang, Dyson, Kuhn, Milliken, Smith, Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioners Johnston, Kirkland

B. PRC 18-12 Chugach Foothills Park Improvements

PRC Resolution No. 2018-07

Presented by Maeve Nevins, Park Planner

Chugach Foothills Park is an important neighborhood located the Muldoon, Tudor, and Scenic Foothills neighborhood of east Anchorage. Parks and Recreation proposes upgrading the park by purchasing and installing new inclusive play equipment, adding ADA accessible surfacing to the play area, improving views into the play area, vegetation thinning, improving drainage, and renovating the basketball and volleyball courts. Considerable planning and public involvement led by Parks and Recreation was undertaken to identify the opportunities and constraints of the park, playground equipment preferences, preferred play activities, preferred playground themes, and ensure the improvements meet with community desires. Public contact and outreach was conducted. A Community Advisory Group was formed to assist planning efforts, keep the community informed of progress, and recruit volunteers. Data was collected, surveys were conducted, a drainage analysis was performed, and outreach workshops with students at STrEAM were conducted. The students will assist in designing a creative drainage plan, land art and landscape design, and an inclusivity analysis.

Ms. Nevins provided the results of the data analysis and community surveys, and details about the final plans for the playground, basketball court, and volleyball court upgrades. The proposed plan presented here included members of the public and a resolution of support from the Scenic Foothills Community Council.

The project is currently being funded by the 2017 Municipal Park Bond for \$250,000 and a \$4,700 contribution from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

The Department recommends that the Commission pass a resolution supporting the Chugach Foothills Park Improvements as presented.

There was one public appearance request:

Karen Rauschert, a member of the Community Advisory Group, stated she is really excited about the park improvements, especially the playground improvements, and said everyone involved had done a really good job on the plan.

After discussion between Commissioners and Ms. Nevins, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner Winchester, PRC Resolution No. 2018-07 Chugach Foothills Park Improvements was unanimously approved as follows:

Resolution No. 2018-07
Chugach Foothills Park 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, the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department has been working closely with a Community Advisory Group (CAG) whom serve in an advisory capacity to aid in the development of the Chugach Foothills Park Improvement Project; and

WHEREAS, the project is currently being funded by the 2017 Municipal Park Bond for \$250,000 and a \$4,700 contribution from the Anchorage Park Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Staff is continuing to work with the STReaM Academy and neighbors from the disability community to further refine the park improvements in the playground and its vicinity; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Staff have conducted thorough site analysis which looked at the four (4) adjacent census blocks (17.02,17.31,17.32,17.01), resulting in identification of 8 Child Care Providers; 32 Assisted Living Facilities; population analysis of residents living with disabilities: 204 under the age of 18; 2,153 ages 18 to 64 and 977 over age 65 living with disabilities; and of that population 33% had hearing difficulty, 17% vision difficulty, 22% ambulatory difficulty, 21% cognitive difficulty; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Staff have conducted thorough community survey resulting in 106 responses which were used to identify the opportunities and constraints of the park, playground equipment preferences, preferred play activities; preferred playground themes, etc., of which has informed the playground design concept; and

WHEREAS, Community Advisory Group has the goal to renovate the existing playground site utilizing the existing playground footprint and replace the equipment with new inclusive play equipment and surfacing for all ages and abilities in a science themed and graffiti-resistant concept; and

WHEREAS, the improvements include: renovated playground equipment and swings including ADA accessible surfacing; replace existing circular planter in center of play area with ADA inclusive and intergenerational outdoor music equipment ensemble; drainage improvements around play and volleyball court; rehabilitated existing basketball court; vegetation thinning and selective tree removal for improved site-lines; remove and replace sub-soils in parking lot median for improved plant habitat; and

WHEREAS, the improvements will improve safety of the park with the improved site-lines and vandal-resistant play equipment; and the proposed improvements require little to no additional maintenance and will continue to be maintained by the MOA Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed design for the Chugach Foothills Park Improvements.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 12th day of April, 2018.

Voting record – Resolution 2018-07

Yea: Commissioners Bodry, Chang, Dyson, Kuhn, Milliken, Smith, Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioners Johnston, Kirkland

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, May 10, 2018, at Spenard Recreation Center.

XII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2018:

Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Director
Parks & Recreation