



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**



February 13, 2020

I. Call to Order

The February 13, 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 Andrew Kastning
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner Alison Smith

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Grace Johnston
Commissioner Erin Kirkland

A quorum was achieved with five members present.

Staff present:

Josh Durand
Steve Rafuse
Taylor Keegan
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Chang and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Agenda for the February 13, 2020 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Kastning, the Minutes of the January 13, 2020 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

Josh Durand, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided an overview of Parks and Recreation activities, including upcoming events, trail and ice rink maintenance, and the Municipality's efforts to secure grants and funding for a spruce bark beetle a program to reduce forest fire risk.

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. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Discussion about the election of a new chair and vice-chair was held. Commissioner Chang stated her interest in acting as Chair. It was noted by Commissioner Dyson that Commissioner Kirkland had indicated her interest in continuing as Vice-Chair. Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and unanimously approved, Commissioner Chang was elected Chair and Commissioner Kirkland was elected Vice-Chair.

IX. Action Items

A. PRC 20-02: University Lake Park Improvements

PRC Resolution 2020-02

Presented by Taylor Keegan, Park Planner

Parks and Recreation proposes improvements to University Lake Park. Following an extensive and thorough master planning process for University Lake, the Master Plan was approved by this Commission in 2016 and by the Planning and Zoning Commission in 2017. Proposed improvements include expansion of the existing parking lot, addition of wayfinding and signage, and trail upgrades. The improvements identified in the Master Plan were reaffirmed by the community during the ongoing planning process and will provide much-needed upgrades for this important community use park and natural area. Construction will begin in summer 2020.

Funding from the 2018 Park Bond package in the amount of \$350,000 will be utilized for the project, and an additional \$250,000 may be realized if voters approve the 2020 Park Bond in April. If the 2020 bond is not approved, not all improvements will be realized during the first phase. Parking lot upgrades will be the first priority. Parking lot upgrades include lighting; kiosks, signage and wayfinding; increased parking from 22 to 57 spaces; landscaping; and trail access.

Trail circulation improvements include rerouting to provide separation of the off-leash loop and the multi-use trail. Currently conflicts have arisen between active trail users (cyclists, runners and skiers) and off-leash dogs. Upgrades should reduce these conflicts.

Signage and wayfinding will be added to help users navigate the park and minimize conflicts between various trail users, particularly as it pertains to off-leash and multi-use trail designations. Wayfinding is part of the larger effort to provide wayfinding throughout the Anchorage trail system to help users navigate. Upgrades include kiosks, trail designation signage, parks maps and wayfinding, direction signage, mile markers and emergency locators.

Parks and Recreation staff recommends approval of these proposed improvements and a resolution in favor from the Commission.

There were no public appearance requests on this action item.

Following discussion, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Chang and seconded by Commissioner Smith, PRC Resolution 2020-02 University Lake Park Improvements was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC RESOLUTION NO. 2020-02
University Lake Park 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, the University Lake Master Plan was approved by the University Area Community Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission in 2016, and received final approval at the Planning and Zoning Commission in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements were identified as priorities in the University Lake Park Master Plan and include parking lot upgrades, trail circulation improvements, and wayfinding; and

WHEREAS, the proposed parking lot upgrades are intended to meet the demand for parking by park users while improving safety and providing amenities and includes lighting, circulation upgrades, increased visibility, and additional parking spaces; and

WHEREAS, the proposed trail wayfinding and trail circulation upgrades will help reduce long standing conflicts among trail users by clearly delineating trail designations and helping visitors navigate the park safely; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the improvements proposed for University Lake Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of February, 2020.

Voting record on PRC No. 2020-02:

Yea: Commissioners Chang, Dyson, Kastning, Milliken, and Smith

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioners Johnston and Kirkland

B. PRC 20-03 William B. Lyons Park Improvements

PRC Resolution No. 2020-03

Presented by Taylor Keegan, Park Planner

William B. Lyons Park is located in Mountain View directly behind the Mountain View Community Center which is also the Boys and Girls Club Center. The special use park currently has a parking lot, terraced seating, a pavilion, and open space. Parks and Recreation proposes improvements that include installation of new play equipment for toddlers and school-age children, new amenities, and adult fitness equipment. Construction is planned for summer 2020.

In 2019, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Mountain View Community Center, the Anchorage Community Land Trust, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, and the Boys and Girls Club entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to begin the process of making improvements in the Mountain View neighborhood. William B. Lyons Park was identified as a priority and in 2019 voters approved the bond for funding (\$300,000). Additional funding has been secured from the Anchorage Park Foundation (\$100,000), the Land and Water Conservation Fund (\$157,000), and Wells Fargo (\$50,000). The total project budget is \$607,000.

The community planning process to identify and prioritize improvements included a public workshop, two advisory group meetings, presentations at the Mountain View Community Center, and an online survey. The public workshop was held during the afterschool program at the Boys and Girls Club and was attended by members of the general public, including a large number of neighborhood youth. The second and third meetings were with the community advisory group focused on identifying and prioritizing improvements, and provided input on design concepts. The Mountain View Community Council has provided a resolution supporting the improvements.

Parks and Recreation recommends approval by this Commission. Upon this Commission's resolution supporting the improvements, the project will be presented to the Urban Design Commission for final approval.

There were no public appearance requests for this action item.

Following discussion, upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner Kastning, PRC Resolution 2020-03 was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC RESOLUTION NO. 20-03
William B. Lyons Park 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, improvements at William B. Lyons Park were identified as a neighborhood priority and formalized in a 2019 Memorandum of Agreement between the Municipality of Anchorage, the Mountain View Community Council, the Anchorage Community Land Trust, Cook Inlet Housing Authority, and the Boys and Girls Club; and

WHEREAS, the planning and public involvement process for William B. Lyons Park was guided by an advisory group and included planning meetings, site visits and a public workshop with youth at the Mountain View Boys and Girls Club; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements include new play equipment, inclusive unitary playground surfacing, upgraded pathways and circulation, adult fitness equipment, and other amenities to improve the experience of park users; and

WHEREAS, the future development of William B. Lyons Park as identified in this plan will provide positive and active recreation activities for all members of the Mountain View community; and

WHEREAS, the project received a resolution of support from the Mountain View Community Council on February 12, 2020; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the improvements proposed at William B. Lyons Park.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of February 2020.

Voting record on PRC No. 2020-03:

Yea: Commissioners Chang, Dyson, Kastning, Milliken, and Smith

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Commissioners Johnston and Kirkland

X. Information Items

There were no information items presented.

XI. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Chang asked how the process for appointment of new commissioners was progressing. Mr. Durand stated that the Administration is still seeking to fill both vacant seats on this Commission.

XII. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled to be held at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, March 12, 2020, at the Spenard Recreation Center.

XIII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Chang, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2020:

Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Director
Parks & Recreation