



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**

September 13, 2012



I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Joey Caterinichio at 6:05 p.m. on Thursday, September 13, 2012, at Spenard Recreation Center.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Tim Benintendi
Commissioner Joey Caterinichio
Commissioner Marion Davis
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Richard Mstrom
Commissioner Jim Winchester

Commissioners excused/absent:

Commissioner Peter Murphy
Commissioner Carl Propes
Commissioner Harlow Robinson

A quorum was present.

Staff Present:

John Rodda
Holly Spoth-Torres
Tom Korosei
Maeve Nevins
Mark McCaffery
Diana Cramer

III. Consent Agenda

A. Agenda

Upon motion made by Commissioner Benintendi and seconded by Commissioner Mystrom, the Agenda for the September 13, 2012 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

B. Minutes of Prior Meeting

Upon motion made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Mystrom, the Minutes of the August 9, 2012 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

IV. Director's Comments

John Rodda, Director of Parks & Recreation, reported on the following topics:

1. Windstorm: The windstorm in Anchorage required great efforts of park maintenance crews to deal with its effects the aftermath. Parks & Recreation has undertaken an assessment of the cost of the damages. He also talked about the Veterans Memorial flagpole that fell during the storm and it was still to be determined what needed to be done with the damaged components of the flagpole, which have been placed into storage by Parks & Recreation.

2. Lighting Assessment: A lighting assessment is underway to evaluate the cost of replacing existing trail and park lighting with new, more energy efficient lighting.

3. Kincaid Project: The Kincaid Project is nearly complete. A mediation has been scheduled to determine the payment of the costs of remediation and how much will be borne by each of the entities involved in the project.

4. Centennial Park: Director Rodda and Parks & Recreation staff continue to deal with the Hmong Community at Centennial Park, working with them and the Health Department to ensure proper permitting for activities and vendors in the park. Parks & Recreation will collaborate with other municipal departments to put a plan in place for dealing with this issue next summer.

5. Alaska Parks & Recreation Association annual meeting: Anchorage Parks & Recreation is hosting the Alaska Parks & Recreation Association (ARPA) annual meeting October 10-12, 2012. Commissioner attendance is requested at a training session by ARPA on October 12. The session will be an opportunity for commissioners

to learn about the roles, responsibilities and duties of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

6. Budget: Although he was unable to give details of the budget being presented to the Assembly in October, Director Rodda stated that the Municipality is facing its most serious budget shortfall yet. Dramatic changes will be made to deal with the foreseen cuts in funding.

7. Trail User Fees: Parks & Recreation is moving forward with a permitting and fee policy for trail users. Fees will be charged to organizations and businesses using the trails for events and activities, on a per-participant basis. Fees will not be charged to private individuals who wish to use the trails for recreational purposes. The new policy will be in place in the very near future.

8. Jodhpur Motocross: Hours of operation and other issues regarding Kincaid's Jodhpur motocross track have been put on hold until the 2013 budget is in place and Parks & Recreation can determine what resources are available for operation of the track.

9. Coastal Trail Resurfacing: Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent, discussed the Coastal Trail resurfacing project. The initial phase of the project, 1½ miles of the trail south of Pt. Woronzof, was put out for bid and a bid accepted; however, due to weather conditions, the work will not be completed until 2013.

V. Appearance Requests

There were three appearance requests on non-agenda items.

1. Dianne Holmes discussed her concerns about the relocation of the Huffman Fire Station and the proposal to use dedicated park land to build the new station. She urged the Commission to oppose this plan. The plan will come before the Planning & Zoning Commission on October 1.

2. Mark Oppegaard expressed his dissatisfaction with the process by which the decision was made to reduce the hours of operation at Jodhpur and the length of time it is taking for Parks & Recreation to respond to his and others' requests that the hours of operation be expanded beyond those hours allowed the Racing Lions so that individuals not involved with the Racing Lions are able to use the park.

3. Dan Ferguson, Alaska State Snow-Cross Lions Club, requested that Parks & Recreation and the Parks & Recreation Commission seriously consider the proposal submitted by Jason Semler on behalf of the Club for winter operations at Kincaid Jodhpur track and provide feedback to the Club.

