



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**February 8, 2018**



**I. Call to Order**

The February 8, 2018 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 of Parks and Recreation.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Catherine Bodry  
Commissioner Jon Dyson  
Commissioner Grace Johnston  
Commissioner Erin Kirkland  
Commissioner Eric Milliken  
Commissioner Alison Smith  
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Kelly Chang  
Commissioner Shannon Kuhn

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda  
Josh Durand  
Taylor Keegan  
Diana Cramer

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

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Agenda for the February 8, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

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

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, the Minutes of the January 11, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

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

Director John Rodda provided a brief overview of Parks and Recreation activities, projects and items of concern including an update on winter park maintenance, homeless camp cleanup, a new supervisor position, the park ambassador program, special events, inclusive playgrounds, a potential Kozinski baseball field retrofit, and SAP (the Municipality's new financial management program).

Director Rodda said the most significant news was about James Balamaci, a former Parks and Recreation Commissioner who passed away this week. Mr. Balamaci will be remembered for his many years of service and contributions to the people of Anchorage and Parks and Recreation, but will especially be remembered for his role as a champion of Special Olympics. A Celebration of Life will take place at the Alaska Airlines Center on Sunday, March 11, at 4:00 p.m.

### **VI. Appearance Requests**

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

### **VII. Anchorage Park Foundation Report**

There was no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

## **VIII. Action Items**

There were no action items presented on this month's agenda.

## **IX. Information Items**

### **A. PRC 18-3 Inclusive Play Strategic Plan**

Taylor Keegan, Park Planner, showed Commissioners a draft story map about the Municipality's Inclusive Play Strategic Plan, called "The State of Play in the MOA." When finalized, this information will be available online. The story map provides information on inclusive playgrounds within the Municipality of Anchorage. Ms. Keegan discussed the different types of playgrounds in Anchorage's parks and how they are categorized; the various elements of "inclusive play;" ADA requirements; and the six categories used to determine the need for and location of inclusive playgrounds using six categories: population density, social vulnerability, disability, access and natural resources. She also provided instructions on how to use the maps to access and utilize the information they provide. Anchorage currently has 20 inclusive playgrounds, and Parks and Recreation plans to install 3 more playgrounds in 2018. Commissioners were invited to provide feedback regarding the story map. This item will be presented to the Commissioners in more detail later this spring.

### **B. PRC 18-4 Ruth Arcand Chamberlin Equestrian Center – Event Schedule**

John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported on activities at Ruth Arcand Chamberlin Equestrian Center involving the Anchorage Sno-X Lions organization, a snow-cross/freestyle snow machine sports group. The Chamberlin Equestrian Center currently has a user group agreement with the Municipality for a portion of Ruth Arcand Park.

Several years ago, the Lions Sno-X organization submitted an application to the Municipality of Anchorage for a user group agreement to use the Kincaid Jodhpur site for its activities but after much deliberation and public input on the matter, the request was denied by the Department of Parks and Recreation (the Department). However, the Department did grant Sno-X a number of special event permits for date-specific events, and has continued to work with Sno-X to find an alternate location for its events. So far no suitable location has been found.

Unbeknownst to the Department, the Anchorage Sno-X Lions organization approached the Anchorage Horse Council and Chamberlin Equestrian Center about using its leased premises at Ruth Arcand for snow machine events. The Equestrian Center and Sno-X reached an agreement for Sno-X to use the Ruth Arcand premises for snow machine events for youth this winter. Snow was hauled in from commercial parking lots and dumped in the Equestrian Center parking lot to be used to build a snow machine course. They planned to hold seven events this winter.

The agreement reached between the Equestrian Center and the Sno-X organization was not in keeping with municipal code, *AMC Title 25: Public Lands*, (regarding motorized vehicles and other uses of public lands) nor with the terms of the Equestrian Center's lease with the Municipality. Therefore, the parties were directed to cease their activities by the Department. The snow dump presents serious concerns because of spring runoff – what happens to all the water, the effect the debris in the snow (obtained from commercial parking lots) will have on the environment, etc. They will be directed to remove the snow dump by a date certain. In addition, the Department discovered that Hilltop ski area, which holds a lease on municipal park lands, had allowed Sno-X to hold events on its leased property. These events also were not in compliance with municipal code or the lease agreement. Hilltop was directed to cease those activities.

The Equestrian Center and Sno-X organization have been put on notice that in order to use park land they must follow certain procedures, *i.e.*, obtain community council approval, public input, obtain permits from appropriate agencies, provide a specific plan for their activities, and make a formal presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission, in order to obtain permission from the Department. If such a request is made, Director Rodda and the Department will seek direction from the Commission in the form of a resolution approving or disapproving Snow-X's request. Director Rodda stated he wanted Commissioners to be informed of the situation in case they heard about it elsewhere and that he will continue to provide regular updates on the situation.

## **XI. Upcoming Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is currently scheduled for 6:00 p.m., March 8, 2018, at Spenard Recreation Center. However, Commissioners were asked to think about whether or not they wanted to reschedule the March 2018 meeting, which now coincides with the Anchorage School District spring break, to another date in March. Josh Durand will communicate with commissioners on an appropriate date for the March meeting.

## XII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018:

  
Chair  
Parks & Recreation Commission

  
Director  
Parks & Recreation