



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**



March 9, 2017

**I. Call to Order**

The March 9, 2017 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 Shannon Kuhn  
Commissioner Michael McCambridge  
Commissioner Eric Milliken  
Commissioner Peter Murphy  
Commissioner Richard T. Mystrom  
Commissioner Alison Smith  
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner Levi Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda  
Josh Durand  
Tom Korosei  
Diana Cramer

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Winchester, the Agenda for the March 9, 2017 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner McCambridge, the Minutes of the February 9, 2017 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

### **V. Director's Comments**

John Rodda, Director, Parks and Recreation

Homeless Camp update. There is not much camp cleanup being conducted at this time because everything is snowed and frozen in, and it is not safe to conduct clean up in these conditions.

Community Work Service. Community Work Service crews are working with Street Maintenance to prepare 1000 bags of sand to use for runoff diversion during breakup.

Government Hill Square and Round Dance Building. In October, a break in the pipes of the sprinkler system in this building caused extensive damage to the building. While conducting cleanup and assessment of damages, multiple problems with the structure were discovered, including asbestos, rotting layers of flooring, and other problems, and it has not yet been decided what action will be taken. The agreement with the Square and Round Dance Club has been terminated as no one will be able to use the building for quite some time, if at all.

Dempsey Anderson ice rinks. Work will begin on the Dempsey Anderson ice rink renovations on March 27. Rink 2 will begin on March 27 and Rink 1 on May 8. The goal is to have the work on both rinks completed by October 6, 2017.

Pena Park. Price Gregory has finished its work on the ML&P power plant project and the renovations to Pena Park that it completed pursuant to its agreement with Parks and Recreation. Price Gregory used the park for two years as a staging area for its project and in return provided about \$350,000 to \$400,000 worth of improvements to Pena Park including improved parking, access, and open playfield area.

Commissioner Mystrom brought a problem with the Ben Boeke ice rink to Mr. Rodda's attention, stating there is a bare area around the perimeter of the ice, inside the dashers. Mr. Rodda stated that he was not aware of the problem and will investigate.

## **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 17-13: Delaney Park G Street Corridor Naming in Honor of Allan Tesche**

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner and  
Mary Tesche, Naming Panel

#### **Presentation**

Allan E. Tesche was a long-time resident of the Anchorage South Addition neighborhood involved in many community issues, including beautification, and was an advocate for Delaney Park. Mr. Tesche devoted his adult life to public service, having served as both an Anchorage Borough and Municipality of Anchorage attorney, the Director of Anchorage Department of Property and Facilities Management, and later as an elected member of the Anchorage Assembly. The Naming Panel appointed by the Anchorage Assembly unanimously recommends that the paved walkway connecting 9th and 10th Avenue at G Street be named in honor of Mr. Tesche as testimony to his contributions to the citizens of Anchorage. The South Addition Community Council has voted in favor of naming the pathway after Mr. Tesche. The Parks and Recreation Department concurs with the findings of the Naming Panel and that the Commission adopt a resolution in favor of naming the pathway the "Allan E. Tesche Pathway."

#### **Appearance Requests**

Darrell Hess, Anchorage resident, talked about Mr. Tesche's contributions to the community and expressed his personal support of naming the walkway the "Allan E. Tesche Pathway."

## Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Mystrom, Resolution No. 2017-05, Proposed Naming of a Public Facility Allan E. Tesche Pathway, was unanimously approved as follows:

### Resolution No. 2017-05 Proposed Naming of a Public Facility Allan E. Tesche Pathway

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, AMC Chapter 3.97 provides for naming of public facilities, in particular internal areas, fixtures, and features integral to public spaces, in honor of individual citizens identified as outstanding local, state, national, or international civic leaders; and

WHEREAS, the South Addition Community Council has recognized Allan E. Tesche for support of community issues including urban beautification, and as an advocate for “growth and development” of Delaney Park; and

WHEREAS, G Street between 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue has not been constructed as roadway and instead the right-of-way functions as a continuation of Delaney Park, with a paved pathway connecting 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues; and

WHEREAS, the South Addition Community Council at its May 19, 2016, meeting voted in favor of naming of the “footpath” at Delaney Park connecting G Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues after Mr. Tesche; and

WHEREAS, the Naming Panel appointed by the Anchorage Assembly unanimously recommends naming of the paved pathway connecting G Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues at Delaney Park as the Allan E. Tesche Pathway in memory of Mr. Tesche; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission acknowledges the above as testimony as to the extraordinary contributions of Allan E. Tesche, to the benefit of the citizens of Anchorage and its visitors; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Assembly name the paved pathway connecting G Street between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues at Delaney Park as the Allan E. Tesche Pathway; provided, any plaque, sign, or other commemorative marker shall be approved by Parks and Recreation Department staff consistent with the Delaney Park Master Plan and applicable standards.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 9th day of March, 2017.

Voting record, Resolution 17-05

Resolution 17-05, unanimously approved

Yea: Commissioners Dyson, Kuhn, McCambridge, Milliken, Murphy, Mystrom, Smith and Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Robinson

**B. PRC 17-14: Improvements to Hostetler Park**

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner

Peter Briggs, Corvus Design

Paula Bradison, Anchorage Downtown Rotary

Chaplain Diane Peterson, Victims for Justice

Presentation

This project was first presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission as an information item at the February 9, 2017 meeting. Project details were provided to Commissioners with a Powerpoint presentation and printed materials.

Hostetler Park is municipal park named in honor of former Anchorage City Manager and Councilman Chester Hostetler. Located at 325 L Street, the Park is the site of Victims for Justice memorial, as well as a plaque commemorating Chester Hostetler. The design of the project proposes to upgrade Hostetler Park by improving accessibility, parking, landscaping and lighting, and to make the park a safe and peaceful place for

people to visit year round. The proposal was approved by the Downtown Area Community Council, and the Anchorage Downtown Rotary is the sponsor for the project. The Parks and Recreation will work with designers and the sponsor to finalize plans. The Sponsor will obtain all approvals and permits that may be required. The estimated cost of the project is \$170,000 and is funded by the Anchorage Downtown Rotary through the Anchorage Park Foundation.

### Appearance Requests

Darrell Hess, community resident, expressed his support for the project stating it will make a nice, neighborhood pocket park. He stated there is an old tree trees there that need to be removed.

Brent Manis, community resident, stated that it should be noted that Resolution Park, where the statue of Captain Cook is located, and Hostetler Park are the site of Captain Cook's camp when he explored the area and that Captain Cook planted the trees there. He said there is nothing wrong with the tree mentioned by Mr. Hess, that it just needs pruning and fertilizing, and he requests it not be cut down.

### Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Smith, Resolution 2017-06, Request for Approval of Proposed Improvements to Hostetler Park, was unanimously approved as follows:

Resolution No. 2017-06  
Request for Approval of Proposed Improvements to Hostetler Park,

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, Hostetler Park is a small park in Downtown Anchorage, dedicated in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Hostetler Park provides a venue for the “Victims for Justice” memorial to victims of violent crimes; and

WHEREAS, Hostetler Park merits effort and investment to improve its appearance and function to serve the identified community purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Downtown Rotary Club has offered to sponsor such park improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department staff understands that the Downtown Area Community Council has reviewed and is in support of the proposed plans; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department generally supports the proposed park improvements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission supports in principle the proposed improvements to Hostetler Park to incorporate features to continue memorials to “Victims for Justice” as well as Chester Hostetler, and to improve Hostetler Park as a neighborhood park for the enjoyment of Anchorage citizens and visitors; provided, the sponsor(s) and designers will work with Parks and Recreation Department staff to refine and finalize plans, and the sponsor(s) shall obtain all additional approvals and permits that may be required.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 9th day of March, 2017.

Voting record, Resolution 17-06

Resolution 17-06, unanimously approved

Yea: Commissioners Dyson, Kuhn, McCambridge, Milliken, Murphy,  
Mystrom, Smith and Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Robinson

**IX. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Murphy asked about the progress of getting non-motorized transportation access to the Government Hill area. He is concerned because the bridge will be under construction soon and so access to the Ship Creek Trail and Coastal Trail are badly needed. Josh Durand replied that there is a study underway regarding

connecting the Ship Creek Trail to the Coastal Trail and the Department can use the opportunity to provide input. Also, he suggested Commissioner Murphy contact Brooke Blessing, the Non-motorized Transportation Coordinator at PM&E, to see how this fits into priorities for having non-motorized connections to the Government Hill neighborhood and how he can make comment on this subject.

Commissioner Smith commented that she observed the fence being installed around the new cell tower at Kincaid, and inquired whether or not landscaping will be done as part of the project. John Rodda responded that landscaping is a requirement of the project. Josh Durand added that the landscaping is required to be designed by a landscape architect. We will see the results of the design this summer.

Commissioner Murphy also asked for information on the bonds for the upcoming election. Specifically he asked about the Parks and Recreation service area expansion proposed by Assembly Member John Weddleton. Josh Durand stated he would provide Commissioners with a link with the fact sheets for the different bond propositions.

#### **X. Upcoming Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held at 6:00 p.m., April 13, 2017, at the Spenard Recreation Center.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester, seconded by Commissioner Murphy, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair  
Parks & Recreation Commission

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Parks & Recreation