



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
September 12, 2013**



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 12, 2013, at Spenard Recreation Center.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent, Parks and Recreation.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Joey Caterinichio (telephonic)
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Peter Murphy
Commissioner Richard Mystrom
Commissioner Carl Propes
Commissioner Harlow Robinson
Commissioner Jim Winchester

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Jim Balamaci
Commissioner Marion Davis

A quorum was present.

Staff Present:

John Rodda
Holly Spoth-Torres
Diana Cramer

III. Consent Agenda

A. Agenda

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Agenda for the September 12, 2013 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

B. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the August 8, 2013 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

IV. Appearance Requests – Non-Agenda Items

Dennis Nickolasky of Longboard Alaska expressed his organization's desire for a longboard park or facility to be built in Anchorage. Longboarding is different from skateboarding, in that the boards are built for higher speeds and need long, inclined trails rather than a smaller skate park such as the one at Spenard Recreation Center. Mr. Nickolasky was instructed to put together a proposal and contact Holly Spoth-Torres when ready.

Sharon Davies encouraged the Commission to strongly support creation of a town square park on the Muldoon greenhouse property.

V. Director's Comments and Information Items

Director Rodda discussed a number of topics.

1. **Reappointment of Commissioners:** The Mayor has reappointed Jim Balamaci, Jim Winchester, and Harlow Robinson to the Commission and their reappointments will be confirmed at the September 24th Assembly meeting.
2. **Information Item PRC 13-20 – Proposal to Build an Indoor Tennis Facility at Dempsey Anderson Ice Arena:** The only change on this item since the August meeting is that the Turnagain Community Council adopted a resolution supporting the facility, complete with a number of conditions and caveats it would like to see incorporated into the project. Discussions between the Administration, the Alaska Club and Anchorage Tennis Association regarding options for an indoor tennis facility are ongoing.
3. **Information Item PRC 13-21 – Proposed Assembly Ordinance to Dedicate Municipal Land Known as the Former Alaska Greenhouse Property for Permanent Public Park and Recreation Purposes:** There is nothing to report regarding this issue at this time. No action will be taken until the East Anchorage Plan is completed, after which the Planning Department will create a plan and present it to the Parks & Recreation Commission for its consideration.

4. **Kincaid Project Group:** The snow making and irrigation systems are not yet complete. There is a long list of problems yet to be resolved.
5. **Spenard Lions Club:** An agreement with Spenard Lions Club for use of the building at Ure Park and improvements of park property is being prepared at this time.
6. **Information item PRC 13-22 – Project Update Alaska State Snow-X:** Development of a site in Eklutna has been proposed to the Eagle River Parks & Recreation Board. There are details to work out regarding access across military property, user agreements, and other matters. Status reports will be made as this project moves forward.
7. **Mulcahy Stadium:** The project is ongoing. The football stadium is done with the locker room, restroom and concession facilities yet to be completed. The outdoor rinks should be completed later this fall. The rest of the Chester Creek Sports Complex project is ongoing.

VI. Staff Report

Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent, reported on park programs, events and projects.

- The first race of the Tuesday Night Races series was held on September 10 and 1200 people participated. This was a record number of people. Previous numbers reached 800, so this is a substantial increase.
- On September 26, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., a parade will be held on the Coastal Trail to celebrate completion of the repaving project. The parade will start at Westchester Lagoon. The Coastal Trail is 85% complete with 7 miles of trail repaved and bridges repaired.
- The Veterans Memorial is nearly complete and a celebration is being planned for November.
- Cuddy Family Midtown Park is completed, except for some landscaping. Other playgrounds completed are: Fairview Lions, Campbell, Fairbanks and North Russian Jack. Scenic Park playground is 80% complete. Planning and design has started for a playground at Abbott Loop Community Park to be constructed next year.
- The overflow parking lot at Kincaid is being improved and paved to accommodate the increased usage of the park.

- Safety lighting in Kincaid Park has been fixed. New LED lights will be installed, replacing existing lights, on trails throughout Anchorage. Safety lighting has been installed at Little Dipper, Scenic, and Wolverine parks.
- Arctic Benson dog park has been completed. Connors Bog dog park will be fenced this fall.
- Six bridges were repaired or removed in our park system: an unused bridge at Bittner House was completely removed, and bridges at Forsythe, Sitka and Russian Jack were repaired or replaced.
- Kincaid Singletrack Phase II is nearing completion. The Mulcahy ice rinks are 85% complete. The electric and WiFi at Centennial Park Campground were completed and the campground saw a \$100,000 increase in revenue this summer.
- Work on the Delaney Park train is finished. It will not be accessible to the public when completed, but because the asbestos has been removed it can be put on a regular maintenance schedule.

VII. Commissioner Comments

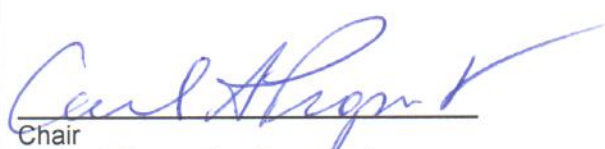

Commissioners and staff discussed the status of the swimming pools – maintenance, staffing, dechlorination of waste water, and conflicts with Anchorage School District facility maintenance schedules; the damage caused by horses on multi-use trails and the difficulties permitting and monitoring said use; and the recycling of sports field turf.

Questions were asked about the budget, and Mr. Rodda reported that the budget as approved by the Mayor should be available in written form very soon. Information will be presented to the Commission as it becomes available.

VIII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made and seconded, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 10 day of October 2013:

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