



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

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**August 12, 2010**



**CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Peter Crosby at 6:05 p.m., Thursday, August 12, 2010, at Spenard Recreation Center.

**I. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent.

**Commissioners Present:**

Commissioner Tim Benintendi  
Commissioner Sara Boario  
Commissioner Peter Crosby  
Commissioner Jon Dyson  
Commissioner Dan Frank  
Commissioner Michael Fredericks  
Commissioner Kathleen Plunkett  
Commissioner Carl Propes  
Commissioner David Wigglesworth

**Commissioners Excused**

Commissioner Joey Caterinichio

**Staff Present**

Holly Spoth-Torres  
Elizabeth Stanley  
Chris Conlon  
Diana Cramer

**II. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of the Agenda:** Commissioner Wigglesworth requested one item be added to the agenda, a discussion on the Campbell Creek Estuary Project. This item was added to the agenda at the end of the Information Items.

**B. Approval of the Minutes – June:** No changes, additions or deletions to the June minutes were requested.

**C. Old and Unfinished Business:** There was no old or unfinished business.

Commissioner Dyson moved to approve the Agenda and June Minutes, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Frank.

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

The Director was not present at the meeting and no director's report was given.

### **IV. PRC 10-32: Anchorage Park Foundation Report**

Kelly Meeker, Program and Communication Director for the Anchorage Park Foundation, gave a report on the activities and projects of the Anchorage Park Foundation. She reported that the Youth Employment in Parks program had ended for the year and was deemed to be a great success. The Department of the Interior has awarded the Youth Employment in Parks program its Partners in Conservation Award. She discussed the success of this year's Neighborhood Park Fix-it program and said plans are already being made for next year's program.

### **V. Appearance Requests**

Greg Sinnott, representing the Anchorage Watershed & Natural Resources Commission, came to discuss Rover's Run/Mellen's Way at Far North Bicentennial Park, and to request a resolution from the Commission closing the trail. Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent, stated the Department is moving forward with plans to relocate the trail away from the wildlife/bear corridor.

Diane Moxness, Executive Director of Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage, gave her organization's annual report to the Commission. She talked about the programs her organization sponsors, as well as the trail maintenance it performs under contract with the Municipality of Anchorage.

Phil Shephard, Executive Director of Great Land Trust, gave the commission an update on the Campbell Creek Estuary project. The Mayor's office turned down the project based on some erroneous information that was provided, or incomplete information, regarding the costs of maintenance for the project. The trust is working to address the Mayor's concerns and move the project forward. An Assembly work session on this very complex project has been scheduled. In response to Mr. Shephard's presentation, the commissioners generally voiced their support for the project and its importance to our community. Commissioner Wigglesworth specifically asked that these Minutes reflect that support and also state that a road through the property is not a requirement

of the project, and thus there would be no road maintenance cost. Commissioner Wigglesworth further requested that that information be relayed to the Director and to the Administration.

Toby Smith, Executive Director of the Alaska Center for the Environment, voiced his organization's support for the Campbell Creek Estuary project and reported on the overwhelming input they received from the public supporting the project and efforts to obtain this land and preserve it for future generations.

## **VI. Information Items**

### **A. PRC 10-33: Kincaid Singletrack Trails Project**

Lee Bolling and Janice Tower from Singletrack Advocates gave a presentation detailing the proposed singletrack trails project at Kincaid Park. There are already a lot of singletrack trails in Kincaid Park; however, the trails were never properly designed or built – they just happened over time – and the trails do not connect to one another. The project proposes to improve the trails, correct erosion and drainage problems, create a continuous network of usable trails that everyone can enjoy, and begin a maintenance program for the trails. The trails will be designed consistent with the trail design guidelines set forward by the International Mountain Biking Association This is a Challenge Grant project through the Anchorage Park Foundation. Anchorage Park Foundation will match funds raised by the Singletrack Advocates and work will be done largely by volunteers. The project is in keeping with the Kincaid Park Master Plan.

### **B. PRC 10-34: Rainbow Connection Equestrian Facility Improvements: Ruth Arcand Park**

Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent, and Susan DiMaggio, Executive Director of The Rainbow Connection, provided details on proposed improvements at its equestrian center at Ruth Arcand Park. The Rainbow Connection Equestrian Facility has a lease with the Municipality to operate its Chamberlin Equestrian Center at Ruth Arcand Park. Anchorage voters and the Anchorage Assembly approved the lease in April 2007, and a signed agreement was entered into in July 2009. Based on the provisions of the lease, which allow long-term improvements to the property, Rainbow Connection proposes to expand its covered arena, expand the parking area, improve the driveways and walkways, improve site drainage, and build a restroom facility. The staff has approved the improvements and believe they are in accordance with the lease agreement and the Ruth Arcand Park Master Plan. The lease agreement provides for approval of these improvements by the Director of Parks & Recreation. Final plans for the improvement project will be brought before the Commission one more time before the Director signs off on the proposed project.

### **C. Campbell Creek Estuary Project**

As requested by Commissioner Wigglesworth, discussion in follow-up to Phil Shephard's presentation on the Campbell Creek Estuary project was held. The Commissioners again voiced support for the project and its importance to our community, and its support for the important work done by the Greatland Trust.

#### **VII. Action Items**

There were no action items.

#### **VIII. Staff Reports**

##### **A. Recreation Superintendent Report**

Chris Conlon, Recreation Superintendent, reported on the many activities in the recreation facilities and parks. The busy summer season having just ended, the recreation staff is gearing up for Fall/Winter season. The Activity Guide will be published the last week in August. It was noted that Spenard Recreation Center will be closed for several weeks for floor refinishing and maintenance.

##### **B. Park Superintendent Report**

Holly Spoth-Torres, Recreation Superintendent, gave an overview of park projects: the re-design of the Anchorage Veterans Memorial which will be reviewed by the Urban Design Commission in March, Youth Employment in Parks projects for 2011, Neighborhood Park Fix-its, and other park projects. Horticulture and Park Maintenance both are using the zone system, and it seems to be working well.

#### **IX. Commissioner Comments**

General discussion ensued amongst the commissioners and staff regarding the 2011 budget now being prepared to take to the Assembly in October 2010. Commissioners were concerned that they are not being included in the budget planning process. Elizabeth Stanley, Administrative Superintendent, stated that a draft budget will be brought before the Commission at the September meeting for its consideration and that a substantial portion of the September meeting will be devoted to the budget.

Commissioner Frank asked about the level of community involvement with the Section 36 program and other projects. Ms. Spoth-Torres discussed presentations that were made to the community councils and other efforts to generate public interest in that and many other projects. She believes a multi-use trail system would be best for Section 36.

**X. Upcoming Meeting/Agenda Items**

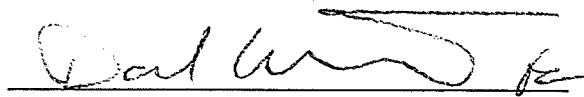
The date, time and location of the September 2010 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting will be decided and announced as soon as possible. It is anticipated that the majority of time at that meeting will be devoted to the 2011 budget.

**XI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 14 day of  
October, 2010:

  
Director, Parks & Recreation

  
Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission  
Peter Crosby