



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**



**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**December 14, 2017**

**I. Call to Order**

The December 14, 2017 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission, held at Spenard Recreation Center, was called to order by Chair Jon Dyson at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Catherine Bodry  
Commissioner Kelly Chang  
Commissioner Jon Dyson  
Commissioner Grace Johnston  
Commissioner Erin Kirkland

Commissioner Shannon Kuhn  
Commissioner Eric Milliken  
Commissioner Alison Smith  
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioner Kelly Chang stated that she would be participating in the discussions at this meeting but cannot vote on action items, as she is waiting receipt of a conflict waiver from her employer.

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda  
Josh Durand  
Taylor Keegan

Michelle Fehribach  
Diana Cramer

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, the Agenda for the December 14, 2017 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Minutes of the October 12, 2017 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

### **V. Director's Comments**

John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided the following comments:

Mr. Rodda introduced four new commission to the board – Catherine Bodry, Kelly Chang, Grace Johnston and Erin Kirkland. Mr. Rodda also introduced department staff who were present at the meeting.

Operating and Capital Budgets: Mr. Rodda discussed the recently approved Municipal budget as it relates to Parks and Recreation. There have been reductions to our budget, but a new maintenance supervisor position has been approved to enable the Department to provide supervisory coverage on weekends, and 5 more summer seasonal positions were added to the homeless camp cleanup crew. Josh Durand will provide more detail on the capital budget and bond package as an information item later in the meeting.

Homeless Camp Cleanup: 170 tons of material have been collected from homeless camps and delivered to the municipal landfill so far this year. In 2016 it was 139 tons and in 2015 it totaled 55 tons, so numbers have significantly increased. Cleanup was started on a substantial site at Minnesota and International that was just reported to the Department by the Alaska Department of Transportation and on the first day of cleanup the crew removed 1700 pounds of trash. Mr. Rodda invited observations and suggestions from Commissioners regarding the homeless camp problem.

Winter has been slow starting and the trails are in bad shape; because there is no snow, no trail grooming has been accomplished. Late freezing has delayed ice rinks on lakes. Lack of snow is a challenge for Nordic events planned for Kincaid to begin on January 3 and for outdoor recreation generally.

Trail encroachments continue to be a problem. Parks and Recreation has no enforcement authority when dealing with encroachments and must work the Municipal legal department to deal with incursions. There are repeated encroachments in the Campbell Airstrip Road area and the Department is working with Heritage Land Bank and the Municipal attorney to come up with a solution to these.

The Special Olympics Polar Plunge takes place at Goose Lake on Saturday, December 16, starting at 10:00 a.m. There are already over 200 participants registered.

New Year's Eve downtown: fireworks and many activities are planned.

The Solstice Skate at Cuddy Midtown Family Park will take place on Thursday, December 21. Family-themed skating, activities and entertainment are planned.

Regarding encroachments on park land, the Department continues to work with the Municipal legal department to provide enforcement authority for Parks and Recreation so it can act expeditiously in dealing with unauthorized use of park land.

## **VI. Appearance Requests**

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

## **VII. Action Items**

- A. PRC 17-33 Wolverine Park Improvement:  
Schools on Trails/Challenge Grant Project**  
PRC Resolution 2017-21  
Presented by: Josh Durand, Park Superintendent and  
Taylor Keegan, Park Planner  
Also presented by: Bri Kiefer, Landscape Architect,  
Dawn Wilcox and Ginny Gates, Campbell Elementary teachers, and  
Camryn Schock, Cheyenne Henry and Connor Bracken, Campbell  
Elementary students

The Anchorage Schools on Trails Program is currently working with students, school staff, community members and landscape professionals to plan, design and construct improvements to Wolverine Park. Wolverine Park is located on West 74th Avenue about one block from Campbell Elementary School. Campbell Elementary School recently became Anchorage's first Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) elementary school. It is envisioned that Wolverine Park will become the site for much of the learning that will engage the students.

The STEM Club spent considerable time at the park observing, charting, recording and mapping park geography, assets, and wildlife. They then came up with ideas for possible improvements to enhance the park not only for the school but for the community.

Improvements planned are bird nesting boxes, trail improvements, educational and wayfinding signs, outdoor learning lab (boulder circle) and outdoor learning lab (sheltered).

Campbell Elementary was awarded a Park Foundation Challenge Grant for \$20,000, which it is required to match through monetary donations and volunteer time, and the combined value of the grant, donations and volunteer time will be valued at \$40,000 or greater. Students and teachers received a resolution from the Taku/Campbell Community Council supporting the project.

Parks and Recreation staff recommends the Commission pass a resolution supporting the Wolverine Park improvement project as presented.

#### Public Appearance Requests

There was one public appearance request.

Teresa Schock, mother of Camryn Schock one of the student presenters, voiced her support for the project and thanked the teachers, the principal, landscape architect, and the STEM students involved in planning the project.

#### Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, Resolution 2017-21 Wolverine Park Improvements by Campbell Elementary was unanimously approved as follows:

**PRC Resolution No. 2017-21**  
**Wolverine Park Improvements by Campbell Elementary**

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 teachers, staff, and students of Campbell Elementary have the goal to encourage and support recreational, educational, and community use of the park while supporting indigenous flora and fauna;

WHEREAS, the teachers, staff, and students of Campbell Elementary and community volunteers as a part of the Anchorage Park Foundation Schools on Trails project teaming with the Alaska Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects are working together to design and install proposed improvements to Wolverine Park;

WHEREAS, the improvements include: plantings, bird nesting boxes, a boulder sitting area, improvements to picnic shelter, improvements to existing social trails, new trails, and new signage;

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements require little to no additional maintenance and will continue to be maintained by the school and MOA Parks;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed improvements at Wolverine Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017.

Voting record: Resolution 2017-21

Yea: Commissioners Bodry, Dyson, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn, Milliken,  
Smith and Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

**B. PRC 17-34 Fairview Park Master Plan**  
PRC Resolution 2017-22  
Presented by Taylor Keegan, Park Planner

The Department asks the Commission to approve the Fairview Park Master Plan. The park is located on LaTouche Street, near the Fairview Recreation Center and the Fairview Elementary School. The planning process was undertaken and the neighborhood engaged to create a plan for this park. There were two neighborhood park fix-it events held in keeping with the central theme of the plan to improve landscaping and place making on the site. The fix-it events and planning process were conducted with the help of Fairview Community Council, Anchorage Community Land Trust, Anchorage Park Foundation, and Americorps Vista. Students at Fairview Elementary, participants in the After School Program at Fairview Recreation Center, and residents of the neighborhood were engaged, and three Community Advisory Group meetings were held.

Priorities were determined to be:

1. Turn the existing tennis court into basketball and volleyball courts;
2. Incorporate art into the fencing;
3. Landscape with a edible vegetation that would attract children and would be perennial in nature;
4. Explore learning lab opportunities with schools and other organizations (specific to the green space);
5. Provide additional amenities in pavilions;
6. Upgrade play equipment, add swings, and make opportunities for older children; and
7. Continue to work to engage neighbors and existing park users in improving the park.

Fairview Community Council approved a resolution supporting this master plan.

The Department recommends that the Commission pass a resolution supporting the Plan. Approval of the resolution will enable the Department to move forward to implement the plan and request capital improvement funds for high-budget items.

Public Appearance Requests

There were no public appearance requests on this Action Item.

Resolution

Ms. Keegan, Mr. Durand and Mr. Rodda answered questions from the Commission regarding the project, and provided additional details regarding funding and the master plan process generally.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commission Kirkland, Resolution No. 2017-22 Fairview Park Master Plan was unanimously approved as follows:

**PRC Resolution NO. 2017-22  
Fairview Park Master Plan**

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, Fairview Park is a Neighborhood Use park located at 1217 LaTouche Street in the Fairview Neighborhood of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, The Municipality Parks and Recreation Department collaborated with an advisory group of Fairview Community Council Members, Anchorage Community Land Trust, Fairview Park Challenge Grant Recipients, Americorps Vista, and Fairview residents on the Fairview Park Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, this master plan recommends targeted improvements including landscaping, playground equipment updates, multi-use recreation court updates, place making, and other Parks and Recreation standard amenity updates; and

WHEREAS, the master plan provides opportunities to include the public on some of these improvements through volunteer events as well as including Fairview Park in future capital bond requests.

WHEREAS, the project is supported by the Fairview Community Council and was approved with a resolution on the 13th day of April, 2017 by the FCC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the Fairview Park Master Plan.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 12th day of December, 2017.

Voting record: Resolution 2017-22

Yea: Commissioners Bodry, Dyson, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn, Milliken, Smith and Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

### **VIII. Information Item**

#### **2018 Capital Improvements and Bond Package**

Presented by: Josh Durand, Park Superintendent and  
Michelle Fehribach, Community Engagement Manager

Information was provided regarding items to be included in the 2018 capital improvements and 2018 park bond package, including information on Campbell Creek Trail rehabilitation and wayfinding, Chester Creek Greenbelt singletrack trails, Coastal Trail bridges, recreation center repairs and improvements, South Anchorage Sports Park bike park, Taku Lake skate park, Tikishla Park master plan, Town Square Park master plan, and University Lake Park. The 2018 Parks and Recreation Work Plan, which will include 50 projects, was also discussed. Commissioners asked questions and details were given regarding individual items. Information will continue to be provided to Commissioners as projects are funded, developed and underway.

### **IX. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioners will elect a new chair and co-chair at the January 2018 meeting.

For the benefit of the new Commissioners, Commissioners and staff were asked to introduce and provide a little information about themselves.

### **X. Upcoming Meeting**


The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., January 11, 2017, at Spenard Recreation Center.

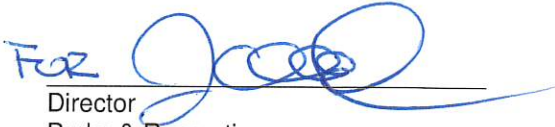


**XI. Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY, 2017: 2018

  
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Chair  
Parks & Recreation Commission

  
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FOR  
Director  
Parks & Recreation