



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING
January 14, 2010**



CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kathleen Plunkett at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at Spenard Recreation Center.

I. Roll Call

Roll call taken by Elizabeth Stanley, Administrative Superintendent:

Commissioners Present:

Chairperson Kathleen Plunkett
Commissioner Joey Caterinichio
Commissioner Peter Crosby
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Michael Fredericks
Commissioner Carl Propes
Commissioner David Wigglesworth

Commissioners Excused:

Commissioner Tim Benintendi
Commissioner Sara Boario
Commissioner Dan Frank
Commissioner Megan Krupa

There was a quorum.

Staff Present:

John Rodda, Director
Elizabeth Stanley
Holly Spoth-Torres
Chris Conlon
Suzanne Little
Diana Cramer

II. Consent Agenda

No changes to the Minutes of the December 2009 meeting were made. Commissioner Propes moved to amend the Agenda to add appointment of a member to the Governor's Committee on Wildlife and Trails as Action Item "C." The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fredericks and unanimously approved. The Minutes and Consent Agenda, as amended, were approved.

III. Director's Comments

Director Rodda spoke briefly about the ethics material distributed by the Mayor's Office. Each member of the Commission, if he or she has not already done so, needs to fill out and sign the ethics disclosure form and return it to the Mayor's office as soon as possible.

The Director also directed the Commission's attention to the Activity Guide, a copy of which had been given to each Commissioner.

IV. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director of the Anchorage Park Foundation, spoke regarding various projects on the Foundation's plate, including the Martin Luther King Day 50 Bikes for 50 Kids program taking place at Spenard Recreation Center on Monday, January 18. She encouraged the Commissioners to volunteer time and to contribute to this worthy cause. She reported that the Foundation is still working on finalizing its Memorandum of Understanding with the Municipality of Anchorage. She gave a brief overview on the meeting of the Russian Jack Community Council she attended, the topics of which meeting included Russian Jack Springs Park improvements and the Neighborhood Park Improvement projects for 2010. The status of the Youth Employment in Parks Program was discussed and that program is presently in the organization stage for 2010. YEP will concentrate more on parks projects rather than recreation this week, and it is hoped the Art in the Parks program will be continued this year.

V. Action Items

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Plunkett gave a brief statement about the election of a Chair and Vice Chair, and then opened the floor for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. Commissioner Fredericks nominated Commissioner Crosby for Chair and Commissioner Wigglesworth as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Crosby. No other

nominations were made. Commissioner Crosby accepted the appointment as Chair and Commissioner Wigglesworth accepted the appointment as Vice Chair.

Commissioner Plunkett then turned the meeting over to Commissioner Crosby.

B. PRC 10-02 Lyn Ary Park Master Plan

Suzanne Little, Senior Park Planner, presented the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan, as approved by the Turnagain Community Council, for the Commission's approval. Using a Powerpoint presentation, she gave an overview of the Master Plan highlights – the main elements of the plan and the intention to retain the feeling of the park as a neighborhood park; existing conditions and actions that need to be taken; the limits of acceptable change and priority projects; the land ownership issues that exist within the park that need to be resolved. It was recommended to the Commission that it approve the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan as presented. After much discussion amongst the Commissioners regarding the various aspects of the Plan, Commissioner Wigglesworth moved to approve Resolution PRC 10-01, Lyn Ary Park Master Plan. Commissioner Dyson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The Commission resolved as follows:

PRC RESOLUTION 2010-1
LYN ARY 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 Lyn Ary Park in the Turnagain Community Council area is one of the most loved and widely-used parks in the Municipality's park system, and

WHEREAS, the Turnagain Community Council and its members have dedicated time, talent and energy in deliberations and public involvement culminating in the drafting of a Lyn Ary Park Master Plan document; and

WHEREAS, the Turnagain Community Council passed a Resolution at their December 3rd meeting supporting the Draft Lyn Ary Park Master Plan now known as the December 17th edition;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the Municipality of Anchorage adopt the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan as the established vision and guiding document for Lyn Ary Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of January, 2010.

C. Appointment of a Member to the Governor's Committee on Wildlife and Trails

John Rodda was asked by Governor Parnell's office to solicit committee members from the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Commission, the Eagle River Board of Supervisors and the Girdwood Board of Supervisors for the Governor's Committee on Wildlife and Trails. The Governor's committee is presently in the planning stages, so Mr. Rodda was unable to answer questions regarding the commitment of time anticipated and other details, but stated that the intent of the committee is to resolve differences of opinion as to how to deal with conflicts between wildlife and trail use on a consistent basis among the various jurisdictions within the State of Alaska. Commissioner Caterinichio and Commissioner Dyson both expressed an interest in being on the committee and their names will be submitted to the Governor's office.

VI. Information Items

A. PRC 10-03 2010 Parks & Recreation Department Strategy

Director Rodda presented the Department's report and reorganization proposal. The focus of the Department will be on taking care of what we have, rather than growth, which has necessarily involved a retooling of the organization in order to best utilize department resources. Commissioner Wigglesworth requested that the Commissioners be given more detail than was present in report regarding the structure, responsibilities, operations and functions of the various divisions within the Department in order for them to better understand the Department and make more informed decisions. It was requested that a standing item be placed on the Agenda, at least for the next several months, that would present such information to the Commission, one division of Parks & Recreation at a time. It was decided that in February the first item presented will be the Parks Operations and Development Division.

VII. Staff Reports

A. Recreation Superintendent's Report

Chris Conlon, Recreation Superintendent, reported on the programs, activities, and projects going on the facilities and parks in Anchorage. He stressed the need for community outreach and marketing to attract more sponsors and partners to assist in funding and support for park activities.

B. Park Superintendent Report

Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Development and Natural Resource Manager, reported on Parks Maintenance, Urban Forestry, Horticulture, Community Works Services, and Park Development and Natural resources. She spoke about the efforts of the Parks Maintenance Division to keep the trails groomed and the ice rinks maintained, saying that more detailed information about this division will be given in a report next month. The Urban Forester is working on an urban forest management plan for the City, to be incorporated into our park maintenance and horticulture operations. Horticulture is presently seeding flowers and plants for the planting this summer in our parks and throughout the City. The Community Work Service program continues to be a successful operation, working in conjunction with the court system the program puts offenders who have been sentenced to community work service time to work in our parks, facilities and on a variety of municipal projects. Park Development and Natural Resources is actively working with local community councils on the Neighborhood Parks projects and planning and scheduling projects for the summer Youth Employment in Parks program. She also reported that the Far North Bicentennial Park Trail Improvement Plan will go to the Urban Design Commission in April; the Section 36 Master Plan is presently being reviewed by the community advisory group and is anticipated to be released to the public next month, and presented to the Commission as an information item in March 2010. The playground at Westchester Lagoon was approved by the Urban Design Commission. The community council issues with the neighborhood park improvements at Jewel Lake and Valley of the Moon have been resolved and an update will be sent to the Commissioners in the near future.

VIII. Committee Reports

Commissioner Crosby reported on the Aquatics Committee. Recently he attended a series of meetings with various pool user groups that dealt with permitting for competitive events at the pools. He found it to be a successful process that he believes will make things simpler for Parks & Recreation and the involved user groups.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Fredericks provided pictures and information about art panels presently on display at the Conoco Phillips atrium that were created to commemorate Alaskan statehood. Three of the panels are being placed on display in Fairbanks, the Juneau airport, and the Anchorage Museum. She inquired whether Parks & Recreation would like the fourth panel. Parks & Recreation has no indoor space where it could be placed, but it is likely an outdoor location could be found. More information was requested from Ms. Fredericks as to whether or not the panel could be placed outside.

Commissioner Plunkett reported on the Russian Jack Community Council meeting as it relates to Russian Jack Springs Park. The Council would like to see improvements made on the north side of DeBarr Road along Pine Street. The area is an eyesore, there are safety issues, parking issues, trail issues, general enhancements to the park needed, and a skate park desired. The Council wants to avoid the problems experienced in the past when working on Russian Jack Springs Park projects. Director Rodda noted that he was scheduled to attend a meeting of the Northeast Community Council to address that same topic.

Director Rodda stated that he would not be in attendance at the March meeting. It was noted that the time for the March meeting coincided with spring break and it was possible a number of people would be out of town at that time. Commissioner Crosby stated the commissioners would be polled as to their attendance at the March meeting and the meeting cancelled or rescheduled as needed.

X. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission is scheduled to be held on February 11, 2010, at Spenard Recreation Center.

XI. Adjournment

Commissioner Plunkett moved to adjourn the meeting, which motions was seconded by Commissioner Dyson and unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Approved:

 Chair

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Director, Parks & Recreation