



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**



January 9, 2020

I. Call to Order

The January 9, 2020 regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Jon Dyson at 6:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Josh Durand, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Kelly Chang
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Grace Johnston
Commissioner Andrew Kastning
Commissioner Erin Kirkland
Commissioner Alison Smith

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Eric Milliken

A quorum was achieved with five members present.

A new commissioner, Andrew Kastning, has joined the Commission.

Staff present:

Josh Durand
Steve Rafuse
Tom Korosei
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kirkland and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Agenda for the January 9, 2020 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Chang and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, the Minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

Josh Durand, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided the following comments:

Josh Durand has been appointed as Director of Parks and Recreation. Steve Rafuse has been promoted to Park Superintendent.

Homeless camp cleanup: In 2019 449 tons of trash were removed from homeless camps. In 2018 it was 243 tons; in 2017 it was 171 tons; in 2016 it was 133 tons; and in 2015 it was 57 tons. These numbers do not necessarily reflect an increase in the number of camps but rather an increase in and the number of personnel working on the clean up efforts.

Winter maintenance: All ice rinks and lake skating rinks are in good shape and receiving daily maintenance, weather permitting. Trails have been groomed but more snow is needed to set tracks for skiing.

The Family Skate program starts at Westchester Lagoon this week and will happen every Saturday from January 11 through February 29 at 1:00 p.m.

The Frosty Bottom fat tire bike race starts and ends at Kincaid and utilizes the Coastal Trail, Chester Creek Trail, and trails at Far North Bicentennial park.

Next month the lease of the Hilltop ski area will be discussed with Commissioners. Challenge grant projects will be presented by Anchorage Park Foundation.

Steve Rafuse announced that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation, Park Development and Natural Resources Division, was awarded the Alaska Community

Service Award for Health from the Alaska Public Health Association. The award ceremony will be held on January 23, 2020.

VI. Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation

There was no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

VIII. Action Item

- A. PRC 20-01: Proposed Naming of a Public Facility: Naming of a Ball Diamond at Lyn Ary Park in Honor of Martin Charles Smith**
PRC Resolution 2020-01
Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner

The Commission was asked to approve a proposal to name a ball diamond at Lyn Ary Park the "Marty Smith Diamond" in honor of Martin Charles Smith who passed away in 2018. Mr. Smith was involved in promotion of baseball in Anchorage, in particular the Anchorage West Little League, and volunteered significant time, support and inspiration to the community. Many letters of support were received in support of this proposal. The Anchorage Assembly appointed a naming panel whose members are Rachel Christy, Davin Holen, Patricia Kozler and Patricia Redmond. Sharon Lane represents the Mayor's Office. The naming panel presented its proposal to the Turnagain Community Council. The Turnagain Community Council adopted a proposal in support.

Sharon Lane, the Mayor's Office Representative, and Davin Holen of the naming panel provided Commissioners with an overview of the public process conducted and a summary of the reasons why they believe this diamond should be named "Marty Smith Diamond." Also discussed was the sensitivity to the name "Martson Fields" at Lyn Ary Park the decision for the using the name "Marty Smith Diamond."

Copies of the naming panel's presentation to Turnagain Community Council, the Council's resolution, and letters of support were provided to Commissioners.

The Parks and Recreation Department believes that the proposed naming meets the requirements of AMC 3.97 and request the Commission adopt a resolution in support.

Public Appearance Requests

Sandy Rabinowitch, representing Turnagain Community Council, stated that as the Council believes the naming is consistent with the Lyn Ary Park Master Plan, AMC 3.97, and is sensitive to the historical use of the name Marston Fields, the Council passed a resolution in support.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Kirkland and seconded by Commissioner Smith, PRC Resolution No. 2020-01 Proposed Naming of a Public Facility: Marty Smith Diamond was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC Resolution No. 2020-01
Proposed Naming of a Public Facility:
Marty Smith Diamond

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 including municipal parks, 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, in accordance with AMC Chapter 3.97 the Anchorage Assembly passed and approved Resolution No. 2018-349 appointing a citizen naming panel for the honorary naming of a location after Martin "Marty" Charles Smith; and

WHEREAS, the naming panel, after a public hearing held December 17, 2019, proposes naming a certain baseball diamond in Lyn Ary Park in honor of Mr. Smith, and has presented testimony as to the character and contributions of Mr. Smith relevant to the facility and use over several years, contributing to the health and other benefits to the community through Little League baseball in particular; and

WHEREAS, the Turnagain Community Council on December 5, 2019, considered and expressed support for the proposed naming; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission acknowledges written testimony as to the character and contributions of Mr. Smith to the benefit of the citizens of Anchorage, in particular exemplifying high standards of citizenship to the youth sports community and others, and believes that the criteria set forth in AMC Chapter 3.97 are substantially met; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission supports the proposal to name the western-most ball diamond at Lyn Ary Park as the "Marty Smith Diamond."

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 9th day of January, 2020.

Voting record: PRC Resolution 2020-01

In favor: Commissioners Chang, Dyson, Johnston, Kastning, Kirkland and Smith

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioner Milliken

IX. Information Items

No information items were presented.

X. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Chang brought up the email she received from the Assembly that was requesting answers to specific questions regarding sanctioned camps on park lands by March 2, 2020. She previously forwarded said email to Commissioners. This email was apparently not sent directly to Parks and Recreation staff or Commissioners. Commissioners and staff discussed the protocol of response by the Commissioner and it was decided that Commissioner Chang would again send the email to commissioners and staff, and emails circulated to select a time and place for commissioners to meet to draft a response would be scheduled. A final response will be approved at the February 13 meeting.

Commissioner Kastning was welcomed to the Commission and he shared some information about his background, work history, family and interests.

XI. Upcoming Meetings/Agenda Items

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 2020 at Spenard Recreation Center.

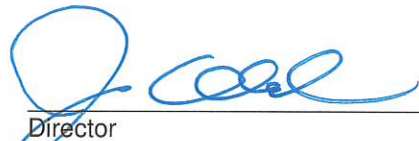
X. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kirkland, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 13th day of February, 2020:



Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission



Director
Parks & Recreation