



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**



October 13, 2016

I. Call to Order

The October 13, 2016 regular meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Richard Mystrom at 6:00 p.m., at Spenard Recreation Center.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Jon Dyson (late arrival)
Commissioner Michael McCambridge
Commissioner Peter Murphy
Commissioner Richard Mystrom
Commissioner Harlow Robinson
Commissioner Alison Smith

Commissioners absent/excused:

Commissioner James Balamaci
Commissioner Levi Robinson
Commissioner James Winchester

A quorum was present.

Staff present:

John Rodda
Josh Durand
Diana Cramer

III. Consent Agenda

A. Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Peter Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Michael McCambridge, the Agenda for the October 13, 2016 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

B. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Peter Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Michael McCambridge, the Minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

IV. Director's Comments

John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided a report on the following:

Ben Boeke: A number of surprises happened during the project that caused delays, but it is now expected the first rink will open the week of October 17 and the second rink about 3 weeks later. There is still a lot to do on this project.

Budget: Both the proposed capital and operating budgets have been submitted and are under Assembly review. This is just the beginning stage but already reductions are being seen, and revisions will be made. Public hearings will be held prior to final review by the Assembly.

Homeless camps: Homeless camps continue to be a problem. During summer, additional employees were hired to deal with camp cleanup. Community Work Service (CWS) continues to devote most of its time to camp cleanup. The amount of garbage from camp cleanups being taken to the dump so far in 2016 is more than double the amount in 2015. Cleaning up camps is not an easy process and it often takes several days to complete one camp. A census to try and determine the number of homeless camps was conducted. Sixty-eight were identified and it was determined that problem is much larger than anyone anticipated. The numbers are far beyond anything experienced in the past. Camps are everywhere, in all parts of town. The Anchorage Police Department C.A.P. team, the Health and Human Services Department, and the Anchorage homeless coordinator Nancy Burke are working hard to find solutions. Parks and Recreation's involvement will continue.

Anchorage Football Stadium: The stadium is finally open, busy, and being used on a regular basis for football and other sports.

Indoor tennis facility: Les Shepherd has approached the Commission a number of times over the past couple of years regarding his plan for an indoor tennis facility to be constructed in a location that would serve the east and northeast sides of town. Parks and Recreation staff have proposed five sites for his consideration and will be meeting with Mr. Shepherd for further discussion next week.

V. Appearance Requests

There was one public appearance request on non-agenda items.

Dan Gleason, a resident of Turnagain and member of Turnagain Community Council speaking on his own behalf, pointed out that signs at Lyn Ary Park do not reflect the correct park hours. Pursuant to a resolution of the Council, the park hours are supposed to be 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., but the signs recently installed say 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, responded that the signs were ordered and installed before the Council's resolution was received. Once the new hours are approved by the Director of Parks and Recreation, new signs will be ordered and installed.

VI. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

There was no Anchorage Park Foundation report.

VII. Action Items

A. PRC 16-27 MOA Vote by Mail – Ballot Drop Boxes at Recreation Centers

Presented by: Josh Durand, Park Superintendent

Presentation

This item was presented as an Information Item at the September 8, 2016 commission meeting and now comes as an action item for resolution. The Municipality is implementing voting by mail. Part of the project is to install drop boxes at convenient locations to be used by voters who would like to use a free drop box rather than mailing their ballots. Two sites have been selected for the boxes: Fairview Recreation Center and Spenard Recreation Center.

These locations were chosen for the following reasons:

- High visibility, lighting and security – both areas have security cameras;
- Good off-street traffic flow; accessibility for both walk-ups and vehicles with nearby parking if needed;
- Snow removal and sanding services are already in place;

- The locations are municipality owned so there are no additional costs; and
- Both locations are very convenient for the public.

Recommendation

The Department recommends that the Commission adopt the proposed resolution in support of placing ballot drop boxes at the recreation facilities.

Public Appearance Requests

There were no public appearance requests on this item.

Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Harlow Robinson and seconded by Commissioner Peter Murphy, Resolution PRC 2016-21, Request for Approval to Place Ballot Drop Boxes at Recreation Centers, was unanimously approved as follows:

Resolution No. 2016-21
Request for Approval to Place Ballot Drop Boxes at Recreation Centers

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, Municipal recreation centers serve the community and neighborhoods in a variety of ways; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality offers voting by mail and desires to make the process convenient for the public; and

WHEREAS, Municipal recreation centers such as Fairview Recreation Center and Spenard Recreation Center, as well as the Sullivan Arena, are potentially convenient sites to accommodate ballot drop boxes to accept vote-by-mail ballots; and

WHEREAS, hosting ballot drop boxes at these sites would not impair recreational uses of these sites; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission does not object to the placement of ballot drop boxes at Fairview and Spenard Recreation Centers and at the Sullivan Arena, and potentially at other Municipal recreation facilities if approved by the Municipal Clerk and Parks and Recreation staff.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of October 2016.

Voting Record on Resolution PRC 2016-21, Request for Approval to Place Ballot Drop Boxes at Recreation Centers:

In favor	Commissioner Jon Dyson Commissioner Michael McCambridge Commissioner Peter Murphy Commissioner Richard Mystrom Commissioner Harlow Robinson Commissioner Alison Smith
Opposed	None
Abstained	None
Absent	Commissioner Jim Balamaci Commissioner Levi Robinson Commissioner Jim Winchester

B. PRC 16-28 MOA Cuddy Family Midtown Park Rain Garden

Josh Durand, Park Superintendent, noted that Action Item PRC 16-28, Cuddy Family Midtown Park Rain Garden, is withdrawn from the Agenda.

C. PRC 16-29 Proposed Naming of a Public Facility: Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook

Presented by: Josh Durand, Park Superintendent
Bob French, Naming Panel

Presentation

The Commission was asked to consider passing a resolution recommending that a portion of Suzan Nightingale McKay Park be named the "Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook" in honor of long-time Government Hill residents Howard and Mavis Hancock. Josh Durand provided a copy of the policy, AMC Chapter 3.97, regarding the naming of public places, and information showing that the proposed naming complies with the guidelines stated therein. A naming panel was appointed by the Assembly and

the panel held a public hearing on September 13, 2016. Bob French, from the naming panel, is also a member of the Government Hill Community Council, and spoke to the Commission about Mr. and Mrs. Hancock and provided more details about their contributions to the community and comments gathered during the public process. The naming panel found that the Hancocks have been very involved in the Government Hill community for over 50 years and their home is across the street from the Park. The Government Hill Community Council has passed a resolution which enumerates many of the Hancocks' contributions and commitment to the community, the quality of their community service, and in particular their dedicated stewardship of the Suzan Nightingale McKay Park. The family of Suzan Nightingale McKay supports naming the overlook after Mr. and Mrs. Hancock.

Recommendation

The Department concurs with the findings of the naming panel and agrees that the criteria set out in AMC Chapter 3.97 have been met. The Department recommends that the Commission adopt a resolution in support of naming the scenic overlook in Suzan Nightingale McKay Park the "Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook."

Public Appearance Requests

There were no public appearance requests on this item.

Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Peter Murphy and seconded by Commissioner Richard Mystrom, Resolution 2016-23, Proposed Naming of a Public Facility Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook, was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution 2016-23
Proposed Naming of a Public Facility Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook

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 Government Hill Community Council has recognized Howard and Mavis Hancock for their significant voluntary service over a span of more than 50 years, including formal and informal leadership on the Community Council, with particular interest in neighborhood parks, and overall valuable contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Government Hill Community Council at its September 15, 2016, meeting voted in favor of the proposed naming of the overlook at Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park as the Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook, in their honor; and

WHEREAS, members of the Naming Panel appointed by the Anchorage Assembly also recommends the proposed naming of the overlook at Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park as the Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission acknowledges the above as testimony as to the extraordinary contributions of Howard and Mavis Hancock, to the benefit of the citizens of Anchorage and its visitors; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Assembly name the overlook at Suzan Nightingale-McKay Park as the "Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook."

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of October, 2016.

Voting Record on Resolution PRC 2016-23, Proposed Naming of a Public Facility
Howard and Mavis Hancock Denali Overlook:

In favor	Commissioner Jon Dyson Commissioner Michael McCambridge Commissioner Peter Murphy Commissioner Richard Mystrom Commissioner Harlow Robinson Commissioner Alison Smith
Opposed	None
Abstained	None
Absent	Commissioner Jim Balamaci Commissioner Levi Robinson Commissioner Jim Winchester

D. PRC 16-30 Fish Creek Trail Improvements

Presented by: Josh Durand, Park Superintendent
Matt Edge, CRW, Project Engineer

Presentation

This project is part of the Anchorage Areawide Trails Project established to rehabilitate Anchorage trails, and increase safety and connectivity. The trail improvement project for Fish Creek Trail is the first project under this program and will address two segments of the trail: the northern section starting at 32nd Avenue and extending south to Kiwanis Fish Creek Park; and the southern section from Taft Street to West 45th Avenue. Preliminary information about this project was presented to the Commission in November 2015.

This trail was selected because the trail surface is in poor condition; the lighting system is in poor condition; and four bridges show significant signs of deterioration and require frequent maintenance. The trail has been neglected and is in great need of rehabilitation.

Planned improvements include reconstruction of the trail subgrade and replacement of pavement surfacing; replacement of the four bridges; replacement of the lighting system; minor improvements to trail grade and alignment; and removal of select trees and installation of root barriers to reduce future root damage to the pavement.

A feature of the project is a standardized bridge design using a uniform prefabricated structure to simplify construction and reduce cost. Designs that enhance the aesthetics of the trail and nearby parks will be considered. Specific structures will be selected at a later stage in the design process. Design will continue through 2016 with construction of the northern section anticipated to being in late summer or early fall 2017.

Recommendation

The Department recommends approval of a resolution supporting the Fish Creek Trail Improvement Project, subject to staff review and approval of final design of key elements including bridges, railings and landscaping.

Public Appearance Requests

Cathy Gleason, representing the Turnagain Community Council, expressed the Council's support of the project.

Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Richard Mystrom and seconded by Commissioner Michael McCambridge, Resolution 2016-24, Fish Creek Trail Improvements, was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC RES NO. 2016-24
Fish Creek Trail Improvements

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, CRW Engineering Group, LLC, has done extensive research and engineering to identify needed improvements to the Fish Creek Trail that include lighting, bridges, subgrade, and surfacing; and

WHEREAS, the project encompasses two segments: a northerly segment to Barbara Street Park and a southerly segment to Red Bridge Park; and

WHEREAS, the renovated trail as presented will provide comprehensive trail repairs aimed at addressing safety and security concerns on the Fish Creek Trail;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the Fish Creek Trail improvements generally as proposed.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of October, 2016.

Voting Record on Resolution PRC 2016-24, Fish Creek Trail Improvements:

In favor Commissioner Jon Dyson
 Commissioner Michael McCambridge
 Commissioner Peter Murphy
 Commissioner Richard Mystrom
 Commissioner Harlow Robinson
 Commissioner Alison Smith

Opposed	None
Abstained	None
Absent	Commissioner Jim Balamaci Commissioner Levi Robinson Commissioner Jim Winchester

VIII. Information Items

No information items were presented.

IX. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Richard Mystrom inquired about the Department's tennis court rental policies. He is concerned because this past summer a tennis camp rented both courts at Lyn Ary Park making it difficult for people in the neighborhood to use the courts during high-use times. Mr. Rodda responded that the Department is aware of the problem and is working on a new policy that will balance the needs of the user group with the needs and expectations of the public.

Commissioner Michael McCambridge reported a broken gate at the Fish Creek tennis court and asked about the process for reporting maintenance issues. Mr. Rodda advised him to use AnchorageWorks online or call the Department.

Commissioner Peter Murphy commented on the inadequacy of the trail that connects Government Hill to the Coastal Trail, and whether there were plans for improvements. Mr. Durand responded that this problem is currently under consideration and Anchorage Bicycle Plan and Anchorage Pedestrian Plans, as well as others, are working on a solution.

Commissioner Harlow Robinson stated that this was his last meeting, as his term expired and he did not seek reappointment. Commissioners Dyson thanked him for his important contribution he has made to Parks and Recreation for the past 6 years.

Commissioner Richard Mystrom stated that he will not be in attendance at the November meeting, but will be able to call in if a quorum is needed.

X. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., November 10, 2016, at Spenard Recreation Center.

XI. Adjournment

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

MINUTES APPROVED this 8 day of DECEMBER, 2016:



Jon Dyson, Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission



John Rodda, Director
Parks & Recreation