



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**June 10, 2010**



**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair David Wigglesworth at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, June 10, 2010, at Spenard Recreation Center.

**I. Roll Call**

Roll call taken by Holly Spoth-Torres, Park Superintendent:

**Commissioners Present:**

Vice Chair David Wigglesworth  
Commissioner Michael Frederick  
Commissioner Kathleen Plunkett  
Commissioner Carl Propes  
Commissioner Joey Caterinichio

**Commissioners Excused:**

Commissioner Sara Boario  
Commissioner Peter Crosby  
Commissioner Jon Dyson  
Commissioner Dan Frank

**Commissioner Absent:**

Commissioner Tim Benintendi

There was not a quorum.

**Staff Present:**

Holly Spoth-Torres  
Diana Cramer  
Suzanne Little

## II. Consent Agenda

A. **Approval of the Agenda**: The Agenda was changed to hear the Action Item immediate after Appearance Requests and before Information Items on the Agenda; and, at the request of Commissioner Propes, a discussion on the Westchester Lagoon Disc Golf was added as item C) under Information Items.

B. **Approval of the Minutes**: Two changes or amendments to the April 2010 Minutes were made: changing John Rodda's title to "Director" instead of Park Superintendent on Page 1 under *Roll Call*; and changing the last sentence of paragraph X *Upcoming Meeting/Agenda Items* to read "A briefing on Campbell Creek Estuary ... " instead of Fish Creek Estuary.

C. **Old and Unfinished Business**: There was no old or unfinished business.

## III. Director's Comments

Director Rodda was absent and no Director's report was given.

## IV. PRC 10-16: Anchorage Park Foundation Report

No staff from Anchorage Park Foundation was in attendance and commissioners were referred to the written report in their June 2010 packet.

## V. Appearance Requests

Appearances by Claire Stephens and Dianne Holmes. Both people spoke regarding the Section 36 Master Plan. Claire Stephens spoke in favor of keeping Section 36 as a wilderness area. Dianne Holmes spoke regarding the need to stop illegal motorized park use, social trails and erosion created by 4-wheeler use and foot traffic, illegal bridges that have been built and are being used by adjacent homeowners for their motorized vehicles, and the destruction of park signs; Ms. Holmes encouraged the Commission to expedite approval of the Section 36 Master Plan.

## VI. Action Items

### PRC 10-29: Campbell Creek Estuary

David Mitchell, Conservation Director for the Great Land Trust, presented this item to the Commissioners. The Great Land Trust will purchase high quality coastal property for transfer to the Municipality of Anchorage. The 60-acre site contains Campbell Creek, Campbell Creek Estuary, estuarine wetlands, and upland buffer. The site is adjacent to the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. Great Land Trust will purchase fee title to the property, donate it to the Municipality, and retain a conservation easement to ensure that the property will be conserved in perpetuity. Timing is of the essence

because the parcel is owned by a group of individuals who will develop the property if we are not able to acquire it. There is strong public support for purchasing this land. This project would provide secure permanent access to Anchorage's coastline in addition to conserving the Campbell Creek watershed. Great Land Trust will work with the Municipality to facilitate the property transfer, will hold a conservation easement on the property, and will do all necessary fundraising to secure funds to manage the easement.

Despite the general consensus of the Commissioners present, because there was not a quorum no resolution could be made regarding support for this project. A special meeting of the Commission will be convened within one week to discuss the Campbell Creek Estuary project in order to keep the project on schedule.

There were no appearance requests from the public on this item.

## **VI. Information Items**

### **A. PRC 10-27: Section 36 Master Plan**

Holly Spoth-Torres presented this item to Commissioners. The purpose of the Section 36 Master Plan is to identify appropriate improvements for an undeveloped 640 acres of park land in the foothills of the Chugach Mountains in southeast Anchorage. The draft plan identifies appropriate access and facility improvements and addresses funding for maintenance and park improvements. Section 36 is currently managed by the Heritage Land Bank and is to be transferred to Parks & Recreation upon completion of the Master Plan. Ms. Spoth-Torres gave an overview of the planning process and public involvement; project visions, goals and use program identified in the plan; the three preliminary concepts that were developed based on planning and public involvement; trail analysis and possible routes; and the details of Municipality of Anchorage/Alaska Center for the Environment Agreement on Section. The possibility of a work session for Commissioners to review the plan in detail was discussed and it was determined it would be appropriate to hold a work session prior to this item coming before the Commission as an Action Item.

### **B. PRC 10-28: Russian Jack Springs Park: North Side Public Involvement Plan**

Peter Briggs, owner of Corvus Designs, whose firm has contracted with Anchorage Park Foundation (APF) to provide design and planning services on this project, and Anne Brooks of Brooks & Associates, with whom APF has contracted to provide public outreach. In 2008 \$750,000 was appropriated by the Legislature for Russian Jack Springs Park and the funds appropriate to the APF. APF was directed to improve the northwest corner of Russian Jack Springs Park. The Russian Jack Community Council requested APF conduct public involvement to determine what the public would like to see in the park. This is the very beginning of the public process. Mr. Briggs and

Ms. Brooks gave a summary of the public involvement already undertaken, discussed the goals of the project – to be modified and amended during the public process – and invited the Commissioners to actively participate in the process as it goes forward.

### **C. Westchester Lagoon Disc Golf Improvements**

Commissioner Propes requested an update on the progress of the Westchester Lagoon Disc Golf Improvement project. Ms. Spoth-Torres stated that some funds have been received and the Anchorage Disc Golf Association will begin its work very soon.

### **VII. Staff Reports**

No staff reports were given.

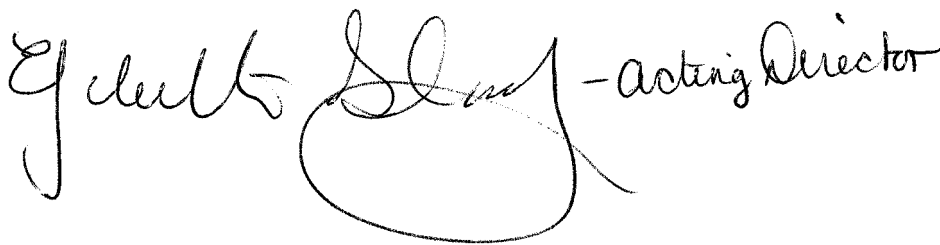
### **VIII. Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

### **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

  
Peter Brooks  
CHAIR

  
Juliette Slone - acting Director