



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**



January 9, 2014

**I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Acting Chair Carl Propes at 6:06 p.m. on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at Spenard Recreation Center.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Joey Caterinichio (telephonic)  
Commissioner Jon Dyson  
Commissioner Peter Murphy  
Commissioner Carl Propes  
Commissioner Jim Winchester

Commissioners excused/absent:

Commissioner Jim Balamaci  
Commissioner Richard Mystrom  
Commissioner Harlow Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff Present:

John Rodda  
Holly Spoth-Torres  
Maeve Nevins  
Diana Cramer

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Agenda**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Dyson and seconded by Commissioner Murphy, the Agenda for the January 9, 2014 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

#### **B. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Dyson and seconded by Commissioner Murphy, the Minutes of the December 12, 2013 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

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

John Rodda addressed the Commission, providing updates and status reports on the following Parks and Recreation issues:

1. Legislative requests: Parks and Recreation's capital budget requests are in the process of being finalized for presentation to the Legislature.

2. Park bond for April 2014 election: A park bond proposition to be presented to voters in April, potentially in the amount of \$2.5 million, will go before the Assembly for approval on Tuesday, January 14.

3. Kincaid snow making equipment: Final testing of the snow making equipment at Kincaid should take place in the near future. This is the final piece of the project. When that system is operational, it will be turned over for operation to the Nordic Ski Association.

4. Anchorage Sno-X Lions: A permit containing strict guidelines for the user group has been issued to the Sno-X Lions for an event to be held January 18-19, 2014. Granting of future permits to the group will be dependent upon its compliance with the permit guidelines for this event.

5. Park Strip special events: Efforts and strategies to ease special event congestion on the Park Strip are continuing. A balance between the community's right to use a public resource and protection of the resource while also minimizing the impact on the neighborhood must be reached.

6. Reflection Lake: The possible donation to the Municipality of property near Tudor Centre (Reflection Lake) has been presented to the Municipality and is currently being considered. This may become a topic of discussion for the Commission.

The Parks and Recreation Department currently is opposed to acquisition of said property as park land.

7. Hilltop lawsuit: The Hilltop lawsuit resulted in a substantial judgment, over \$1 million, against the Municipality of Anchorage, and the decision whether or not to appeal said judgment is being considered.

8. Indoor tennis facility: the Assembly made a decision regarding allocation of the remaining \$37 million of legislative funding. The funds have been distributed among municipal ice rink facilities – McDonald Center, Ben Boeke, Sullivan, *etc.* – for replacement of refrigeration systems, dashboards, Plexiglas and other amenities. Work on McDonald Center will take place first. The tennis facility was allocated \$4 million.

## **V. Appearance Requests**

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

## **VI. Information Items**

### **A. PRC 14-01 Lanie Fleischer Chester Creek Trail Improvements**

Maeve Nevins, Park Planner, gave Commissioners an overview of the Chester Creek Trail improvements to begin in 2014. Parks and Recreation has received \$1.75 million in funding to begin resurfacing the trail. The project is part of a multi-year, comprehensive program designed to address safety and security concerns on our trails. It addresses rehabilitation or replacement of cracked and heaving asphalt; repair of bridges; amenity upgrades; and improved signage. Public meetings and surveys are being conducted to collect input from the community in order to help Parks and Recreation identify priorities. Ms. Nevins' PowerPoint presentation included a history of the Chester Creek Trail, a description of the trail as it now exists, details regarding the scope and goals of the project, and public outreach activities. Phase 1 of the project will begin around June 1, 2014 and continue through October 2014. Phase 2 will take place in 2015.

### **B. PRC 14-02 Ballot Proposition to Authorize a Long-Term, Non-Exclusive Lease of Ure Park to the Spenard Lions Club**

John Rodda, Director of Parks & Recreation, provided information regarding the Spenard Lions Club's request for a long-term lease of Ure Park to include replacement of the current structure used by the club and upgrades to the park. The Lions Club has had a series of Cooperative Use Agreements for use of the park since 1982, acting as caretaker for the park and maintaining the current building. A long-term lease of

dedicated park property requires approval by voters and is planned for presentation to voters on April 1, 2014 ballot.

Any building constructed on park property will be designed to serve the general public, as well as the Lions Club, and ultimately will be owned by the Municipality. The park land will continue to be available to the general public for park purposes. The park is currently zoned R2M and needs to be rezoned to PLI or PLI-P, as well as replatted so that all 3 lots are a single parcel. At this time no rezoning has been approved.

The Parks and Recreation Department has been working with the Lions Club on this project for over two years. The lease has been the topic of discussion at several Spenard Community Council meetings. Due to a snafu, the Department missed a 180-day notice requirement regarding the lease being on the April ballot. Because it is believed the public has been aware of the project for some time and, in fact, it has been a topic of discussion at several Spenard Community Council meetings, the Assembly has proposed and submitted the required documents to waive the notice requirement and allow the matter to become a ballot proposition in April. In order for this matter to proceed as a ballot proposition in April, according to the notice requirement set out in the waiver request, the Commission must hear a formal presentation by the Department as an Information Item, which was accomplished with this presentation on January 9 by Mr. Rodda. The Commission then must hear public testimony on this matter at a special meeting scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2014, at Spenard Recreation Center. The Assembly will vote on waiver of the notice requirement at its meeting on Tuesday, January 14. If the Assembly rejects waiver of the notice requirement, the special meeting will be cancelled, and the Department will have to step back and start the process again, following all the correct steps and timelines, if the Lions Club wishes to continue.

## **V. Upcoming Meetings**

### **Thursday, January 23, 2014, 5:00 p.m. at Spenard Recreation Center:**

Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding PRC 14-02 Ballot Proposition to Authorize a Long-Term, Non-Exclusive Lease of Ure Park to the Spenard Lions Club (contingent upon Assembly approval of the waiver of the notice requirement).


### **Thursday, February 13, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at Spenard Recreation Center:**

Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 13 day of Feb, 2014:



Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission



Director  
Parks and Recreation