



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING

May 10, 2018



I. Call to Order

The May 10, 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 James Winchester

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Eric Milliken

Commissioner Alison Smith

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

Josh Durand
Steve Rafuse
Tom Korosei

Brad Muir
Annie DuBois
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Chang, the Agenda for the May 10, 2018 was amended and unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Kirkland, the Minutes of the April 12, 2018 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, provided the following information:

The Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) program has begun. Crew leaders will start working on May 29 and crew members on June 2. A presentation on the YEP program will be given later in this meeting.

The Horticulture division is work hard to get all the flower beds ready for planting. The soil temperature has not been warm enough to begin transplanting, but that will be happening very soon.

The wayfinding signage project on Ship Creek will continue within the next week.

The new weekend maintenance supervisor should be hired this week. Park ambassadors are being recruited. The ambassadors will monitor parks in the evenings, lock gates at night, alert APD about problems, clean up trash as needed, and notify park maintenance about issues observed.

Soft surface trails should not be used at this time. Signage has been posted at the entrances to popular parks where there are soft surface trails. A general rule is that if you can see footprints or bike tire tracks, you shouldn't be on the trail. The trails are generally usable by June 1. It is moose calving season so be alert to this potential danger.

VI. Public Appearance Requests – Non-agenda Items

There were no appearance requests on non-agenda items.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director of the Anchorage Park Foundation, discussed the 26 projects and inclusive playgrounds to be built this summer. Trail signage is expected to be completed on Ship Creek Trail this summer and mile markers and directional signs

placed on the Coastal Trail. Ms. Nordlund shared the Anchorage Park Foundation activity calendar with Commissioners and details of the types of events on the calendar. Commissioners were invited to participate in these events, and also invited to a 2-day inclusive play symposium in September. She asked Commissioners to consider taking a field trip to Taku Lake Park in June to familiarize themselves with the park and assist them in understanding the master plan.

VIII. Action Items

A. PRC 18-14 2018 Youth Employment in Parks Projects

PRC Resolution No. 2018-08

Presented by: Brad Muir, Natural Resources Manager
Annie DuBois, YEP Coordinator

Youth Employment in Parks is a 10-week summer program that started in 2007. The program includes training, education about tool safety and trail building, construction projects, life skills, and mentorship. Twenty teens have been hired for the 2018 program. Projects this year include Wolverine Park trail upgrades, Campbell Creek bank restoration, Jewel Lake Park trail building, Far North Bicentennial Park creek bank restoration, Shibe Park trail maintenance, Russian Jack Springs Park single track trail building, and Davis Park disc golf course construction. Staff requests that the Commission pass a resolution supporting the proposed projects as presented.

Public appearance requests

Public comment focused on the Russian Jack single track trail component of the YEP projects.

Speaking in opposition to the building of single track trails in Russian Jack Springs Park: Terry Cummings and Sylvia Panzarella

Speaking in support of the single track trails in Russian Jack: Tyler Robinson; Fred McLeary for the Russian Jack Community Council, and Frank McGuire.

Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, stated that the last time a master plan was done was 1979, with some work done on it again in 1996. A new master planning process will begin in fall 2018.

Following discussion between Commissioners and staff, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Bodry, PRC Resolution No.

2018-08 Youth Employment in Parks-2018 Projects was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2018-08
Youth Employment in Parks-2018 Projects

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 Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) is a joint program of the Anchorage Park Foundation and the Municipality of Anchorage's Parks & Recreation Department and is focused on providing Anchorage teens with meaningful job experience, outdoor education and environmental stewardship skill in Anchorage Parks and Trails; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, the Anchorage Park Foundation, and various project partners has dedicated or achieved \$206,000 in funding to support the 2018 Youth Employment in Parks; and

WHEREAS the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) is in its 12th year of operation with a planned scope of work that includes trail work, bank restoration, disc golf course construction, slope stabilization, landscaping and vegetation rehabilitation, and park beautification projects to be completed during the 2018 YEP program season; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the scope of work submitted by the Department for the 2018 Youth Employment in Parks Projects.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 10th day of May, 2018.

Voting record PRC Resolution No. 2018-08:

In favor	Commissioners Bodry, Chang, Dyson, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn, and Winchester
Opposed	None
Abstained	None
Unanimously approved	

B. PRC 18-15 Taku Lake Park Master Plan
PRC Resolution 2018-09
Presented by: Steve Rafuse, Park Planner

Taku Lake Park is a community-use park located along the Campbell Creek Greenbelt in the Taku-Campbell neighborhood of Anchorage. The Park features both developed facilities and natural areas, and provides a variety of recreational experiences. The master plan identifies current and future needs, addresses issues and concerns, and sets out future development, management and maintenance guidelines. Mr. Rafuse related the historical background of the park, and described the planning and public involvement process involved in creating the plan.

Details of the master plan were discussed, and priorities, core values and goals identified. The project has four use areas: the North Gateway, the South Gateway, Campbell Creek stream corridor, and the core area. Recommendations for each use area were provided both in the commissioners' information packet and in a PowerPoint presentation.

Parks and Recreation staff recommends approval of the Taku Lake Park Master Plan, as presented, and requests that the Commission pass a resolution in support. The Plan is the product of extensive public outreach and community engagement, and is supported by the Take-Campbell Community Council

There were no public appearance requests on this action item.

Following discussion between Commissioners and staff, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kuhn and seconded by Commissioner Chang, PRC Resolution No. 2018-09 Taku Lake Park Master Plan was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2018-09
Taku Lake Park Master Plan

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 most recent master plan for Taku Lake Park was completed in 1997 and upgrades are needed to address current issues and meet the demand for recreational facilities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Taku Lake Park Master Plan provides a guiding vision for the management, maintenance and development of Taku Lake Park by aiming to balance recreational uses with the preservation of important natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department worked with local stakeholders throughout the planning process to identify and prioritize improvements and to develop a 20-year vision for Taku Lake Park; and

WHEREAS, the Taku Lake Park Master Plan embodies the community's vision to provide active and healthy year-round recreational opportunities while preserving important natural resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the recommendations proposed in the Taku Lake Park Master Plan attempt to balance the diverse wants and needs of park users and are informed by best practices in recreation and natural resource management; and

WHEREAS, the Taku Lake Park Master Plan is supported by the Taku-Campbell Community Council; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the Taku Lake Park Master Plan as submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 10th day of May, 2018.

Voting record PRC Resolution 2018-09:

In favor	Commissioners Bodry, Chang, Dyson, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn, and Winchester
Opposed	None
Abstained	None
Unanimously approved	

**C. PRC 18-16 Proposed Permit Renewal for Telecommunications
Antenna at Kincaid Park**

PRC Resolution No. 2018-10

Presented by: Tom Korosei, Park Planner

This is a request for a renewal of the permit for the communications antenna that has been attached to the Kincaid Outdoor Center Chalet since 2009. It is a limited term permit that comes back periodically for renewal. The Real Estate Department negotiates the terms of the permit, or the lease, and because it is a lease it is then the authorized by the Assembly. The Department does receive some of the revenue from the operation of the antenna, which serves airport operations as well as some of the commercial endeavors that operate through the airport. Parks and Recreation staff recommends that it be renewed for the term as requested.

Following discussion between Commissioners and staff, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Johnston and seconded by Commissioner Kirkland, PRC Resolution No. 2018-10 Renewal of Permit for a Telecommunications Antenna at Kincaid Park was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2018-10

Renewal of Permit for a Telecommunications Antenna at Kincaid 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 2008 the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport provided information supporting the benefit of placement of the subject antenna and appurtenances to the Airport's operations and therefore to the public that uses Airport facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission at its November 13, 2008, regular meeting recommended authorizing a revocable permit for placement of the antenna and appurtenances at Kincaid Park, finding that the grant of a revocable permit for the equipment would not significantly diminish the potential use of the park, nor would use of the permit have material impact on the long-term appearance of the park.; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality issued a permit for the antenna and equipment for one year with renewal options for five additional years, the permit was renewed in 2015 for up to three years, and the permit as extended expires this year; and

WHEREAS, the permit holder has requested a new permit to continue operation of the existing equipment to continue providing the service; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department is not aware of adverse effects upon Kincaid Park and use of the park lands and facilities; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks and Recreation Commission has no objection to granting a revocable use permit for the aircraft tracking equipment (antenna and appurtenances) within Kincaid Park, with the following conditions and understandings:

1. The permit document shall be subject to review by the Municipal Attorney, and contain appropriate terms in the interest of the Municipality including terms pertaining to site restoration.
2. The permittee shall pay applicable fees in accordance with code and current fee schedule, including fair market value or reasonable periodic rate on basis determined by the Municipality.
3. The permittee shall be responsible for complying with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations and obtaining any and all other required permits for the proposed project.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 10th day of May, 2018.

Voting record PRC Resolution No. 2018-10:

In favor	Commissioners Bodry, Chang, Dyson, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn, and Winchester
Opposed	None
Abstained	None
Unanimously approved	

D. PRC 18-17 Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area Domestic Animal Ordinance Proposal

PRC Resolution No. 2018-11

Presented by: Tom Korosei, Park Planner and
Barbara Carlson, Executive Director, Friends of the
Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge (FAR)

This is a proposal to amend the municipal code to prohibit dogs and other domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area. It's a relatively new park, acquired with outside funding and it is subject to two conservation easements to protect its natural resource value. Its master plan promotes those values but also provides for limited improvements to facilitate public access. One of the recommendations of the master plan was to prohibit dogs and domestic animals in favor of the wildlife and natural features of the park. Since the park was established, violations of the pet prohibition have continued, and now, as recommended by the master plan, the Parks and Recreation Department concurs with the proposal to amend the municipal code to prohibit dogs and domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area, and requests a resolution from the Commission in support. The stewards of the park have gathered a considerable amount of support, including resolutions from community councils in support of the proposed ordinance. Barbara Carlson provided a list of the agencies and organizations that support this proposed ordinance in order to preserve this unique natural area.

Public Appearance Requests

Speaking in support of the ordinance: Barbara Carlson, Dave Carter, Pat Pourchot, Vivian Mendenhall, Barbara Wild, John Zarnetske, Shasta Miller, Bob Mitchell, Marilyn Houser, Wayne Hall, Ruth Bauman, Carla Langa, Michael Carlson, Cathy Fikus, Becky Zembower and Jim Fikus.

Maggie Wilkinson supports the ordinance but would rather see a seasonal closure only when the birds are nesting.

Speaking against the ordinance: Bill Ure and Terry Ure.

Several residents who live next to the park voiced the opinion that although there were problems caused by dogs, a bigger issue is the amount of unwanted late-night activities in the park and they requested more surveillance and monitoring of the park.

Josh Durand discussed the problems with illegal activities in the park. Parks and Recreation has no enforcement authority but we can put up signage and security

cameras, but stated that calls to APD every time the illegal activities are observed does make a difference. An ordinance prohibiting dogs would have to be enforced by either Animal Control or APD. The Assembly will make that determination.

Mr. Durand also stated that seasonal closure would create a gray area and invite even more infractions of the ordinance.

Following discussion between Commissioners and staff, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, PRC Resolution No. 2018-11 Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Dogs and Other Domestic Animals at Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2018-11

Proposed Ordinance Prohibiting Dogs and Other Domestic Animals at Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area

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 Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area, part of the Anchorage municipal park system, is an area of approximately 60.7 acres at the outlet of Campbell Creek adjacent to the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge; and

WHEREAS, the area is subject to conservation easements to protect and preserve natural resource values; and

WHEREAS, a Master Plan was adopted in 2012 to provide guidance for the limited development and long-term use of the area, consistent with the conservation easements while enhancing access by Anchorage residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan sets forth policies and rules intended to maintain the quality and regulate the character of the area, including a recommendation to prohibit dogs and other domestic animals, which may adversely affect wildlife and the quality of the park experience; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan suggested the need for legislation to implement this policy, and signage and other documented efforts to promote voluntary compliance with rules prohibiting domestic animals have been inadequate; and

WHEREAS, the Bayshore/Klatt, Sand Lake, and Spenard Community Councils have passed and approved resolutions supporting an ordinance to amend Anchorage Municipal Code to prohibit domestic animals at Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has reviewed records of stewardship efforts as well as endorsements from interested organizations in support of such an ordinance; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Anchorage Assembly amend the Municipal Code as necessary to prohibit domestic animals at the Campbell Creek Estuary Natural Area.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 10th day of May, 2018.

Voting record PRC Resolution No. 2018-11:

In favor	Commissioners Bodry, Chang, Dyson, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn, and Winchester
Opposed	None
Abstained	None
Unanimously approved	

IX. Information Items

There were no information items presented.

X. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Johnston asked how one could participate in the AMATS project that was presented at one of our meetings earlier this year. Mr. Durand said the way to participate would be through the Municipal Planning Department.

Commissioner Kuhn inquired about the fees charged to those holding farmers markets in our parks. Mr. Durand said it is set according to a fee scheduled and all users are charged the same. Waivers are granted for non-profit organizations.

XI. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, June 14, 2018, at Spenard Recreation Center. Josh Durand will be sending out a poll asking Commissioners about their preferences for the field trip in order to facilitate that trip in June. Brad Muir stated that June's commission meeting is scheduled for the same night as the YEP opening dinner.

XII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 14th day of JUNE, 2018:


Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission


Director
Parks & Recreation