



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**



**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**

July 14, 2016

**I. Call to Order**

The July 14, 2016 regular meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Jon Dyson at 6:00 p.m., at Spenard Recreation Center.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by Josh Durand, Park Superintendent.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner James Balamaci  
Commissioner Jon Dyson  
Commissioner Michael McCambridge  
Commissioner Richard Mystrom  
Commissioner James Winchester  
Commissioner Alison Smith

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner Peter Murphy  
Commissioner Harlow Robinson  
Commissioner Levi Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

Josh Durand  
Steve Rafuse  
Diana Cramer

### **III. Consent Agenda**

#### **A. Agenda**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Alison Smith and seconded by Commissioner Richard Mystrom, the Agenda for the July 14, 2016 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

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

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Richard Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner James Winchester, the Minutes of the June 9, 2016 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

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

No director's comments were provided.

### **V. Appearance Requests**

There were no appearance requests on Non-Agenda items.

### **VI. Anchorage Park Foundation Report**

There was no report by the Anchorage Park Foundation.

### **VIII. Action Item**

#### **PRC 16-23: Pena Sports Fields at Centennial Park–Parking Lot Expansion and Athletic Field Upgrades**

Resolution 2016-19

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Planner

#### Presentation

Parks and Recreation proposes an expansion of the parking lot at Pena Sports Fields, located at Centennial Park, to provide for current uses and parking needs. The park includes one baseball field and one sports field, as well as a picnic shelter and parking lot with 55 spaces. The sports field has been home to the popular Hmong Farmers Market which has grown in size, which creates parking and traffic concerns for park users and those who attend the market. The expansion is intended to alleviate these concerns. The proposed expansion will add 64 spaces and includes landscaping and

lighting, rehabilitation of the sports field, and installation of gates to allow seasonal closure of the southern portion of the parking lot. Seasonal closure of part of the parking lot cuts down on maintenance costs for the Department. All improvements are Title 21 compliant.

In 2014, the Department entered into an agreement with Price Gregory International to allow use of the sports field as a staging area for construction of an ML&P power plant. In exchange, Price Gregory agreed to restore and upgrade the existing athletic fields and parking lot. Price Gregory International will be responsible for all costs associated with this project.

The Northeast Community Council has been aware of the project since the agreement between the Municipality and Price Gregory International was made, and provided a statement in support of this plan.

#### Department Recommendation

Expansion of the parking lot will improve the overall safety of the park by addressing issues of circulation and access that currently exist, and will provide a lasting value to Anchorage parks. In addition, this project demonstrates the benefits of public-private partnerships as a means of investing in Anchorage parks.

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends approval of this project by the Commission.

#### Public Appearance Requests

Selina Metoyer, Northeast Community Council, expressed the Council's support of the project, and the Council's desire to maintain a good balance between the green spaces in the park and the parking. She stated the Council supports the Hmong Market's presence in the Park.

Mr. Durand responded that the Department believes that the plan presented provides for the balance between green spaces and parking that is desired by the community.

#### Discussion and Resolution

Commissioners then asked questions of staff regarding the number of parking spaces provided for in the current proposal, the possibility of future expansion, and whether the Municipality was receiving a fair value from Price Gregory in return for letting it use the park for two years. Mr. Rafuse stated that there is room for possible expansion of the parking lot in the future. Mr. Rafuse and Mr. Durand both stated that though there may

not be actual data to reflect the true value of the exchange, the Department feels this is a good return for the Municipality and one whose value will continue for many years.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Richard Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Michael McCambridge, Resolution 2016-19 Pena Sports Fields at Centennial Park–Parking Lot Expansion and Athletic Field Upgrades, was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC RES NO. 2016-19  
PENA SPORTS FIELDS AT CENTENNIAL PARK:  
PARKING LOT EXPANSION AND ATHLETIC FIELD UPGRADES

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, Pena Sports Fields at Centennial Park is located in Northeast Anchorage and is classified as a Special Use Park in the Anchorage Bowl Park, Natural Resource, and Recreation Facility Plan; and

WHEREAS, Pena Sports Fields has one ball field, one athletic field, a picnic shelter, and a parking lot which has provided a home for the popular Hmong Farmers Market; and

WHEREAS, the Hmong Farmers Market at Pena Sports Fields has grown in size creating access and circulation challenges resulting in safety concerns at the park; and

WHEREAS, Price Gregory International and the Municipality of Anchorage has entered into an agreement to improve the athletic field and expand the existing parking lot in exchange for use of the park as a staging area from 2014 until the present; and

WHEREAS, the proposed expansion of the parking lot will improve access and circulation within the park and address safety concerns by providing additional spaces to accommodate all park users.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposal to expand the parking lot at Pena Sports Fields.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of July, 2016.

Voting Record on Resolution 2016-19 Pena Sports Fields at Centennial Park–Parking Lot Expansion and Athletic Field Upgrades:

In favor	Commissioner Jon Dyson Commissioner Michael McCambridge Commissioner Richard Mystrom Commissioner Alison Smith Commissioner Jim Winchester
Opposed	None
Abstained	None
Absent	Commissioner James Balamaci (arrived at meeting after vote taken) Commissioner Peter Murphy Commissioner Harlow Robinson Commissioner Levi Robinson

**IX. Information Item**

**MOA Parks and Recreation Planning and Construction  
Accomplishments 2015-16**

Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, provided Commissioners with a copy of a report titled "MOA Parks and Recreation Planning and Construction Accomplishments 2015-16." The reports was prepared by the Parks and Recreation Department at the request of Mayor Berkowitz. The document provides a summary of planning and construction projects in Anchorage parks, trails and recreation facilities for the years 2015-16, and provides a summary of each project including location, description and funding.

**X. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Michael McCambridge commented that he had received a lot of positive feedback from the community regarding the construction of the new skate park at Russian Jack Springs Park, and stated his belief that the will strongly support development of more skate parks in other areas.

**XI. Upcoming Meeting**

The August 11, 2016 meeting is cancelled. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held at 6:00 p.m., September 8, 2016, at Spenard Recreation Center.

**X. Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner James Winchester, seconded by Commissioner Alison Smith, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 8 day of September, 2016:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Dyson, Chair  
Parks & Recreation Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Rodda, Director  
Parks & Recreation