



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**October 8, 2009**



**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kathleen Plunkett at 6:01 p.m. on Thursday, October 8, 2009, at Spenard Recreation Center.

**I. Roll Call**

Roll call taken by John Rodda, Director of Parks & Recreation

**Commissioners Present:**

Chairperson Kathleen Plunkett  
Commissioner Allyson Beischer  
Commissioner Tim Benintendi  
Commissioner Sara Boario  
Commissioner Peter Crosby  
Commissioner Michael Fredericks  
Commissioner Victor Molozzi  
Commissioner David Wigglesworth

**Commissioners Excused:**

Commissioner Zareena Clendaniel  
Commissioner Dan Frank  
Commissioner Meagan Krupa

There was a quorum.

**Staff Present:**

John Rodda  
Chris Conlon  
Elizabeth Stanley  
Tom Korosei  
Diana Cramer

## **II. Consent Agenda**

No changes to the Minutes of the September 2009 meeting were made. The Minutes were approved. However, in order to accommodate commissioners and staff who needed to leave the meeting early, Chair Plunkett proposed to change the Agenda to move the Action item, *PRC 09-49 Chugach Electric Association Maintenance & Landscape Easement: East Northern Lights Buffer Park*, to occur right after the Appearance Requests.

Commissioner Crosby moved to accept the Agenda with the proposed changes, and the Minutes of the September 2009 meeting. Commissioner Benintendi seconded. Unanimously approved.

## **III. Director's Comments**

John Rodda, Director of Parks & Recreation, announced that Victor Mollozzi, Allyson Beischer, and Zareena Clendaniel would not be seeking another term as commissioners, and commended them for their contributions to the Parks & Recreation Commission. He then introduced a new commissioner, Michael Fredericks, and asked her to give a little background about herself. Ms. Fredericks is the owner of an architectural firm, RIM First People, and has always had an interest in parks and recreation in Anchorage. She is looking forward to being a commissioner.

Mr. Rodda then briefly discussed the reorganization and reallocation of resources of the Parks & Recreation Department brought about by the budget cuts, and stated that Chris Conlon and Elizabeth Stanley would elaborate on those items later in the meeting. He also stated that Holly Spoth-Torres is working on a parks project list to be presented to the Commission in November, and briefly discussed action items, specifically the budget and the Get Outdoors items for the November agenda. He advised that there is a need for a work session on budget issues to be held before the November meeting. He proposed that the work session begin at 4:30, with the budget as the first action item on the agenda from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., followed by the Get Outdoors item.

## **IV. Appearance Requests**

There were no appearance requests.

**V. Action Items**

**A. PRC 09-48, Chugach Electric Association Maintenance & Landscape Easement: East Northern Lights Buffer Park.**

Tom Korosei, Park Planner, presented the request of Chugach Electric Association (CEA) for an easement to allow installation and maintenance of landscaping within an existing utility easement that traverses park buffers along East Northern Lights Boulevard. The current easement does not allow the proposed landscaping. CEA will be responsible for maintenance of the landscaping. Parks and Recreation staff recommend that the Commission recommend Assembly authorization of the easement, with the following recommendations:

1. Chugach Electric Association, Inc., shall coordinate construction and related site work, including site restoration, with Parks and Recreation and other park users, to maintain access to the park area and assure the safety of park users and to preserve and protect other authorized park improvements, including existing plantings and landscaping
2. Chugach Electric Association, Inc., shall restore disturbed areas to a condition equal to or better than prior to construction.
3. Any landscaping shall be installed and maintained by Chugach Electric Association at its expense consistent with MOA landscaping standards.

After brief discussion amongst the Commissioners, Commissioner Wigglesworth moved to approve Resolution No. 2009-25. Commissioner Molozzi seconded. The resolution was unanimously approved, as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009-25**

**Proposed Easement for Planting and Maintenance within  
East Northern Lights Buffer Park**

**WHEREAS**, Chugach Electric Association requests an easement for planting and maintenance of landscaping adjacent to existing electrical equipment to mitigate visual impact and to enhance the area within East Northern Lights Buffer Park (Tr. A, Block 3, College Heights Subdivision, Parcel ID No. 007-013-01); and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Commission believes that additional landscaping may enhance the appearance of the park, would complement existing planting and landscaping, and would be installed and maintained at no expense to the Parks and Recreation Department consistent with municipal standards, park needs, and safety, for the benefit of park users and the neighboring community; therefore,

**NOW, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Assembly authorize the requested easement generally as proposed, to allow planting and maintenance of landscaping to supplement existing plantings in the subject park area, subject to review and approval of the Municipal Attorney.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Parks and Recreation Commission this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2009.

## **B. Anchorage Park Foundation**

Although not specifically an item on the Agenda, Commissioner Wigglesworth proposed that, because there would no longer be a member of the Anchorage Park Foundation on the Commission or on staff at Parks & Recreation, an Anchorage Park Foundation report should be a regular item on the Commission Agenda every month. Commissioner Molozzi agreed with this proposal, then discussed the changes at and present status of the Park Foundation. It was agreed by the Commissioners that a report by the Anchorage Park Foundation, at least in writing, should be on the Commission's monthly agenda and that this should be reflected in the Minutes.

## **VI. Information Items**

### **A. PRC 09-43: Highway-to-Highway Project Briefing: Seward Highway to Glenn Highway**

John MacPherson of HDR gave a PowerPoint presentation and overview of the Highway-to-Highway ("H2H") Project. The project is being undertaken jointly by the Federal Highway Administration, the Alaska Department of Transportation, and the Federal Transit Administration with the input and cooperation of the Municipality of Anchorage and the Army Corps of Engineers. The intent of the project is to develop and implement a plan that will reduce street congestion and improve mobility and safety along the arterial connection between the Seward Highway and the Glenn Highway. The environmental review process will take about three years, having already begun in 2008 it will be completed by 2012. The process includes many opportunities for public input. Construction is anticipated to

begin no sooner than 2014. The range of alternatives and other information regarding the project is available on the website at [www.highway2highway.com](http://www.highway2highway.com).

### **B. Children's Forest Initiative: Alaska Geographic and United States Forest Service**

Commissioner Sara Boario introduced Ann Mayo-Kiley of Alaska Geographic. Alaska Geographic is Chugach National Forest's primary partner, the official non-public partner, in the Chugach Children's Forest Initiative that was just launched. A video was presented about the program and the opportunities for employment for youth in the Chugach National Forest, state forests and parks, and municipal parks. Youth from the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program featured prominently in the video. The Chugach Children's Forest is dedicated to a healthier tomorrow for Alaskan youth, its communities and forests; to education in science and technology for Alaskans of all ages; and to increasing public awareness about and youth leadership in our forests. Commissioner Boario stated that the Anchorage Park Foundation has been an active participant in the Chugach Children's Forest Initiative.

Following the presentation, the Commissioners discussed the Anchorage Park Foundation and its future. Presently the Foundation is in discussions with the Municipality regarding their partnership, and municipal funding sources for the Foundation. The Parks & Recreation Department is committed to continue working with the Foundation to help it honor its grants.

Youth Employment in Parks and its future with Anchorage Parks & Recreation was also discussed. The program is in place for 2010, although it will be reorganized as to management and structure of the organization in order to maximize its resources.

### **C. Community Pool Survey Update**

Chris Conlon, Recreation Superintendent, gave an overview of the Community Pool Survey. The Aquatics Management Team has developed a Facilities report and Strategic Action Plan to establish an action-oriented plan to guide decisions for the pool facilities for the next three years. The plan is a collaborative effort of the Anchorage swimming community, Anchorage School District personnel, and the Parks & Recreation Aquatics staff. The user groups are diverse, but their needs are similar. The purpose of the survey was to obtain feedback on various department strategies for addressing budget cutbacks while maintaining quality of service to the community. Parks & Recreation is committed to keeping the pools open and available for all user groups, operating the pools as efficiently as

possible, providing a quality experience to its users, and exploring ways to increase usage and maximize income for the pools.

#### **D. 2010 Capital Improvement Budget, Capital Improvement Plan and Operating Budget**

Elizabeth Stanley, Administrative Superintendent, provided a summary of the 2010 Operating Budget for Anchorage Parks & Recreation as presented to the Administration and the Assembly. The items provided to the Commissioners in their packets were reviewed and discussed in detail. The budget will be formally introduced to the Assembly at their meeting on October 13, 2009. A work session with the members of the Assembly will be held on October 16, 2009. The first public hearing on the budget will be held on October 22. A work session with the Parks & Recreation Commissioners is planned to be held just prior to their meeting on November 12.

### **VII. Staff Reports**

#### **A. PRC 09-40: Park Development Report**

Commissioners were referred to the report by Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Development & Natural resources Manager, provided in their packets

#### **B. PRC 09-50: Recreation Superintendent Report**

Chris Conlon again discussed the reorganization of the Recreation Division of Parks & Recreation. District Manager positions were moved into the facilities: Teri Peters to Fairview, John McCleary to Lidia Selkregg Chalet, Jeff Matthis to Spenard, and Scott O'Brien to Kincaid. Other staff were relocated in order to maximize their strengths and consolidate programs.

Mr. Conlon also spoke about Martin LeBlanc, who will be giving a presentation on the Get Outdoors Initiative in the Spenard Recreation Center's Multipurpose Room at 7:00 p.m. on the same night of the November Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Mr. LeBlanc is Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Children & Nature Network. To accommodate the Commissioners who would like to attend the public presentation, the November meeting will be limited to a few agenda items to ensure that the commission meeting ends before Mr. LeBlanc's presentation.

**VII. Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

**VIII. Commissioner Comments**

Allyson Beischer stated that she would be willing to stay on for a few more meetings or until her successor is appointed

**X. Upcoming Meetings and Agenda Items**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on November 12, 2009. There will be a work session from 4:30 – 6:00 p m The topic will be the Budget.

Anticipated Action Items: Budget and Get Outdoors Initiative

Anticipated Information Items: Park Project Overview and Anchorage Park Foundation Report

**XI. Adjournment**

Commissioner Mollozzi moved to adjourn.  
Seconded by Commissioner Wigglesworth.  
Unanimously approved.

Adjournment at 8:45 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 12 day of  
NOVEMBER, 2009:



Director, Parks & Recreation



Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission