



## MEETING SUMMARY

Project: Visit Anchorage & Anchorage Downtown Partnership: Peratrovich Park

Project No: 215074

Meeting Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021

Location: Dena'ina Center

Attendees:

Kelsey Davidson, SALT	Tom Marriage, Morris Media
Harrison Houston, SALT	Eric Ridner, RES Alaska
Amanda Moser, ADP	Greg Spears, Domins Center
Scott Habbestad, Alaska Airlines	Raquel Edelen, HCC
Angela Johnstone, Visit Anchorage	Shelli Stenton, Visit Anchorage
Mike Robbins, ACDA	Jack Boney, Visit Anchorage
Josh Durand, MOA Parks	John Morri, Muni
Kate Sprout, Hilton	Nicole Geils, AWCC
Lori Brewer, Café D'arte	Ed Rutless, Visit Anchorage
Sonya Wellman, Rasmuson Foundation	David McCarthy, NHG Corp.
Nedra Anderson, Visit Anchorage	Therin Ferrin, Egan Center
Hector Jimenez, ADP	Karen Knson, Anchorage Museum
Phyllis Rice, Dena'ina Center	Michele Robuck, Alaska Mint
Cyrus Alderman, Anchorage Trolley	Julie Saupe, Visit Anchorage
Melinda Gant, ACDA	Nina Bonito Romine, VA/The Kobuk
Gretchen Fauske, ADP	Kathy Dunn, Visit Anchorage
Ken Bushue, APD	David S. Kasser, Visit Anchorage
Robert Neumann, Phillips Cruises	Larry Michael, ADP, Arctic Fox
Lisa Sauder, Beans Café	Lisa Kruse, Phillips Cruises
Jacob Lyon, Premier Alaska Tours	Bruce LaConde, Visit Anchorage
Toni Walker, Logistics LLC	Pete Peterson, Assembly
Bill Popp, AEDC	Gretchen Kime Visit Anchorage
Diane Dowey, Diamond Polay	Steve Medina, Egan Center
Gordon Korell, ADP	Jin Chen, Brill-Con Consulting

The purpose of the meeting was to address concerns and identify solutions regarding nefarious activities emerging from Peratrovich Park and the surrounding downtown area.

**Responses:**

- **What can be done immediately to change the experience of the Park and surrounding area?**
  - **Robert Neumann** – Help in “shooing along” those that are camping out in front of your stores.
  - **Bill Pop** – Call in bad behavior, sleeping, loitering, etc. for data drive responses and to build a data case.
  - **Lisa Sauder** – Call emergency number for non-responsive/sleeping people. Non-emergency number is 311, option 8
  - **Lisa Sauder** – Outreach teams are being funded through municipal/other funds, possibly their efforts could be incorporated into a downtown location in conjunction with their current efforts.
  - **Gretchen Fauske** – Given the effectiveness of the past “Give Real Change Not Spare Change” campaign, we could reinforce the message. Place charitable donations into organizations that support people who are experiencing homelessness instead of to panhandlers.
  - **Michele Robuck** – Remove hidden areas, stairs, dark areas. Develop the area with plantings.
  - **Jim Powell** – Locate portable bathrooms around park area so they have an option to go to the bathroom somewhere appropriate.
  - **Jasmine Boyle** – Explore opportunities to integrate location into outreach schedule- would allow data collection on who is in the park and resources for those experiencing homelessness. Would need to develop alternate pathways for the individuals loitering who may not actually be homeless.
  
- **What can park stakeholders commit to doing to change the experience in the Park and surrounding area?**
  - **Amanda Moser** – Increase activation/collaboration within downtown. Artists/Musicians.
  - **Cyrus Alderman** - Sprinklers that are currently being used to water grass multiple times per day help prevent unwanted activity in parks.
  - **Julie Saupe** – Support hotdogs stands, have lunch downtown, increase everyday activation.
  - **Jasmine Boyle** – We could explore smart design elements in the park. Communities could station a satellite police location, street performers or live bands, children’s playgrounds with scheduled groups etc. to increase positive traffic. (Similar efforts in other communities have proven to be successful.)
  
- **What are the longer-term plans and commitments to address the issues in the Park and surrounding area?**
  - **Julie Saupe** – Figure out maintained public restrooms in the downtown area.
  - **Nina Bonito Romine** – Connect with Townsquare Revitalization resource packet.
  - **Cyrus Alderman** – Create an art installation for photos/giant metal sign, create an experience. The more people use it, the less there is unwanted foot traffic.
  - **Lisa Cruise** – Find a way for positive engagements in the park but need help from the city to operate in that space. (Securing permits, etc.)
  - **Josh Durand** – Anchorage Parks offers to be a resource to reduce barriers in securing permits. Encourages the incorporation of playground facilities, which bring parents into the park, who will report bad behavior.

- o **Josh Durand** – Relevant Community Council that can help improve activity in the park.
- o **Josh Durand** – Incorporate security cameras with a feed monitored by the Anchorage Police Department around the park to observe positive and negative activity.
- o **Bill Popp** – Convert the park into a plaza for more activation and to make the space less comfortable for just crashing/loitering. Establish a district that brings a resident population.
- o **Tom Marriage** – Don't give food to homeless population to avoid enablement, direct towards beans café. This may include some correcting of current behaviors by Hot Dog vendors using the park.
- o **Larry Michael** – Implementation of the Navigation Center. There may be one main one at Tudor and Muldoon OR two navigation centers. When built this will give people on the street a place to go during the day rather than Peratrovich Park. If managed effectively, the center will work with people to match services with needs.

The information contained herein represents our understanding of items discussed and decisions made at this meeting. We will assume this summary is correct unless notice to the contrary is brought to our attention within seven (7) days of the date of this summary.

SALT

Prepared by Harrison Houston, Project Assistant

cc: Amanda Moser  
Julie Saupe  
Kelsey Davidson  
Michael Fredericks