



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**



SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

The September 8, 2022, meeting was a hybrid meeting, held in person at Spenard Recreation Center but also using Microsoft Teams.

CALL TO ORDER

The September 8, 2022, regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Grace Johnston at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Edwin Blair
Commissioner Grace Johnston
Commissioner Brian Looney
Commissioner Stacey Lange

A quorum was not needed as there were no action items.

Staff present:

Mike Braniff
Steve Rafuse
Ellen Devine

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Looney and seconded by Commissioner Blair, the Agenda for the September 8, 2022 meeting was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Blair and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, the Minutes of the July 14, 2022 meeting was unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Mike Braniff provided the following report and answered questions about the proposed use of the recreation centers as shelters:

1. While Mike is not yet the official director, he has had his confirmation hearing and the assembly will decide on Tuesday (9/13)
2. We are unsure about whether the recreation centers will be turned into homeless centers. While he does anticipate it, we don't know the specifics or what services will be provided. There has been conversation about working with the Anchorage School District to move some programming to neighboring schools, and the hope is to keep the indoor playground open throughout the winter months.

No specific end date has been determined if the recreation centers are used as shelters, but it is anticipated that the staff from the recreation centers wouldn't need to be laid off and instead would be able to move into other positions.

APPEARANCE REQUESTS

There were no appearance request.

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

There was no staff present from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

ACTION ITEM

There were no action items.

INFORMATION ITEMS

PRC 22-11: 2022 Planning and Construction Projects Update

Presented by Stephen Rafuse, Superintendent of Parks

Stephen Rafuse, Superintendent of Parks, wanted to provide an overview of current construction projects, accomplishments from the year, and upcoming projects for 2023.

What was accomplished:

- The 1% for art at Fairview Recreation Center's indoor playground has been put in and provide sound dampening for the area.
- The parking lot at Dave Rose Park was expanded to accommodate use.
- Ship Creek Trail was able to reopen in mid-August. Two sections were rerouted, and the streambank was stabilized.
- A new pump track was finished at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park.
- YEP Projects included ADA improvements at Forsythe Park, installation of an elevated viewing platform at Westchester lagoon, Far North Bicentennial Park Drainage and gravel improvements, managing erosion at the disc golf course in Kincaid, and working on trail improvements.
- Moved the old playground equipment from Frontierland to Nunaka Valley.
- Installed new music equipment and signs at Folker Park.
- New informational and wayfinding kiosks at Ray Stork and Valley of the Moon Parks.
- Art panels were installed along the Fish Creek Trail.
- Trees planted at both Russian Jack Park along Pine St. and Frontierland.
- Finishing playground upgrades at William B. Lyons Park.

Upcoming projects:

- Building the Ure Park trail and bridge
- Starting to work with the community to discuss improvements for KFQD Park
- Take out the skatepark at Taku Lake Park and will build a new large skatepark next summer.
- New bridges in Far North Bicentennial Park
- Looking for an area for a community garden for the Russian Jack community.
- Drainage upgrades to Pamela Joy Lowry.
- Campbell Creek Trail fixes.
- Elderberry Park improvements have been pushed back due to not being able to find a subcontractor.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

UPCOMING MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, October 13, 2022, at the Spenard Recreation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Commissioner Looney, seconded by Commissioner Blair, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2022:

Grace Johnston, Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Mike Braniff, Director
Parks & Recreation

