



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING
November 10, 2009



CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kathleen Plunkett at 6:04 p.m. on Thursday, November 10 2009, at Spenard Recreation Center.

I. Roll Call

Roll call taken by Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Development & Natural Resources Manager, Parks & Recreation:

Commissioners Present:

Chairperson Kathleen Plunkett
Commissioner Allyson Beischer
Commissioner Peter Crosby
Commissioner Michael Fredericks
Commissioner Megan Krupa
Commissioner David Wigglesworth

Commissioners Excused:

Commissioner Tim Benintendi
Commissioner Sara Boario
Commissioner Dan Frank

There was a quorum.

Staff Present:

John Rodda
Chris Conlon
Elizabeth Stanley
Holly Spoth-Torres
Suzanne Little
Diana Cramer

II. Consent Agenda

No changes to the Minutes of the October 2009 meeting were made. The Minutes were approved. The Agenda was approved.

Commissioner Crosby moved to accept the Consent Agenda and the Minutes of the October 2009 meeting.
Commissioner Krupa seconded.
Unanimously approved.

III. Director's Comments

John Rodda, Director of Parks & Recreation, gave a brief overview of the changes taking place within parks, reallocation of staff and other resources. Presently everyone is immersed in the 2010 budget, which was the topic of a work session held prior to this meeting, and an Action Item on the Agenda.

IV. Appearance Requests

There were no Non-Agenda Item appearance requests.

V. Action Items

A. PRC 09-51: 2010 Capital and Operating Budget

A work session was held prior this meeting wherein staff and the Commissioners thoroughly reviewed and discussed the 2010 Capital and Operating Budget. Commissioner Wigglesworth made a motion to approve the resolution, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Crosby.

Discussion ensued focusing on the language of said resolution, following which a motion to amend the resolution to include the language discussed was made by Commissioner Wigglesworth, seconded by Commissioner Fredericks, and unanimously approved. A final resolution is to be prepared by Commissioner Wigglesworth and circulated for comment, and to be signed and presented to the Assembly on Tuesday, November 17.

The original motion by Commissioner Wigglesworth, seconded by Commissioner Crosby, passed unanimously.

B. PRC 09-52: 2010 Community Park Rehabilitation

(1) Jewel Lake Park

Suzanne Little, Senior Park Planner, presented an overview of the planned improvements and rehabilitation projects to be made at Jewel Lake Park. Jewel Lake Park is one of the most heavily used parks in Anchorage. The project budget is \$521,000 total, of which \$358,000 is going directly to construction. The funds have come from a parks bond and a legislative appropriation. The goal of the project is to improve the appearance of the park by consolidating signage and shielding view of the toilets, enlarge and improve the beach area and lifeguard stations, improve pedestrian access into the park, improve the condition plaza area surrounding the picnic shelter, and improve safety as well as other park improvements. The possibility of surveillance cameras and installation of a shower facility were proposed by the public, but were cost prohibitive for the Department. The plan was created with public input from the Sand Lake Community Council, and will go before the Urban Design Commission for it's first review (the 35% review) on December 9.

Public Comment

Robert Hayes, current President of Sand Lake Community Council, spoke on behalf of his organization. He voiced some concerns that the Council and the public were not included in the early phases of planning; that the project was not brought before the Council until October. He believed access to water for a fire hydrant and shower could be achieved with the assistance of AWWU, that areas should not be shielded from view, for example screening around the public toilets, because that would invite unacceptable activity in the park -- things need to be kept in clear view. While he noted the planned pedestrian walkway was a good idea, he said that parking lot need substantial enlargement and improvement and a big concern to the Council. He suggested making trash bags and cleanup tools available through the Council for volunteer clean-up crews. He was concerned that more changes to the plan would be made without input from the Council.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Crosby and seconded by Commissioner Wigglesworth. The commissioners and staff then discussed Ms. Little's presentation and the concerns expressed by Mr. Hayes, after which changes to the language of the resolution to include language referencing continued participation of the Sand Lake Community Council and a request by the Parks & Recreation Commission to be briefed on any changes to the project derived from said participation. The following language was unanimously approved by the Commission:

RESOLUTION No. 2009- 26(b)
Jewel Lake Park Project – Design Approval

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 Jewel Lake Park area of the Sand Lake Community Council is one of the most loved and widely-used parks in the Municipality's park system, and

WHEREAS, the Sand Lake Community Council and its members have lobbied to achieve state legislative appropriation for improvements at Jewel Lake Park; and

WHEREAS, the Sand Lake Community Council has participated and will continue to participate in a public involvement process and are supportive of the proposed improvements at Jewel Lake Park.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the Municipality of Anchorage pursue proposed park improvements as described in the staff report dated 11-2-09; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission requests a briefing on any changes to the project that are derived in work with the Sand Lake Community Council made prior to the UDC 65% review.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 12th day of November, 2009.

(2) Valley of the Moon Park

Suzanne Little, Senior Park Planner, presented an overview of the planned improvements and rehabilitation projects to be made at Valley of the Moon Park.

Valley of the Moon Park is another one of the most heavily used parks in Anchorage. The project goals for Valley of the Moon Park are substantially similar to those for Jewel Lake Park. The total budget for this park project is \$590,694, funding from a 2008 park bond and a legislative appropriation, of which \$400,000 will go directly to construction. The project plan was developed with substantial community involvement and includes improving appearance of the park, consolidating signage, adding a picnic shelter, improving playground safety, improving access to the playground areas, and studying creek bank stabilization means and methods to determine how we could limit access and prevent erosion of the stream bank. She stated that although there was an expressed desire for a Children's Forest and an adult exercise par-course to be part of the park improvements, those items are not included in the final plan. A volleyball court will be built using volunteer resources.

Public Comment

Mark Butler, representing the North Star Community Council, spoke in support of the park project. In addition, he discussed the flooding issue and how to reduce that problem. He also pointed out a parcel of land inside to the park boundary that is privately owned that the Council strongly feels the Municipality should try to acquire as park land. There is another municipal-owned parcel just North and West of the privately-owned parcel that he believes could be used in trade for that interior park parcel.

A motion to approve the resolution was made by Commissioner Wigglesworth and seconded by Commissioner Krupa. The Commission then discussed Ms. Little's presentation and Mr. Butler's comments. Looking into a trade for the parcel of land suggested by Mr. Butler was discussed, as well as possible funding sources for resolving flooding problems and other park improvements. The resolution was unanimously approved as follows:

RESOLUTION No. 2009-52a

Valley of the Moon Park Project – Design Approval

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 Valley of the Moon Park area of the South Addition and North Star Community Councils is one of the most loved and widely-used parks in the Municipality's park system, and

WHEREAS, the South Addition and North Star Community Councils and their members have lobbied to achieve state legislative appropriation for improvements at Valley of the Moon Park; and

WHEREAS, the South Addition and North Star Community Council have participated in extensive public involvement process and are supportive of the proposed improvements at Valley of the Moon Park.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the Municipality of Anchorage pursue proposed park improvements as described in the staff report dated 11-2-09.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 12th day of November, 2009.

VI. Information Items

A. PRC 09-53: 2010 Construction Projects

Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Development & Natural Resources Manager, Parks & Recreation, presented an overview of planned park projects for the 2010 construction season. The list she provided to the Commission included basic park projects and neighborhood fix-it projects. The Department has chosen to focus on eight projects in 2010. As funding and resources available are determined, the list may change and may come before the Commission for approval of various aspects of the projects as things progress.

VII. Staff Reports

A. Recreation Superintendent's Report

Chris Conlon, Recreation Superintendent, gave an overview of current activities at park facilities. Commissioners were referred to the written report provided to them for more information.

B. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Kelly Meeker, Program & Communications Director for the Anchorage Park Foundation, introduced herself to the Commission and briefly discussed the Anchorage Park Foundation's new relationship with Parks & Recreation. She referred commissioners to the report provided to them for more information.

VIII. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Chair Plunkett thanked Allyson Beischer for agreeing to attend this evening's commission meeting, on very short notice, in order to ensure a quorum for the meeting. Her contribution is greatly appreciated.

Director Rodda briefly discussed his first 60 days as Director, and thanked the Parks & Recreation staff for their cooperation and efforts during the many changes made necessary by the budget cuts.

X. Adjournment

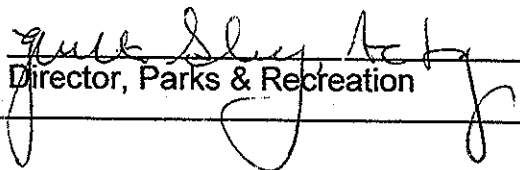
Commissioner Crosby moved to adjourned, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Krupa and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

December 10, 2010, 6:00 p.m., at Spenard Recreation Center.

MINUTES APPROVED this 10 day of
December, 2009:


Director, Parks & Recreation


Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission

B. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

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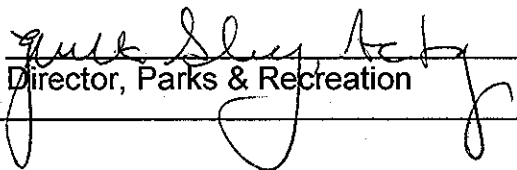

X. Adjournment

Commissioner Crosby moved to adjourned, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Krupa and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

December 10, 2010, 6:00 p.m., at Spenard Recreation Center.

MINUTES APPROVED this <u>10</u> day of <u>December</u> , 2009:	
 _____ Director, Parks & Recreation	 _____ Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission