



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**



JULY 14, 2022

The July 14, 2022 meeting was a hybrid meeting, held in person at Spenard Recreation Center but also using Microsoft Teams.

CALL TO ORDER

The July 14, 2022 regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Andrew Kastning at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present:

- Commissioner Shane Rinner (online)
- Commissioner Grace Johnston (online)
- Commissioner Andrew Kastning
- Commissioner Bruce Graham
- Commissioner Edwin Blair
- Commissioner Stacey Lange (online)
- Commissioner Brian Looney

A quorum was achieved with seven members present.

Staff present:

- Steve Rafuse
- Tanya Hickok
- Ellen Devine
- Mike Braniff

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion duly made by **Commissioner Johnston** and seconded by **Commissioner Looney**, the Agenda for the July 14, 2022 meeting was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made by **Commissioner Blair** and seconded by **Commissioner Looney**, the Minutes of the May 12, 2022 meeting was unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Steve Rafuse, Park Superintendent

1. Events/Openings –
 - a. FitLot opening happening tonight! AARP provided a grant that covered both the equipment and a fitness trainer. We look forward to all the things happening at Taku Lake Park including building a skate park in the future.
 - b. Opening at Folker Park that has ADA trails, reflexology path, inclusive play equipment, and music equipment
 - c. 2,200 participants came to the Mayor's Marathon this summer, which is like pre-pandemic times.
 - d. This is the 53rd year of Tuesday Night Races. Those races will start in September.
2. Planning/Capital Improvement –
 - a. YEP is in full swing! They have completed work on the Forsythe Bridge, worked at University Lake adding Gravel, and revegetated areas such as at Westchester Lagoon.
 - b. Chanshtnu Muldoon Park has a new Pump Track that will be opening soon.
 - c. William B. Lyons is getting a new playground. Should be finished in September and opened in October.
 - d. Dave Rose is getting a new parking lot.
 - e. This week we installed four interpretive art signs along Fish Creek Trail.
 - f. Upgrading the Hillside Nordic trails to LED.
 - g. Next week we are opening bids at Elderberry Park and Ure Park.
3. Horticulture and Maintenance
 - a. Teams a short-staffed, but still doing great work.
 - b. Horticulture planted over 40 trees at Frontierland as well as landscaping at Dave Rose Park.
 - c. Expanding their outreach by adding composting classes and gardening classes at the community garden.
 - d. It is a dry summer, so we are watering the Delaney Park Strip and put down about 20,000 gallons of water daily.

4. Ship Creek Trail – We are continuing to work with fish and game. The high water washed out two sections of trail, and we were losing a foot of streambank per hour. Salmon are currently in the water which moves our timeline, so fixes are postponed to October. The plan is to do spruce revetments and eventually rebuild that streambank.
5. State passed a capital budget that includes \$800K for wayfinding along our trails, as well as half a million for Chanshtnu Muldoon Park.
6. Josh's last day with Parks and Recreation is August 5th. Mike Braniff will be taking over in this role. Mike has been with the department for four years and worked primarily as an arborist. In the last year has done a lot of focus on homelessness.

APPEARANCE REQUESTS

There were no appearance request.

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

There was no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

ACTION ITEM

PRC 22-09: Chanshtnu Muldoon Park – PH3 Bridge Improvements

Resolution No. 2022-08

Presented by Tanya Hickok, P.E., Senior Park Planner

Tanya Hickok, Senior Park Planner, requested a resolution from commissioners approving the Chanshtnu Muldoon Park – PH3 Bridge Improvements. Ms. Hickok presented a PowerPoint that highlighted the first two phases of improvements to Chanshtnu Muldoon Park. Due to funding requirements that needs funds to be spent this year, the request is to build a bridge the connects Phase 2 to Phase 1 of Chanshtnu Muldoon Park. The bridge will not completely connect the community garden, dog parks, and pump track (Phase 2) to Phase 1. The plan is to use a 35 ft. prefabricated steel bridge and add 140 feet of multi-use paved trail. The current estimate is \$350K. She continued by saying that the project is now open to bidding and the hope is to have it installed by the end of the year.

Discussion

During the discussion, Commissioner Kastning clarified that this resolution is for a single bridge even though the Master Plan shows five bridges. Mr. Rafuse explained that there is one main multi-use trail that acts as a “spine” to the park, while the main trail includes two bridges, this focuses on the single bridge next to Phase 2. In future, years additional

bridges will be added. Commissioner Looney inquired whether the bridge along Phase 1 has been built. Mr. Rafuse explained that the bridge into Phase 1 has not been built yet. This project is to complete one bridge, and then use the money from the state to work on additional bridges next year.

Resolution

Upon motion duly made by **Commissioner Looney** and seconded by **Commissioner Blair**, PRC Resolution No. 2022-08 Chanshtnu Muldoon Park – PH3 Bridge Improvements was approved.

Voting record for PRC Resolution 2022-08:

In favor: Commissioners Rinner, Johnston, Kastning, Graham, Blair, Lange, Looney

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Milliken

INFORMATION ITEMS

PRC 22-10: AMATS Trail Connection Projects

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Parks Superintendent

Steve Rafuse, Parks Superintendent, presented on two upcoming Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS) projects.

- Ship Creek to Coastal Trail Connection Project
 - Mr. Rafuse showed the trail map that connects Ship creek along the railroad track and Small Boat Launch to Elderberry Park. It is a 1.3 mile connection and could open new opportunities for winter grooming. He continued by saying how it would also improve trail connections. It has been signed-off by the Alaska Railroad. Anticipated construction timeline is 2024.
- Fish Creek to Coastal Trail Connection Project
 - Mr. Rafuse presented the project area map that shows the connection from the Fish Creek Trail to Coastal Trail. This area has some complicated land use, but luckily the railroad is a solid partner. There are currently three potential options for this connection, but as this project is just kicking off they are still evaluating options.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

UPCOMING MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at the Spenard Recreation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by **Commissioner Blair**, seconded by **Commissioner Graham** and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at **7:18 p.m.**

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2022:

Grace Johnston, Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Josh Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation

