



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING

September 14, 2017

I. Call to Order

The September 14, 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 Josh Durand, Parks and Recreation Park Superintendent.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Shannon Kuhn
Commissioner Richard Mystrom
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner Levi Robinson
Commissioner Alison Smith

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

Josh Durand
Tom Korosei
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Winchester, the Agenda for the September 14, 2017 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, the Minutes of the July 13, 2017 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, Parks and Recreation

Josh Durand reported on park construction projects.

Chanshtnu Muldoon Park (Muldoon Town Square Park): It is anticipated Phase 1 of this project will be completed in about 4 weeks, after which the Department will begin working on plans for Phase 2 for 2018.

South Anchorage Sports Park: This project is looking good and is almost complete but is not quite ready for use.

Valley of the Moon Park: This project, which consisted of parking lot expansion, rain garden installation, and fencing upgrades for the offleash dog park, is being completed with help from the Municipal Street Maintenance Department. It is nearly complete.

The Municipal Street Maintenance Department is also assisting with the sealing of parking lots and driveways at South Anchorage Sports Park and the ongoing Coastal Trail bank erosion abatement. Federal money has been applied for to solve the erosion problem with the assistance of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Town Square Park: the master planning process continues to be intensive, with public meetings and meetings of the advisory groups to identify problems and potential solutions to those problems. There has been a great deal of public participation in this planning process. Initial design ideas were presented to the Mayor's Office and it is moving along.

Connors Bog: Commissioner Winchester asked about the work being done at the Connors Bog parking lot. Mr. Durand stated that this is an AWWU access project being complete with the assistance of the Municipal Street Maintenance Department.

Pickleball: Commissioner Winchester also asked about the status of the Pickleball Association's desire to have courts for pickleball use in Anchorage. Mr. Durand stated that the Pickleball Association currently can use the courts at Pop Carr Park for pickleball, as striping is in place for both tennis and pickleball. The Pickleball Association has identified other sites it would like to use and is working with the Anchorage tennis community and going through the public process to make this happen.

Delaney Park tennis court windscreens: Commissioner Kuhn requested an update on the tennis court windscreen dispute. Mr. Durand stated that "interested parties" sought removal of the windscreens from the Delaney tennis courts, citing negative impacts to their view corridors and public safety concerns, were looking for a resolution from the Commission regarding removal of the windscreens. Parks and Recreation advised them to prepare a resolution for the Commission and offered its assistance in presenting that resolution. As of this meeting, they have not reached out to Parks and Recreation. They did, however, contact the Municipal Attorney's Office who also encouraged them to seek a resolution from the Commission. A cursory review of the complaints and concerns expressed by the interested parties by the Municipal Attorney's Office found no validity to their claims.

VI. Appearance Requests

There was one appearance request on a non-agenda item.

Renee Ablecop addressed the Commission regarding her concern about the water quality in Goose Lake and her belief that it is not safe for swimming. She spoke of a tragedy this summer where a young man nearly drowned at Goose Lake, and though he was rescued by the lifeguard on duty before he drowned, afterward he developed a serious lung infection from the water in his lungs and died. She believes the infection was caused by the high levels of e. coli in the lake water. She has had an independent water test done of Goose Lake water and it was found to have dangerous levels of e. coli and other bacteria, making it unsafe for swimmers. She requested that the Commission direct Parks and Recreation to investigate the situation and close Goose Lake to swimming until such time as the water once again becomes safe. She will email a copy of the report to Parks and Recreation staff to make that available to the Commission.

Discussion then occurred amongst Commissioners, staff and Ms. Ablecop, regarding Goose Lake. Mr. Durand stated that Parks and Recreation is aware of the problem and that he had talked to Ms. Ablecop prior to the meeting. He stated he was aware of the near drowning and rescue by a lifeguard, but did not learn of the young man's subsequent death until Ms. Ablecop called him. Mr. Durand also stated that this problem is not for Parks and Recreation alone, but would by necessity involve other municipal departments, and possibly state and federal

agencies as well. Commissioners will direct Parks and Recreation Department to provide a report and recommendations to the Commission on this subject at the October meeting. A letter will be drafted and circulated to Commissioners for their approval and submission to the Department. Ms. Ablecop was invited to attend the October meeting.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

There was no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

VIII. Action Items

A. PRC 17-30 ML&P Substation 8 Expansion and Transfer of Management of Dedicated Park Land – Goose Lake Park

PRC Resolution No. 2017-18

Presenters Tom Korosei, Park Planner, and
David Searls and Alan Mitchell, Municipal Light & Power

Anchorage Municipal Light and Power (ML&P) proposes to expand its electrical Substation No. 8 which on dedicated parkland in Goose Lake Park, and requests transfer of manage for the 9500 sq. ft. site to ML&P. The upgrades are necessary to meet growing demand and improve service in that area. ML&P believes there are no viable alternatives to this proposal, given current configuration and existing transmission distribution systems. Screening fences and landscaping will be utilized to mitigate the visual impact. ML&P will work with Parks and Recreation to develop an appropriate design that will complement with park. The University Area Community Council has no objection to the plan. ML&P will submit that Council's written endorsement to Parks and Recreation as soon as it is available. The current facility was reserved for ML&P use at the adjacent parkland was transferred to Parks and Recreation Management and has been used since that time. The Department recommends that the Commission pass a resolution in support of the proposed transfer of management of the subject park to ML&P for the proposed substation, subject to these conditions:

1. Transfer of management authority for the dedicated park land shall be in accordance with the process outlined in Anchorage Municipal Code,
2. ML&P shall pay fair market value for the additional land requested, and
3. ML&P shall incorporate design features in facility plans to mitigate visual impacts on adjacent park land and neighborhood to the reasonable satisfaction of the Parks and Recreation Department.

There were no appearance requests for this Action Item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester, and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, Resolution No. 2017-18 Request for Approval of Proposed Expansion of ML&P Substation 8 at Goose Lake Park, in Particular Including Transfer of Management Authority for Certain Park Land, was unanimously approved as follows:

Resolution No. 2017-18

Request for Approval of Proposed Expansion of ML&P Substation 8 at Goose Lake Park, in Particular Including Transfer of Management Authority for Certain Park Land

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 Municipal Light & Power is proposing expansion and upgrade of Electrical Substation 8, located at Goose Lake Park, to improve service and meet anticipated needs; and

WHEREAS, the proposed expansion would require an additional approximately 9,500 square feet of area from Goose Lake Park, a dedicated municipal park approximately 67 acres in area; and

WHEREAS, the affected area of Goose Lake Park is primarily a natural area not currently used for active recreation or planned for development of recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, ML&P agrees to pay fair market value for the land and to mitigate visual impacts of the upgraded and expanded utility facility with design features including appropriate landscaping and other screening; and

WHEREAS, the University Area Community Council at its meeting of September 6, 2017, considered the ML&P substation expansion plans and indicated general support; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission does not object to the transfer of the dedicated park land as proposed for the proposed electrical facility expansion, subject to the process outlined in Anchorage Municipal Code, payment of fair market value for the additional land requested, and incorporation of design features in facility plans to mitigate visual impacts on adjacent park land and neighborhood to the reasonable satisfaction of the Parks and Recreation Department.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of September 2017.

Voting record, Resolution No. 2017-18:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioners Smith and Robinson

B. PRC 17-31 Naming the Utility Building at Chuck Albrecht Fields in honor of John Joseph "Jack" Powers

PRC Resolution No. 2017-19

Presenters Tom Korosei, Park Planner;

Rosa Salazar, Constituent Liaison, Office of the Mayor; and

Members of the Naming Panel: Elaine Hodl, Harry Ricker
and Andrea Canfield

The Parks and Recreation Commission has been asked to approve a proposal naming the new utility building at the Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex in honor of John Joseph "Jack" Powers. The building is to be named "Jack Powers Field House." The building was built in 2017 as part of the Albrecht complex Master Plan and provides changing areas for athletes, restroom facilities, storage areas, and a vending machine area. Jack Powers provided a major portion of the funding needed for construction of the building. Rosa Salazar stated that support has been obtained from the Campbell Park Community Council and she, Elaine Hodl, Harry Ricker and Andrea Canfield provided information as to the character and contributions of Mr. Powers to the Anchorage community, and also read letters in support from Col. Tom Anderson of the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers, Jack Heesh of Anchorage Youth & Recreation (who was also on the naming panel), Cameron Rynd of Arctic Storm (girls fast pitch league), Larry Mooney of Laborers International Union of North America Local 341, Jim Balamaci of Special Olympics Alaska, and Rod Hill of USA Softball of Alaska. Parks and Recreation recommends that the Commission adopt a resolution supporting the proposed

naming of the utility building at Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex the "Jack Powers Field House."

There were no public appearance requests, other than the members of the naming panel, for this Action Item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Kuhn, Resolution No. 2017-19, Proposed Naming of a Public Facility: Jack Powers Field House, was unanimously approved as follows:

Resolution No. 2017-19

Proposed Naming of a Public Facility: Jack Powers Field House

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, AMC Chapter 3.97 provides for naming of public facilities, in particular internal areas, fixtures, and features integral to public spaces, in honor of individual citizens identified as outstanding local, state, national, or international civic leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Sports Association proposes naming a new utility building at the Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex in honor of J. J. "Jack" Powers for significant community service including substantial financial support for construction of the subject building; and

WHEREAS, a Naming Panel has been appointed to consider the proposed naming and make a recommendation to the Anchorage Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the Campbell Park Community Council has considered or will consider the proposed naming; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission acknowledges written testimony as to the contributions of Mr. Powers to the benefit of the citizens of Anchorage, and believes that the criteria set forth in AMC Chapter 3.97 are substantially met; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission supports the proposal to name the utility building at the Chuck Albrecht Softball Complex as the "Jack Powers Field House."

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of September, 2017.

Voting record, Resolution No. 2017-19:

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

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioners Smith and Robinson

IX. Information Items

There were no information items presented to the Commission.

X. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Winchester commented on the neighborhood fix-it projects that he attended, stating they were well handled by Parks and Recreation staff and the Anchorage Park Foundation.

Commissioner Mystrom stated that his term as Commission ends on October 14, and he is not seeking reappointment. Therefore October will be his final meeting as a Commissioner. Mr. Durand noted that there will be at least 3, and quite possibly 4, vacant positions on the Commission after October 14, due to the earlier resignations of Commissioners Murphy and McCambridge, and term expirations of Commissioners Mystrom and Robinson.

XI. Upcoming Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, October 12, 2017, at Spenard Recreation Center.

Commissioner Winchester commented on the neighborhood fix-it projects that he attended, stating they were well handled by Parks and Recreation staff and the Anchorage Park Foundation.


X. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Mystrom, seconded by Commissioner Milliken, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 17 day of October, 2017:



Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission



Director
Parks & Recreation