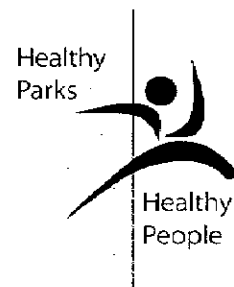




**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**December 13, 2012**



**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Joey Caterinichio at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012, at Spenard Recreation Center.

**II. Roll Call**

Commissioners present:

- Commissioner Joey Caterinichio
- Commissioner Marion Davis
- Commissioner Jon Dyson
- Commissioner Richard Mystrom
- Commissioner Carl Propes
- Commissioner Jim Winchester

Commissioners excused/absent:

- Commissioner Peter Murphy
- Commissioner Harlow Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff Present:

- John Rodda
- Holly Spoth-Torres
- Mark McCaffery
- Diana Cramer

**III. Consent Agenda**

**A. Agenda**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Agenda for the December 13, 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 November 8, 2012 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

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

John Rodda, Director of Parks & Recreation, reported on the following topics:

Chester Creek Sports Complex: The Municipality continues working on the renovation and rebuilding of the Chester Creek Sports Complex, including tearing down and rebuilding the sports fields at Mulcahy and Kosinski. Mr. Rodda will continue to provide updates to the Commission on this important project.

Proposal from Curling Club: Negotiations with the Anchorage Curling Club to build a curling facility at Goose Lake continue. The Commission will be kept informed as things proceed.

Kincaid: The settlement agreement between the parties involved in the Kincaid Project dispute has been sent to all parties for signature. The Department of Environmental Conservation has signed off on the documents and once signatures are in place, each party will write a check for its portion and it will be finished.

The snow making equipment at Kincaid is installed but the bugs are still being worked out. It is currently working at about 50% capacity. Problems with broken lines and other problems will have to wait until spring to be addressed.

The biathlon range control building is expected to be finished by the end of the month.

Budget/Layoffs: Parks & Recreation must lay off 6 positions from Horticulture and Maintenance. Three permanent positions at a different level are being created, as well as seasonal positions, to better utilize the funding available to the Department.

## **V. Appearance Requests (Non-Agenda Items)**

There were no appearance requests on non-agenda items.

## **VI. PRC 12-40: Anchorage Park Foundation Report**

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director of the Anchorage Park Foundation, reported on the Foundation's activities and accomplishments. The Rasmuson Foundation has awarded

APF a new 5-year grant in the amount of \$2,775,000, plus an additional \$150,000 for the Veterans Memorial Project. This will enable the Foundation to continue its effective working relationship with Parks & Recreation. A new Grants Administrator and a Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) coordinator have been hired. The office will be moving to midtown Calais Building at 3201 C Street on January 3. YEP has applied for provisional accreditation with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Corps. Challenge grants will be announced early in 2013, neighborhood park improvements will continue, as will the challenge of fundraising.

## **VII. Action Items**

### **A. PRC 12-41: Public Facility Naming Request – Bonnie Cusack Outdoor Ice Rink**

John Rodda, Director of Parks & Recreation, requested that the Commission pass a resolution naming the renovated outdoor ice rinks at Chester Creek Sports Complex in honor of Bonnie Cusack, a long-time Anchorage resident who founded the Alaska Allstars Hockey Association and supported Anchorage youth hockey as well as other youth sports programs in Anchorage. Parks & Recreation supports the proposal to name the renovated ice rinks the "Bonnie Cusack Memorial Ice Rink."

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

#### **PRC RESOLUTION NO. 2012-10**

#### **In Support of Naming the Renovated Outdoor Ice Rinks at the Chester Creek Sports Complex in Honor of Bonnie Cusack**

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and the Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission has the responsibility to provide for the long term vision of our park system; and

WHEREAS, according to AMC 4.60.090(D)(5), one duty of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission is to advise on selections of names for recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recognizes the importance of place naming to add meaning and significance to public places, to lend continuity, and to inspire 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, express appreciation, and educate; and

WHEREAS, the soon-to-be-renovated ice rinks at the Chester Creek Sports Complex are designated to Parks and Recreation Department management; and

WHEREAS, Bonnie Cusack was a leading booster for Anchorage youth hockey until her death in December 1992; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Cusack was a tireless, behind-the-scenes champion of local ice skating encompassing all levels of hockey from youth through the university level; and

WHEREAS, in 1982 Ms. Cusack and her husband, Dr. Mike Cusack, founded Alaska Allstars Hockey Association as the first competition only hockey program in Alaska and which gave many local players national exposure; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission finds that the proposed name honors Bonnie Cusack by designating in her memory a public area used by young Alaska hockey players to help them accomplish their dreams; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission supports the proposal to name the soon-to-be-renovated ice rinks at the Chester Creek Sports Complex the "Bonnie Cusack Memorial Ice Rinks."

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Service Area Commission this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.

#### **B. PRC 12-42: Anchorage Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study Project**

Mark McCaffery, Park Planner, provided the Commission with details regarding the Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study, a baseline document comprising the input of the community advisory group tasked with identifying site criteria and management strategies for additional disc golf courses in the Anchorage park system. The group, created in May 2012 upon a directive by the Parks & Recreation Commission, consisted of local disc golfers, residents from the Westchester Lagoon neighborhood, members of the Parks & Recreation Commission, and Parks & Recreation staff. Meetings were facilitated through a contract with USKH. An overview of the five meetings held was given orally and in writing, as well as a summary of the baseline document identifying key site criteria, key management components, steps needed to establishment an organization that represents Anchorage disc golf users and request Legislative funding for development of disc golf courses. The baseline document was created through joint

input of municipal government, neighborhood residents, and disc golfers. Disc golf is a popular activity in Anchorage. Balancing demand for this activity while maintaining park assets requires that future disc golf courses undergo site analysis in order to avoid conflicts with other park uses. A management agreement with an organized user group is needed to share the management costs of course use with the user community. The group will also assist Parks & Recreation in evaluating potential disc golf course locations. Parks & Recreation recommended that the Commission pass the resolution to approve the baseline document as submitted to them.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Resolution No. 2012-11 was unanimously approved as follows:

**PRC RESOLUTION NO. 2012-11**  
**Anchorage Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study**

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, Parks and Recreation supports a wide range of recreational activities that compete for space and resources in our parks system; and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation currently manages five disc golf facilities in the Municipal park system; and

WHEREAS, disc golf has grown in popularity in recent years and currently does not have a Level of Service standard established in the Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource and Recreation Facility Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission established an advisory group to recommend criteria to select locations for additional disc golf courses in Municipal parks and to recommend management expectations for disc golf in Municipal parks; and

WHEREAS, the advisory group is comprised of members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department, neighbors of Westchester Disc Golf Course, and local disc golf players; and

WHEREAS, five advisory group meetings, facilitated by USKH, were held from August to December to collect input for the baseline document; and

WHEREAS, the advisory group identified specific criteria for the location of disc golf facilities and recommended management strategies for how these facilities can be successfully operated in Municipal parks; and

WHEREAS, the baseline document received extensive review and comments from the advisory group; and

WHEREAS, results from this collaborative study are intended to assist Parks and Recreation with tools to successfully integrate additional disc golf courses within the Municipal park system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approve the Anchorage Disc Golf Site Selection and Management Study as submitted.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2012.

## VIII. Information Items

### **PRC 12-43: Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Master Plan Update**

Mark McCaffery presented Commissioners with an update on the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Master Plan. The Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Master Plan was adopted by the Planning & Zoning Commission on Monday night. The plan was brought before the Parks & Recreation Commission in October, where it was approved with the condition of incorporating the several edits received during public testimony.

Mr. McCaffery gave the following summary of proceedings before the Planning & Zoning Commission:

- There was a presentation by Dwayne Adams of USKH and Phil Shepard of Great Land Trust.
- A work session with the Commission preceded the public hearing. Primary concerns brought up by the Commissioners focused on 3 recommendations from the Planning Staff report: (1) the parking lot design, (2) estuary level access provided by proposed overlooks, and (3) accommodation of a Coastal Trail should site planning propose the trail connect to the property.
- Public testimony featured 14 citizens, including representation from Sand Lake/ Bay Shore Klatt Community Council, Friends of Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, several stakeholders, and neighbors of the Campbell Creek Estuary

Natural Area. Primary concerns from public testimony disapproved Planning staff recommendations to include language about the Coastal Trail. Several citizens commented that they would like to see trail infrastructure developed to provide more access to the actual Estuary.

- The Commission took a brief recess, after which a motion was made to adopt the Master Plan without Planning staff recommendations. The motion was seconded and adoption was approved 5-2.

Next steps are as follows:

- Construct the parking lot, trail circuit, and overlooks in Summer 2013.
- Contract with USKH for design of parking lot, which is projected to go out to bid by March.
- Youth Employment in Parks will spend 2 weeks this summer building the trail infrastructure.


**IX. Upcoming Meeting**

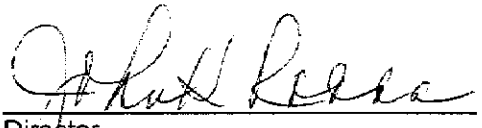
The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 10, 2013, at Spenard Recreation Center. Ms. Spoth-Torres advised commissioners that there will be a number of action items on January's agenda therefore attendance of a quorum will be necessary.

**X. Adjournment**

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

MINUTES APPROVED this 10<sup>th</sup> day of JANUARY 2012:

  
 Chair  
 Parks & Recreation Commission

  
 Director  
 Parks & Recreation