



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

January 11, 2018



I. Call to Order

The January 11, 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 Josh Durand, Park Superintendent.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Catherine Bodry
Commissioner Kelly Chang
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Grace Johnston
Commissioner Erin Kirkland
Commissioner Shannon Kuhn
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner Alison Smith

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner James Winchester

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

Josh Durand
Maeve Nevins-Lavtar
Taylor Keegan
Brad Muir
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kirkland and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Agenda for the January 11, 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 December 14, 2017 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

In the Director's absence, Park Superintendent Josh Durand provided commissioners with a report on the following Parks and Recreation matters:

Winter maintenance: Although it started late due to weather conditions, ice maintenance is underway and maintained skating areas are in good shape. Because there has been no snow, we have been unable to groom paved trails (Chester Creek, Campbell Creek, Coastal Trail, Russian Jack) but after one snow fall a week ago, the trails were "rolled."

Trail grooming maps: Mr. Durand and Taylor Keegan explained the trail grooming maps now available on the Municipal website and how to use them. The maps will provide up-to-date information on trail grooming, as well as other information about trails and trail conditions.

Supervisor position: Parks and Recreation has received funding for an additional maintenance supervisor position to cover weekend maintenance, volunteer projects, and special events. Recruitment is expected to begin sometime in February.

Park ambassadors: The park ambassador program that was started last year has been funded for 2018. The park ambassador provide a presence in the park during the evening hours, document maintenance issues and problem areas, and lock park gates at closing time.

Activities: Every Saturday from 1-3 from now through the end of February, a family skate takes place at Westchester Lagoon, featuring music, bonfires, and activities for the family.

VI. Election of Chair & Co-Chair

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, Jon Dyson was unanimously elected as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Upon motion duly made by Commission Dyson and seconded by Commissioner Kirkland, Alison Smith was unanimously elected as Co-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

VII. Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

VIII. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director of the Anchorage Park Foundation, provided details to commissioners about the Vote by Mail program to take place in this year's municipal election.

Ms. Nordlund also discussed the upcoming park bond and how information is prepared and disseminated to educate the public on the bond and advocate for its passage.

A "Skate with the Seawolves" event is taking place at Chanhstnu Muldoon Park at noon on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Monday, January 15, 2016. This is the first special event to be held at this park.

Ms. Nordlund also discussed the various committees and sub-committees that are part of the Anchorage Park Foundation and encouraged commissioners to become involved in any that peaks their interest.

IX. Action Items

There were no action items presented to the Commission.

X. Information items

A. 18-1 Naming a Public Facility – Red Boucher

A community group has proposed naming a bridge in Campbell Creek Park in honor of Red Boucher. In addition to written materials on the topic, Josh Durand provided preliminary information on the bridge to be named and the process of naming a public

facility. The Mayor's Office has appointed a committee to pursue the process and when all criteria have been met, will present its proposal to the Commission for its approval, possibly in February. Upon approval, it then goes to the Anchorage Assembly for final decision.

B. 18-2 Anchorage Parks and Recreation 2017 Accomplishments

Presented by Parks and Recreation staff:

Josh Durand, Park Superintendent

Maeve Nevins, Senior Park Planner

Taylor Keegan, Park Planner

Brad Muir, Natural Resources Manager

Josh Durand provided an overview of costs for 2017 projects and how Parks and Recreation arrives at the final numbers. He introduced staff to the commissioners, and staff provided summaries about individual projects. All of the projects completed during 2017 were presented to and approved by the Commission and include Campbell Creek Trail Rehabilitation Phase 2; Campbell Creek Trail collapsed bridge repair; Coastal Trail bank erosion control; Chester Creek Trail mile markers; Chanshtnu Muldoon Park Phase 1; South Anchorage Sports Park improvements; Valley of the Moon dog park, lighting and parking lot improvements; Jewel Lake Park zipline installation, rain garden rehabilitation and park improvements; Fairview Park Master Plan; Elderberry Park–Oscar Anderson House heritage gardens; Folker Park site plan and park improvements; Chanshtnu Muldoon Park naming; University Lake Park master plan; Davis Park master plan; Town Square Park master plan; Taku Lake Park master plan; Tikishla Park master plan; Far North Bicentennial Park singletrack trails; Westchester Lagoon nature trail rehabilitation; Dave Rose Park kilikiti field; Ruth Arcand Equine Assisted Therapy indoor arena; Coastal Trail Audubon viewing deck; Hostetler Park and Victims for Justice Memorial renovations; and nine Youth Employment in Parks Projects -- RJSP connector trail, coastal refuge access trail at Jodhpur, Campbell Creek bank restoration, Kincaid beach trail maintenance, Girdwood Lions Club Park improvements, Jewel Lake Park park maintenance, Russian Jack Springs Park trail maintenance, Davis Park trail maintenance, and Fairview Lions community garden improvements.

XI. Commissioner Comments

Erin Kirkland suggested that a field trip for commissioners to places with projects on the park bond would be helpful to commissioners. Other commissioners agreed, and a field trip will be planned.



XII. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., February 8, 2018, at Spenard Recreation Center.

XIII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 8th day of FEBRUARY, 2018:

 _____ Chair Parks & Recreation Commission	 _____ Director Parks & Recreation
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