



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**



**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 10, 2022**

The November 10, 2022 meeting was held in person at Spenard Recreation Center.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The November 10, 2022 regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Grace Johnston at 6:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present:

- Commissioner Grace Johnston
- Commissioner Andrew Kastning (Online)
- Commissioner Bruce Graham
- Commissioner Edwin Blair
- Commissioner Brian Looney

A quorum was achieved with five members present.

Staff present:

- Steve Rafuse
- Mike Braniff
- Ellen Devine

Public present:

- Darrell Hess
- Mead Treadwell

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Upon motion duly made by **Commissioner Blair** and seconded by **Commissioner Johnston**, the Agenda for the November 10, 2022 meeting was unanimously approved.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion duly made by **Commissioner Looney** and seconded by **Commissioner Graham**, the Minutes of the September 8, 2022 meeting was unanimously approved.

### **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Mike Braniff, Parks and Recreation director

1. **Maintenance** – Began making ice and making the transition into winter on the trails. There is some overflow on the Campbell Creek Trail in several locations.
2. **Beetle Kill** – Beetle kill removal is finishing up this week. There will still be a small tree crew to continue work.
3. **Horticulture** – Working on hanging Christmas lights and preparing poinsettias for our public.
4. **Lifeguards** – In need of staff. Hoping to pick up several teens after swim team is finished for the season.
5. **Abatement** – Working on camps all over town, especially near the jail. We are making a big push from east to west along the campbell creek trail
6. **Broadband in the Rec Centers** – Big push to get broadband in the four recreation centers.
7. **Ice** – Chanshtnu Muldoon is complete, Tikishla is almost there, Delaney park strip is taking some additional time, Cuddy Midtown Park is active.

### **APPEARANCE REQUESTS**

There were no appearance request.

### **ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION**

There was no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

### **ACTION ITEM**

**PRC 22-12: Proposed Naming of a Portion of A/C Couplet Buffer Park**  
Resolution No. 2022-09  
Presented by Darrell Hess and Mead Treadwell

Darrell Hess, Staff support for the renaming panel, and Mead Treadwell requested a resolution from commissioners to rename a portion of A/C Couplet Buffer Park to the Johnny Ellis Rainbow Bridge Park. The park parcel is a designated and would like to both

rename and dedicate this parcel. The naming panel did its due diligence and what resonated with the naming panel was that the park and bridge has a lot of symbolism and bridging two communities. When they learned that the park area was not dedicated, there was a desire to provide that additional protection. There will need to be an ordinance to both dedicate the park and to provide the permission to rename the park. Johnny helped to secure funding for this bridge. This area meant a lot to him personally and many folks in the neighborhood supported this.

Mead Treadwell was one of four individuals that were named to the naming panel.

### **Discussion**

Mike Braniff mentioned that there is support from the Mayor's office. Blair commented that the park area is not a massive area and it looks like it would be in danger in the future for expansion. Hess mentioned that there is a 20 ft easement and there is no setback and no vehicle access from 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. Part of the reason the group came together was to dedicate and protect the park. Looney says that from watching Johnny's career over the years that he supports the renaming of the bridge and the park. Rafuse asked if the commission would like to go on record to say that they support the dedication of the park.

### **Resolution**

Upon motion duly made by **Commissioner Looney** and seconded by **Commissioner Johnston**, PRC Resolution No. 2022-09 **Proposed Naming of a Portion of A/C Couplet Buffer Park** was approved.

Voting record for PRC Resolution 2022-09:

In favor: Commissioners Johnston, Kastning, Graham, Blair, Looney

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Milliken, Lange, Rinner

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **PRC 22-13: 2022 Recreation Programs and Events Update**

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Parks Superintendent

Steve Rafuse, Parks Superintendent, presented an update on recreation programs and events for 2022. The recreation division is made up of indoor and outdoor recreation and the special events team. The outdoor rec team manages the Kincaid chalet, LSC. The outdoor recreation team works on outreach to title I schools.

### **PRC 22-14: 2022 AMATS Project Updates**

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Parks Superintendent

Steve Rafuse, Parks Superintendent, presented on two upcoming Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) projects.

- Ship Creek to Coastal Trail Connection Project
  - Mr. Rafuse showed the trail map that connects Ship creek along the railroad track and Small Boat Launch to Elderberry Park. It is a 1.3 mile connection and could open new opportunities for winter grooming. He continued by saying how it would also improve trail connections. It has been signed-off by the Alaska Railroad. Anticipated construction timeline is 2024.
  
- Fish Creek to Coastal Trail Connection Project
  - Mr. Rafuse presented the project area map that shows the connection from the Fish Creek Trail to Coastal Trail. This area has some complicated land use, but luckily the railroad is a solid partner. There are currently three potential options for this connection, but as this project is just kicking off they are still evaluating options.
  
- Campbell Creek and Lake Otis Crossing

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**UPCOMING MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at the Spenard Recreation Center.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by **Commissioner Graham**, seconded by **Commissioner Looney** and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at **7:34 p.m.**

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2023:	
   <hr style="width: 100%;"/> Grace Johnston, Chair Parks & Recreation Commission	   <hr style="width: 100%;"/> Mike Braniff, Director Parks & Recreation