



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

August 11, 2011



I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair David Wigglesworth at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, August 11, 2011, at Spenard Recreation Center.

II. Roll Call

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

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Sara Boario
Commissioner Richard Mystrom
Commissioner Carl Propes
Commissioner Harlow Robinson
Commissioner David Wigglesworth

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner Tim Benintendi
Commissioner Joey Caterinichio
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Michael Fredericks

Staff Present:

John Rodda
Holly Spoth-Torres
Elizabeth Stanley
Josh Durand
Chris Conlon
Diana Cramer

III. Consent Agenda

- (A) Approval of Agenda:** The order of old business items on the agenda was changed to add Action Item PRC 11-35 – Public Facility Naming: Grady Ward Atrium in Fairview Recreation Center. The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

- (B) **Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2011:** The Minutes of the Parks & Recreation from the July 14, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

IV. Old Business

Westchester Lagoon Disc Golf Course

Josh Durand, Park Planner, gave an update on the status of the Westchester Lagoon Disc Golf Course situation. Commissioners were provided with comments received from the community and given a draft survey for their review and comment. The survey will be used to gather public input and suggestions during August and early September. It is anticipated that this item will be presented as an Information Item to Commissioners in October.

V. Director's Comments

Director Rodda gave a status report on various issues and activities within the Department, including the budget, Youth Employment in Parks projects, Park Maintenance and Horticulture, the Volunteer program, the Kincaid project, and Parks & Recreation activities in general.

VI. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Although Beth Nordlund, Executive Director of the Anchorage Park Foundation, was not present at the meeting, she did provide a written report for the Commissioners which listed completed projects, projects that are underway, and projects yet to start.

VII. Appearance Requests – Non-Agenda Items

Cecil Rich from U.S. Fish & Game discussed an invasive species of aquatic plant that has been discovered in Sand Lake and DeLong Lake called Elodea. The plant is easily transported and spread to other locations by float planes, boat propellers, and trailers. He discussed efforts to eradicate and prevent the spread of Elodea and handed out information to Commissioners.

VIII. Action Items

PRC 11-35 Public Facility Naming: Grady Ward Atrium in Fairview Recreation Center.

Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent, requested a resolution from Commissioners in support of naming the atrium at Fairview Recreation Center honoring long-time Fairview resident and community activist Grady Ward who passed away in June 2010. Upon motion made by Commissioner Propes and seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the resolution was unanimously approved as follows:

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-23

In Support of Naming the Fairview Recreation Center Atrium after Grady Ward

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 for all residents of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the importance of park naming to add meaning, significance, and uniformity to public places; to minimize conflict and lend continuity and a sense of community; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes that the selection of a name that is purposeful, suitable, and symbolic can generate opportunities for community impact, create sensitivity, promote public relations, express appreciation, and educate; and

WHEREAS, the Fairview Recreation Center is designated to Parks and Recreation management; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Fairview Community Patrol, Grady Ward spent many nights patrolling the streets of Fairview and was instrumental in obtaining traffic signals, school crossings, speed limit and "drug free community" signs throughout Fairview making for a safer community; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission finds that the proposed name honors Grady Ward by designating in his memory a public area within the Fairview Recreation Center, recognizing his relentless efforts to improve the quality of life in the Fairview community; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreation Commission supports the proposal to name the Atrium in Fairview Recreation Center after Grady Ward.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 11th day of August, 2011.

