



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**



August 14, 2014

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Acting Chair Carl Propes at 6:05 p.m. on Thursday, August 14, 2014, at Spenard Recreation Center.

**II. Roll Call**

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

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Joey Caterinichio  
Commissioner Jon Dyson  
Commissioner Richard Mystrom  
Commissioner Carl Propes  
Commissioner Harlow Robinson  
Commissioner Levi Robinson  
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner James Balamaci  
Commissioner Peter Murphy

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

Holly Spoth-Torres  
Steve Rafuse  
Diana Cramer

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Agenda:**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Richard Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Harlow Robinson, the Agenda for the August 14, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

#### **B. Minutes of Previous Meetings:**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Harlow Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Richard Mystrom, the Minutes of the May 1, 2014 and June 12, 2014 meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

### **IV. Director's Comments**

In the absence of Director John Rodda, Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent, provided a report on Parks and Recreation issues.

Ms. Spoth-Torres introduced new commissioner Levi Robinson to the Commission, and asked him to address the group. Mr. Robinson stated that he has lived in Anchorage all his life, except for the years he was in college and playing professional baseball. He is now married and raising his family here in Anchorage, works as a financial planner for UBS, and is strong supporter of parks and recreation.

The Youth Employment in Parks Program (YEP) was audited by National Youth Conservation Corps and will be receiving national accreditation. The YEP program is a unique public/private partnership and has served as a model for other programs in the United States. The YEP program manager, C. Allen Truitt, has resigned and the Anchorage Parks Foundation will be recruiting for a new manager.

Parks & Recreation Volunteer Coordinator, Mirna Estrada, also has resigned and recruitment for that position will begin in the near future.

The Chester Creek Trail project is underway and progressing on schedule and on budget.

A cause-of-failure report to determine why the Westchester Lagoon bridge collapsed in June has been prepared by USKH but the details have not yet been made available to the public. The bridge collapsed under the weight of a vehicle and wood chipper being driven by a private contractor who was using the Coastal Trail to access Alaska Railroad and private property. Five other bridges that were constructed at the same time as the failed bridge were also evaluated. In the meantime bridges are restricted to use by pedestrian, snow machines (used for trail grooming) and vehicles weighing less



than a snow machine. The cost of replacement of the collapsed bridge has not yet been determined. Information on this subject will be provided to Commissioners as it becomes available.

Preparations for the 2015 capital budget requests are underway.

## **V. Appearance Requests**

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

## **VI. Anchorage Park Foundation**

There was no Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) report presented. However, Ms. Spoth-Torres noted that APF has hired a new grants coordinator, Alyse Loran.

## **VII. Action Item**

### **PRC 14-24 South Anchorage Sports Park Master Plan Update (Resolution 2014-17) Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Planner**

Steve Rafuse presented details of the proposed South Anchorage Sports Park Master Plan Update. The South Anchorage Sports Park (SASP) is located in South Anchorage in the Bayshore/Klatt area. The master plan for SASP was adopted in 1998 and envisioned the park as an outdoor sports complex for South Anchorage. Peat soil combined with a lack of a reliable water source has prevented the park from being developed as an outdoor sports center. Less than half the park has been developed, but a high demand for parks and recreation facilities remains, especially with population growth. The Master Plan update is intended to provide long-range goals for SASP. It identifies community needs, public expectations, and establishes a framework for development of the park. Specifically, the purpose of the update is to (1) identify current and future recreational needs of the South Anchorage community, (2) provide a park that encourages community use and discourages negative activities, (3) recognize existing uses and determine how best to accommodate those needs, and (4) develop the park in a manner that recognizes the limitations and physical constraints of the site.

The public involvement process was led by Parks and Recreation staff with support from USKH. Staff initiated outreach to community councils and recreation groups, attended community council meetings to present the goals of the master plan update and solicited input from the community. An advisory group was established to help develop the plan. The update, as presented here, was developed with input from the advisory group and includes extensive stakeholder and user group involvement. Bayshore/Klatt and Old Seward/Oceanview community councils have approved the plan.

Anchorage Parks and Recreation recommends approval of the South Anchorage Sports Park master plan update and the proposed Resolution 2014-17.

**Public appearances:**

Betty Hirtz, of the Bayshore/Klatt Community Council, was a member of the SASP Advisory Group. She expressed some concerns about funding and renaming of the park, but stated she supports the update as presented to the Commission by Steve Rafuse.

There being no other appearance requests, public testimony was closed at this time.

Commissioners and staff then engaged in discussion regarding the South Anchorage Sports Park Master Plan Update and agreed with the plan as presented.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Jon Dyson and seconded by Commissioner Jim Winchester, Resolution 2014-17 South Anchorage Sports Park Master Plan Update, was unanimously approved as follows:

**PRC Resolution 2014-17  
South Anchorage Sports Park Master Plan Update**

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 South Anchorage Sports Park master plan update provides a 20 year vision that will guide future development at the park; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department partnered with local Community Councils, stakeholders and user groups to establish an advisory group to assist the Department in identifying and prioritizing desired improvements for the South Anchorage Sports Park; and

WHEREAS, the improvements proposed in the master plan update are based on community and stakeholder input and have been vetted by the advisory group through deliberation and consensus; and



WHEREAS, the improvements proposed in the master plan update have received support and approval from the Bayshore/Klatt Community council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the master plan update submitted by the Department and the advisory group for the South Anchorage Sports Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 2014.

**VIII. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Rich Mystrom reminded commissioners about the neighborhood park fix-it at Balto Seppala Park on Saturday, August 16, 2014, 9:00 a.m. until noon, and invited all to attend.

**IX. Upcoming Meeting**

The Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled to meet at 6:00 p.m. on September 11, 2014, at Spenard Recreation Center.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 11 day of Sept, 2014:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair  
Parks & Recreation Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Parks & Recreation