



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

August 9, 2012



I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Carl Propes at 6:05 p.m. on Thursday, August 9, 2012, at Spenard Recreation Center.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Marion Davis
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Carl Propes
Commissioner Richard Mystrom
Commissioner Peter Murphy
Commissioner Harlow Robinson

Commissioners excused/absent:

Commissioner Tim Benintendi
Commissioner Joey Caterinichio
Commissioner Jim Winchester

A quorum was present.

Staff Present:

Holly Spoth-Torres
Diana Cramer

III. Consent Agenda

A. Agenda

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Agenda for the August 9, 2012 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

B. Minutes of Prior Meeting

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the July 12, 2012 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

IV. Appearance Requests

There were three appearance requests on non-agenda items.

Roger Shaw of the Scenic Foothills Community Council spoke about his community's concerns about the equestrian usage of the trails in Far North Bicentennial Park, specifically the trails north of Basher Road and west of the North Bivouac trailhead. The soft trails are being damaged by commercial equestrian use and he would like to see it controlled in some way – through restricting equestrian use to certain trails, creating special trails for that use, or through a permit process.

Dan Ferguson, president of Anchorage Sno-X Lions, wanted to know the status of the proposal prepared by Jason Semler of Snow-X Lions and presented to the Parks & Recreation Commission at the July 2012 meeting. Holly Spoth-Torres advised Mr. Ferguson that item would be on next month's agenda.

Mark Oppengaard, private individual, spoke in support of expanding the hours of operating at Jodhpur Motorcross Track. Ms. Spoth-Torres advised Mr. Oppengaard that would be undertaken through the public involvement process in the Sand Lake community, after which it would become an item on the Parks & Recreation Commission agenda.

V. Action Item

PRC 12-27: Chugach State Park Access Plan

A resolution was requested from the Parks & Recreation Commission approving the Chugach State Park Access Plan. Thede Tobish, Municipal Planner, and Monica Alvarez, Natural Resource Manager for the State Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation, described the Chugach Access Plan for which the State seeks municipal approval. The plan is aimed at securing and improving public

access to Chugach State Park in order to meet the needs of existing and future park users. The plan seeks to determine where existing park access is occurring and where additional public access may be needed in future. The goal of the plan is to ensure that there will always be convenient, secured public access to Chugach State Park. In order to accomplish the goal, these objectives have been identified:

1. Disperse park use throughout the municipal/Chugach State Park interface by identifying and securing various types of public access approximately every ¼ mile along the park interface.
2. Bring access issues, opportunities and threats to the attention of the public, park users, landowners, the State and the Municipality.
3. Increase communication and coordination between the Municipality and the State on land issues associated with the park interface.
4. Ensure that state and municipal planning and municipal staff analysis of future zoning and platting requests address the need for reserved access and trail connectivity to Chugach State Park.
5. Identify tools, mechanisms and potential funding sources for securing access to the Park.

September 17, 2012, is the date for the public hearing in front of the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Public comment was heard from two individuals:

Robert Meyer, individual citizen, had concerns related to the acquisition of lands designated in the Plan as “High Suitability,” and whether those lands will be acquired from other landowners at fair market value. He believes people who have property in these highly suitable areas should be reimbursed appropriately for acquisition of their land.

John Weddleton, Home and Landowners Organization for the Anchorage Hillside (HALO), discussed HALO’s concerns with the Plan, primarily trail and easement widths. HALO will be preparing its comments in detail for presentation to the Planning & Zoning Commission in September.

After discussion, Commissioners decided that they had not been given enough time to review the information presented to them and decided an additional month was needed before they could act on the proposed resolution. Voting on this item will be on September’s agenda.

