



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**



**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

October 12, 2017

I. Call to Order

The October 12, 2017 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 John Rodda, Director, Parks and Recreation Park.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner Richard Mystrom
Commissioner Alison Smith
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner Shannon Kuhn
Commissioner Levi Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda
Josh Durand
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Josh Durand, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, requested addition of the report from Anchorage Park Foundation to the Agenda. Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Mystrom, the Agenda for the October 12, 2017 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission, amended to add the report from Anchorage Park Foundation, was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Commission Winchester requested that the second to last sentence of the first paragraph on page 4 that says, "Commissioner Winchester volunteered to draft the letter" be deleted. The Minutes were then amended to make the requested change. Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner Mystrom, the Minutes of the September 14, 2017 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved, as amended.

V. Director's Comments

John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided the Commission with updates on several topics:

Homeless camp cleanup: In the first 9 months of 2017, 144 tons of material from camp cleanups were taken to the municipal landfill, which exceeds all of 2016 and is almost triple to the amount in 2015. Over 1000 reports of homeless camps have been made. 4800 man hours were dedicated to camp cleanup. Using the resources now available, Parks & Recreation is unable to keep up with the number of camps. The Municipality continues to work on a solution to the problem.

The 2018 operating and capital budgets have been submitted to the Assembly. The first public hearing on the budgets will be held on October 24, with another hearing to follow. It is hoped to have the budget finalized by Thanksgiving. It is unknown what the final outcome will be for Parks and Recreation's budget.

Dempsey Anderson ice arena is completed and will open next week. All of the improvements to the indoor ice facilities have now been completed.

Sullivan Arena: There has been a change of management of the Sullivan Arena for SMG. The general manager for the Dena'ina Center and Egan Center will now also manage Sullivan. There has been a lot of discussion about changing the management agreement for Sullivan

Arena. With the loss of an anchor tenant and competition from other facilities, different uses and revenue sources for the arena are being examined.

Muldoon Town Square Park – Phase 1 will be completed within the next week with plans to move forward for Phase 2 in 2018.

Commissioners Mystrom and Robinson will not be extending their appointments with the Commission. Commissioners Murphy and McCambridge have already tendered their resignations. The Mayor has selected four new individuals to fill the 4 vacant seats who should be confirmed by the Assembly on October 24. Mr. Rodda recognized their contributions to the Commission and specifically thanked Commissioner Mystrom for his valuable input, expertise and participation.

The Coastal Trail erosion control project has been started. They will be doing 441 feet and anticipate having it done within the next 2 weeks.

VI. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director of the Anchorage Park Foundation, provided information on two items.

Mayor's AmeriCorps Program 2017. This was the first summer for this program. Ten Anchorage college students were selected to participate, completing completed 12 weeks of volunteer service at 5 municipal departments – Anchorage Police Department, Parks and Recreation, Public Library, Health and Human Services, and the Anchorage Fire Department – and also receiving a living stipend and an educational award for their participation.

Inclusive playgrounds. Ms. Nordlund provided information about the 12 inclusive playgrounds that have already been built in Anchorage and the 5 playgrounds planned for construction in 2018. She provided background information about inclusive play, how it involves everyone, and the public-private partnership between Anchorage Park Foundation and the Parks and Recreation Department that has effectively and efficiently built these playgrounds. The goal is to renovate all Anchorage playgrounds to be fun, safe and inclusive to people of all abilities. She stated that Anchorage appears to be leading the country in providing inclusive playgrounds and has well above the national average with the number and types of inclusive playgrounds that have been constructed.

VII. Appearance Requests

Renee Ablecop addressed the Commission in September regarding a request to close Goose Lake to swimming due to high levels of bacteria in the water. At that time, the Commission

advised her to prepare a resolution for presentation to the Commission. It was believed this could be done for the November meeting. At this meeting, Ms. Ablecop requested more time to gather data and prepare a resolution to present to the Commission, as she believes it could take several more months. Mr. Durand stated that the Department would need at least one month after receiving Ms. Ablecop's resolution to prepare its position before presentation to the Commission. The Commission is agreeable to allowing her to take the time she needs to prepare her resolution.

VIII. Action Item

PRC 2017-32: AMATS Bicycle Plan Implementation—Mountain View Drive Pathway Project—Louie G. Mizelle Memorial Park Segment Resolution 2017-20

Presented by: Josh Durand, Park Superintendent
Matt Edge, CRW Engineering
Nichole Rehm, PTS
Jenny Miner, PTS
Carrie Connaker, Solstice Alaska Consulting

CRW Engineering, PTS and Solstice Alaska Consulting are contractors working with Project Management & Engineering (PM&E) on the AMATS Bicycle Plan Implementation—Mountain View Drive Pathway Project—Louie G. Mizelle Memorial Park Segment. The project proposes to construct at 10-foot-wide asphalt multi-use pathway along the north side of Mountain View Drive between North Bliss Street and North Lane Street, and to realign an existing pathway with the Louie G. Mizelle Park between North Lane and North Bunn. The purpose of the project is to increase the use of bicycles for transportation in Anchorage, and to address gaps in the connectivity of the trail network. An east-west connection between Ship Creek Trail and the Glenn Highway trail is needed to increase safety for cyclists in the area. Currently bicycles must share the existing sidewalk with pedestrians or the roadway with vehicles. Drainage will be improved, curb ramps will be installed or upgraded, signage and striping will be provided, vegetation and clearing will be performed, lighting improvements will be installed, utilities will be relocated, landscaping will be performed, and a 2-foot-wide buffer between existing parking areas and the pathway will be constructed. The Parks and Recreation Department also wants restoration of areas disturbed by the project to be required.

The Parks and Recreation Department requests the Commission approve the project, to include restoration of disturbed areas.

There were no public appearances requests for this Action Item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Milliken, PRC Resolution No. 2017-20, Park & Pathway Modifications to Louie G. Mizelle Memorial Park as Part of AMATS Bicycle Plan Implementation Project, was unanimously approved as follows:

Resolution No. 2017-20

Park & Pathway Modifications to Louie G. Mizelle Memorial Park as Part of AMATS Bicycle Plan Implementation Project

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, Anchorage Metropolitan Transportation Solutions (AMATS) is proposing the Mountain View Drive Pathway Project to be constructed as an element implementing the *Anchorage Bicycle Plan (2010)* to improve safety and convenience for multimodal transportation in Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, a segment of the recommended bicycle pathway alignment would traverse Louie G. Mizelle Memorial Park consisting, in part, of public right-of-way used as park and not currently used for motorized vehicle traffic; and

WHEREAS, the project would replace an existing pathway with a new pathway meeting current multi-use pathway standards as well as current engineering standards for this type of non-motorized transportation facility, and would also result in improved sight lines in the park; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission supports the reconstruction of the pathway and related improvements in Mizelle Park as part of the Mountain View Drive Pathway project, in accordance with approved plans.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 12th day of October 2017.

Voting record: Resolution 2017-20

Yea: Commissioners Dyson, Milliken, Mystrom, Smith and Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioners Kuhn and Robinson

IX. Information Items

There were no information items on the Agenda.

X. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Dyson thanked Commissioner Mystrom for his participation and contribution to the Commission.

Commissioner Mystrom commended the Department for the way it is maintaining everything – doing more with less -- with the continually tightening budget.

Josh Durand spoke about the South Anchorage Sports Park project and how well it is all coming together. It is going to be a huge asset for the community.


XI. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2017, at Spenard Recreation Center.

XII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester, seconded by Commissioner Mystrom, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 14th day of DECEMBER, 2017:



Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission



Director
Parks & Recreation