



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
September 23, 2010**



CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Peter Crosby at 6:10 p.m., Thursday, September 23, 2010, at Spenard Recreation Center.

I. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Tim Benintendi
Commissioner Joey Caterinichio
Commissioner Peter Crosby
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Michael Fredericks
Commissioner Kathleen Plunkett
Commissioner Carl Propes
Commissioner David Wigglesworth

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner Sara Boario

There was a quorum.

Staff present:

John Rodda
Holly Spoth-Torres
Elizabeth Stanley
Chris Conlon
Diana Cramer

II. Consent Agenda

- A. The Agenda was approved.
- B. The Minutes of the August 2010 meeting were amended to correct the date reflected in the proposed minutes. The Minutes were approved as amended.
- C. There was no old or unfinished business.

III. Director's Comments

John Rodda, Director of Anchorage Parks & Recreation, reviewed the items that have been taking up the majority of his time including the budget, the Kincaid Project, and the Campbell Creek Estuary project. The budget is still a work in progress, and was discussed as an information item later in this meeting. Progress has been made on the Kincaid Project and an action plan is being developed in anticipation of being able to move this project forward next spring. The Municipality of Anchorage is very close to reaching an agreement that will allow conveyance of the Campbell Creek estuary property to the Municipality. He also stated that the Department is exploring ways to use park facilities in the off season in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

IV. Anchorage Park Foundation Report – PRC 10-37

Because of a scheduling conflict, Beth Nordlund was not in attendance at the meeting. A report on the Anchorage Park Foundation's activities was given by Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent, on Ms. Nordlund's behalf. Kelly Meeker has resigned as Program Director, and the Foundation has hired Michael Howard in her stead. The Foundation and the Municipality of Anchorage have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding that will allow the Foundation to execute smaller contracts for park projects. Commissioners were referred to the Neighborhood Park Fix-it Report and the Youth Employment in Parks Report contained in their packets.

V. Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests on non-agenda items.

VI. Action Item

PRC 10-38 – Kincaid Singletrack Trails Project

Lee Boling and Janice Tower of Singletrack Advocates gave a synopsis and update on the proposed Kincaid Singletrack Trails project. This project was discussed in detail at the August 2010 meeting as an Information Item. There is a lot of public support for the project, fund raising thus far has been successful, and, based on the history of the

Singletrack Advocates trail project in Far North Bicentennial Park and the support of Parks & Recreation staff, they requested a resolution in support of their project.

The following members of the public spoke in support of the Kincaid Singletrack Trails Project: Janpark LaChapelle, Heather Rice, Stacey Moon, Leonard Fancher, Steve Ryan, Lori Pickett, and Bill Fleming.

Marilyn Houser spoke regarding her ongoing concerns about the singletrack trails, stating that she does not believe they are really multi-use trails, in her opinion being unsafe for walkers and other users when being used by mountain bikers.

Discussion ensued amongst the Commissioners and staff, wherein the topic of remediation of the old trails to discourage people from using them was explored. Commissioners expressed support for the project, but requested that language regarding remediation be specifically added to the resolution.

Motion made by Commissioner Benintendi.
Seconded by Commissioner Fredericks.
Unanimously approved.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, and unanimously approved, Resolution 2010-08, Kincaid Singletrack Trails Project, was approved as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-08
KINCAID SINGLETRACK TRAIL 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, Singletrack Advocates (STA), in cooperation with Alaska Trails, Inc., proposes to elevate certain existing singletrack trails in Kincaid Park to sustainable trail standards; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plan also includes the design and construction of missing links in the network of singletrack, soft surface, narrow trails sustainably built for mountain bikes and foot traffic in Kincaid Park; and

WHEREAS, STA, in cooperation with Alaska Trails, Inc., has a successful track record by planning, constructing and maintaining over 9 miles of singletrack trails in Far North Bicentennial Park; and

WHEREAS, a singletrack network in Kincaid is consistent with the Kincaid Park Master Plan provided that the project continues to coordinate with the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage (NSAA). Singletrack trails must be developed secondary to cross-country ski trails and not compromise the ability for the cross-country ski trail network to meet international standards; and

WHEREAS, NSAA, along with the Sand Lake Community Council and other park and trail user groups, have provided written letters of support for this project;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission supports Singletrack Advocates' plan to design, construct and maintain a network of singletrack, soft-surface, narrow trails sustainably built for mountain bikes and foot traffic in Kincaid Park. As part of the project, the Anchorage Parks & Recreation Commission requests that Parks and Recreation Department staff work with Singletrack Advocates to identify impacted areas that are appropriate for remediation.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 23rd day of September 2010.

VII. Information Items

A. PRC 10-39 – 2011 Parks & Recreation Proposed Operating Budget

John Rodda, Parks & Recreation Director, presented an overview of the efforts to prepare a proposed operating budget to present to the Assembly in October. The Department has been challenged to decrease department spending by 7.5%, which represents approximately \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars). The goal of Parks and Recreation continues to be "taking care of what we have." In order to reach that goal, reorganization and reallocation of staff, funding and resources will be necessary.

Elizabeth Stanley, Administrative Superintendent, answered specific questions from the Commissioners about the report prepared for them in their packet and further explained the information therein provided.

The materials prepared by staff for the Commission is intended to be general information, as the budget is being reworked daily. The final details and numbers are not yet finalized but will be provided to the Commission when available.

B. PRC 10-40 – Capital Improvement Budget and Capital Improvement Plan

Park Superintendent Holly Spoth-Torres discussed the Parks & Recreation Department's Capital Improvement Budget and Capital Improvement Plan, as outlined

in the materials contained in the Commissioner's packets. The Capital Improvement Budget is similar to what has been prepared in past years. The report provided contains details of the various projects proposed and individual project budget summaries.

C. PRC 10-41 – Draft Project and Construction Work Plan

Park Superintendent Holly Spoth-Torres also gave an overview of specific construction projects anticipated for 2011. These include neighborhood park fix-its, park and trail rehabilitation projects, Anchorage Park Foundation challenge grants and Youth Employment in Parks work projects. The description of each project included who will be doing the work, the source of the funding, and budget information. Some projects will require formal Parks & Recreation Commission review and resolution and will be presented to the Commission. The Commission will periodically be briefed on the progress of the projects.

VIII. Staff Reports

A. PRC 10-42 – Recreation Superintendent Report

Chris Conlon, Recreation Superintendent, reported on the activities of the recreation facilities, programs being offered, and upcoming events. He discussed the changes being made to how the facilities operate and ongoing community outreach efforts.

B. PRC 10-43 – Park Superintendent Report

Park projects, horticulture and maintenance activities were described during the discussions on the Operating Budget and Draft Project Work Plan. Commissioners were further directed to the written report provided in their packets.

IX. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Kathleen Plunkett announced her resignation from the Parks & Recreation Commission stating that October would be her last meeting. Ms. Plunkett has been on the Commission for 4½ years and believes the Commission has accomplished a lot. We appreciate her contribution to the Commission and wish her well in the future.

X. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 14, 2010, at Spenard Recreation Center.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 18 day of October, 2010:



Director, Parks & Recreation



Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission