



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**



**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**July 13, 2017**

**I. Call to Order**

The July 13, 2017 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission, held at Spenard Recreation Center, was called to order by Chair Jon Dyson at 6:05 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by Josh Durand, Parks and Recreation Park Superintendent.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Jon Dyson  
Commissioner Shannon Kuhn  
Commissioner Michael McCambridge  
Commissioner Eric Milliken  
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner Richard T. Mystrom  
Commissioner Levi Robinson  
Commissioner Alison Smith

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

Josh Durand  
Steve Rafuse  
Taylor Keegan  
Diana Cramer

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

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, the Agenda for the July 13, 2017 meeting of the Anchorage 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 McCambridge, the Minutes of the May 11, 2017 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

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

Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, Parks and Recreation

Park Ambassador Program: Parks and Recreation has hired 4 park ambassadors who work every evening. They provide a presence in the park, report maintenance and safety issues that they observe, and lock park gates each night when the parks close which helps deter negative activity in the parking lots and parks at night. Other Parks and Recreation staff are tasked with unlocking gates in the morning. It is believed to be a successful program.

Summer construction projects: Currently underway our are biggest projects – Muldoon Town Square Park, South Anchorage Sports Park, and the Campbell Creek Trail project. This phase of the South Anchorage Sports should be completed by the end of August and Phase 1 of Muldoon Town Square in late September.

The Anchorage Assembly has passed an ordinance banning the sale of *prunus padus* trees – bird cherry or Mayday trees – in Anchorage. The trees have been planted in parks, public and private land in Anchorage for years. While beautiful, they are unfortunately aggressively invasive, their seeds having been spread by birds. They are thriving in the understory along creek beds, destroying native vegetation and ultimately causing a negative impact on the fish in the creek and wildlife. To effectively eradicate this species will take a multi-faceted approach by all municipal departments. Banning sale of this species is the first step.

### **VI. Appearance Requests Non-Agenda Items**

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

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

There was no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

## **VIII. Information Items**

### **A. PRC 17-25: Delaney Park Tennis Court Windscreens** Presented by Josh Durand

Background: Neighbors who live on 10th Avenue across from the Delaney Park tennis courts, citing visibility, safety, aesthetic and other reasons, have requested removal of the windscreens that are currently in place around the courts. At the request of the Mayor, this topic was heard as an information item by the Commission in May 2016, and no action was taken on the issue. This year several residents have again requested removal of the screens and the Administration has asked the Commission to hear comments and gather information on this topic. It is again presented as an information item only and no action was taken.

Public comment was heard.

Cindy Swank, on behalf of herself and other neighbors, and at the direction of the Mayor's Office, presented a bullet list of 18 items outlining issues and concerns. They allege that the windscreens are not necessary, create public safety issues, are private property placed on public land, violate zoning regulations, there are legal issues regarding usage of the park strip, as well as other issues. They suggested as a compromise that the screens be put up before tournaments only and taken down immediately thereafter, or that clear screens be used. Ms. Swank expressed frustration that no decision or resolution had been made by the Commission on this subject and requested that the Commission, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Municipal Attorney's Office get together to make a decision. When informed by Chair Jon Dyson that this information was being presented to the Commission as an information item only and therefore the Commission was not required to make a resolution, Ms. Swank requested direction as to what process should be followed to obtain a resolution. She was advised by Mr. Durand that the Municipal Attorney's Office is currently reviewing the issue and when an its opinion is issued, the concerned parties will be free to approach the Parks and Recreation Commission and present a proposed resolution for its consideration. Mr. Durand agreed to keep Ms. Swank informed of the status of an opinion by the Municipal Attorney.

Brad Owens spoke in support of keeping the tennis windscreens. He would like to see data supporting the allegations and claims made in Ms. Swank's bullet list and statements, and would like the windscreens to remain.

Dana Griffin, President of the Alaska Tennis Association, spoke in favor of the windscreens. She does not believe the windscreens contribute to vandalism at Delaney because vandalism in the parks is a problem everywhere in Anchorage. Putting the windscreens up before every event and taking them down afterwards increases wear and tear on the screens, and would be logistically difficult. Finding enough available volunteers each time would also be difficult as it takes a big group of people to put them up and to take them down. The courts are used almost continually for events, competitions, and tennis programs in summer. Her understanding is that windscreens have been used at the park for at least 20 years, though prior to 2009 they were up all year round.

Zareena Clendaniel also would like the windscreens to stay. She has lived in Anchorage since 1980 and believes that windscreens have been used at Delaney tennis courts since that time. She thinks that locking the tennis courts would discourage some of the negative activity that occurs.

Patrick Rumley also supports the windscreens. As a long-time resident, he said he can vouch for statements that there were windscreens at Delaney tennis courts long before 2009. The windscreens are designed to enhance the use of the tennis courts – a public recreation facility. He does not believe the windscreens are a problem.

**B. Valley of the Moon – Parking Lot and Dog Park Update**

Presented by Taylor Keegan, Park Planner

Ms. Keegan provided an update on park improvements for Valley of the Moon Park. In April 2017, the Commission passed a resolution supporting park improvements for the Park, which included parking upgrades, lighting, a dog park, and other improvements. This project, namely additional parking spaces, parking lot light, and fencing and entryways for the dog park, will begin this month. Updates will continue to be provided to the Commission as the approved park improvements are undertaken.

**IX. Action Items**

**A. PRC 17-27 Elderberry Park-Oscar Anderson House ADA Upgrades and Heritage Gardens**

PRC Resolution 2017-15

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Planner

The Master Plan for Elderberry Park was approved by the Commission in December 2015. Elderberry Park is the home of the historic Oscar Anderson House and Museum. The Master Plan identified the need for ADA access, improved visibility of the house from the Park, drainage issues, and the desire for heritage gardens that represent the historic time period of

the house. The proposed upgrades provide for new walkways to improve ADA access, address the drainage problems that affect the house's foundation, and create raised beds to plant heritage gardens. Proposed improvements were designed with input from representatives of the Oscar Anderson House and the Master Gardeners, and are supported by the South Addition Community Council.

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the Commission pass a resolution supporting the Elderberry Park-Oscar Anderson House ADA Upgrades and Heritage Gardens.

There were no appearance requests for this action item.

After discussion, upon motion duly made by Commissioner McCambridge and seconded by Commissioner Winchester, Resolution 2017-15 Elderberry Park-Oscar Anderson House ADA Upgrades and Heritage Gardens was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution 2017-15  
Elderberry Park-Oscar Anderson House ADA Upgrades and Heritage Gardens

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, the Elderberry Park master plan was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in 2015 and provides a 20 year vision that will address issues and guide future development at the park; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements include upgrades to ADA access, drainage improvements, and the development of heritage garden beds at the Oscar Anderson House; and

WHEREAS, these improvements were identified in the 2015 master plan and are based on community and stakeholder input and have been further developed in coordination with representatives from the Oscar Anderson House and the Master Gardeners; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements have received support and approval from the South Addition Community Council; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed improvements submitted by the Department for Elderberry Park and the Oscar Anderson House.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of July, 2017.

Voting record, PRC Resolution No. 2017-15, unanimously approved

Yea: Commissioners Dyson, Kuhn, McCambridge, Milliken,  
and Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioners Mystrom, Smith and Robinson

**B. PRC 17-28: Proposed Naming of Chanshtnu Muldoon Park**

PRC Resolution 2017-16

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Planner

The Commission was asked to make an advisory opinion regarding naming of the park currently known as "Muldoon Town Square Park" as "Chanshtnu Muldoon Park." In October 2016, at the request of the Northeast Community Council, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly appointed a Citizen Naming Panel which held a public meeting and worked with Northeast Community Council and Scenic Hills Community Council to select a name. The name "Chanshtnu Muldoon Park" recognizes the historical, cultural and geographical significance of the park and conforms with the criteria established under AMC 3.97 and Assembly Resolution 2016-284. The Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the Commission support the proposed name.

Two members of the Naming Committee, Stu Grenier from Northeast Community Council and Jerianne Lowther from Scenic Foothills Community Council, addressed the Commission, and provided more details on the name selection process. They both encouraged the Commission to support naming the Park "Chanshtnu Muldoon Park."

There were no public appearance requests.

After discussion, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner McCambridge, Resolution 2017-16 Proposed Naming of a Public Facility Chanshtnu Muldoon Park was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution 2017-16  
Proposed Naming of a Public Facility  
Chanshtnu Muldoon Park

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, in accordance with AMC Chapter 3.97, the Anchorage Assembly passed and approved Resolution No. 2016-284 appointing a citizen naming panel to name the park located at 1301 Muldoon Road, currently referred to as Muldoon Town Square Park; and

WHEREAS, the naming panel held a public hearing on March 1, 2017, to allow members of the public to provide input and share ideas; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Community Council discussed the park naming as an agenda item at their May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting and voted in support of the proposed name; and

WHEREAS, the citizen naming panel unanimously supports a motion to name the park located at 1301 Muldoon Rd "Chanshtnu Muldoon Park;" and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission concurs that the proposed naming meets the criteria of AMC 3.97; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Anchorage Assembly adopt the recommendation of the citizen naming panel to rename the park located at 1301 Muldoon Road "Chanshtnu Muldoon Park."

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of July, 2017.

Voting record, PRC Resolution No. 2017-16, unanimously approved

Yea: Commissioners Dyson, Kuhn, McCambridge, Milliken,  
and Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioners Mystrom, Smith and Robinson

**C. PRC 17-29: Jewel Lake Park Improvements**

PRC Resolution 2017-17

Presented by Taylor Keegan, Park Planner

Parks and Recreation proposes upgrades to Jewel Lake Park by improving rain garden drainage and installing a zip line. Ms. Keegan provided details of the project which will be undertaken this summer. Input was received from the students at the Sand Lake Elementary School, as well as the Sand Lake Community Council. The Council approved the proposed improvements in April 2017. The Parks and Recreation Department recommends that the Commission pass a resolution supporting this project.

There were no public appearance requests.

After discussion, upon motion duly made by Commissioner McCambridge and seconded by Commissioner Milliken, Resolution 2017-17 Jewel Lake Park Improvements was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution 2017-17  
Jewel Lake Park Improvements

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, Jewel Lake Park is a community use park located in the Sand Lake Community Council and at 4342 W. 88th Ave.; and

WHEREAS, The Municipality Parks and Recreation Department collaborated with students at Sand Lake Elementary and the Sand Lake Community Council;

WHEREAS, this plan identified the need for updated play equipment, specifically a zip line, as well as the need to repair the failed rain garden adjacent to the parking lot and popular picnic shelter; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality Parks and Recreation Department will be installing a zip line and improving drainage associated with the rain garden near the pavilion and parking lot;



WHEREAS, the project is supported by the students at Sand Lake Elementary and the Sand Lake Community Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposal for improvements at Jewel Lake Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of July, 2017.

Voting record, PRC Resolution No. 2017-17, unanimously approved

Yea: Commissioners Dyson, Kuhn, McCambridge, Milliken,  
and Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioners Mystrom, Smith and Robinson

#### **X. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner McCambridge had questions about the astroturf that is being used on municipal playgrounds, as he noticed peeling and crumpling of the turf at Balto Seppala. Mr. Durand stated Balto Seppala was the first time the Department had used that synthetic turf product and it was not installed correctly. It has since been repaired and it is anticipated that the synthetic turf has a 15-20 life span. Mr. Durand also discussed the various options for playground surfaces and the reasoning behind choosing the synthetic turf over other products.

Commission Milliken asked about the recommendations on how to proceed for the people who want the tennis windscreens removed. Mr. Durand responded that it is to the mutual benefit of both sides to wait for an opinion from the Municipal Attorney. At that point, both sides can decide what their next steps are, gather public input, community council support, etc.

Commissioner McCambridge asked about the status of the single track project in Far North Bicentennial Park that was approved by this Commission several months ago. Mr. Durand stated that since that resolution, opposition to the project has arisen. As a result, Singletrack Advocates has obtained recommendations from both the Natural Resources & Watershed Commission, as well as the Department of Fish & Game, and is in the process of changing its proposal based on those recommendations to present to the Municipal Planning Department.

Commissioner McCambridge stated that the August 2017 meeting will be his last as a commissioner, as he will be leaving to attend law school in the Fall.

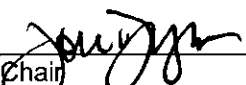
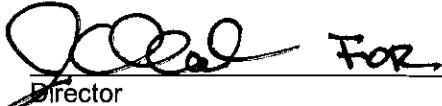
**XI. Upcoming Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, August 10, 2017, at Spenard Recreation Center.

**XII. Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester, seconded by Commission Kuhn, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September 2017:

 _____ Chair Parks & Recreation Commission	 _____ Director Parks & Recreation
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