



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**



**MAY 13, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The March 13, 2021 regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Kelly Chang at 6:06 p.m. The meeting was a virtual meeting held using Microsoft Teams.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Kelly Chang  
Commissioner Jon Dyson  
Commissioner Grace Johnston  
Commissioner Andrew Kastning  
Commissioner Eric Milliken  
Commissioner Alison Smith

A quorum was achieved with six members present.

Staff present:

Josh Durand  
Steve Rafuse  
Tom Korosei  
Brad Muir  
Annie DuBois  
Diana Cramer

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Dyson and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Agenda for the May 13, 2021 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Johnston and seconded by Commissioner Milliken, the Minutes of the March 11, 2021 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission as amended were unanimously approved.

## **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**

Josh Durand provided information on Parks and Recreation activities and concerns:

Parks bond: The parks bond passed so we will be able to continue to make improvements to parks, trails and community-identified projects. .

Three new commissioners were introduced last night at the Assembly. Their names are Brian Looney, Nora Morse, and Tracey Christopherson. We also are extending the terms of Kelly Chang and Grace Johnston.

Commissioners were asked to provide ideas for American Rescue Act funding. The quick responses were greatly appreciated. The ideas have been submitted to the Mayor's Office.

This is going to be a very busy construction season with a lot of great projects including Elderberry Park, William B. Lyons, and Goose Lake just to name a few.

Horticulture Supervisor, Sandy Potvin, has resigned after 11 years with the Department. She has done an amazing job overseeing beautification and landscaping projects, as well as providing guidance for the food forests and community gardens. A new person has been selected for the position who comes to us with experience working New York City parks and botanical gardens. He will be starting on May 24.

The Healthy Spaces division, which focuses on illegal camp abatement and loose trash cleanup, is up and running. Currently 10 individuals have been hired with several more still to be hired. This will be a year-round program.

We continue to remove beetle-killed spruce from our parks and trails, and seek funding to feed the ever-expanding demand for tree removal. Over 2,000 trees were removed as a result of last year's fall and winter efforts. We will be bringing in new trees to plant to plant in areas that were significantly impacted.

Jewel Lake and Goose Lake will open for swimming next Friday.

Commissioner Kastning asked if we were continuing to allow people to remove the downed trees for firewood. Mr. Durand responded that that was allowed during the colder months, but in warmer weather the risk of spreading a beetle infestation was too great to

allow the downed trees to be removed. There will likely be more opportunities for the public to gather wood this winter.

Commissioner Chang requested that Mr. Durand repeat the names of the new commissioners: those names are Brian Looney, Nora Morse, and Tracey Christopherson.

## **APPEARANCE REQUESTS**

There were no appearance requests on non-agenda items.

## **ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION REPORT**

There was no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **1. PRC 21-06: West Anchorage Snow Disposal Site Access and use of Dedicated Parkland**

PRC Resolution 2021-04

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner, and Julie Makela, PM&E Project Manager

Project Management and Engineering (PM&E) is proposing to use a 8,917 sq. ft. section of dedicated park land in Connors Bog Park to construct an access road to serve the proposed new West Anchorage snow disposal site. Use of dedicated parkland for another municipal use requires review by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission, as well as approval by the Anchorage Assembly. The Commission previously heard information on the proposed snow disposal site at its September 2020 meeting. The new facility is on 14-20 acres of adjoining, undeveloped natural resource park land that is not formally dedicated. To mitigate the effect on the use of park land, PM&E proposes to add fencing for safety and access control along the disposal site and access road, wayfinding and interpretive signage or kiosks, and park benches. Details of the proposed project was provided in the Commissioners' meeting packet and Julie Makela, PM&E Project Manager, discussed how the decision for the proposed access route was made.

Parks and Recreation requests the Commission adopt a resolution recommending use of the 8,917 sq. ft. section of dedicated park land in Connors Bog Park to construct the access route for the proposed snow disposal facility, subject to municipal code and incorporation of design features including, but not limited to, berms, landscaping, perimeter trail along Minnesota Drive, fencing, signage, and other amenities.

Julie Makela then answered questions from the Commissioners and provided more detail about the reasons for proposing the new snow dump site.

There were no public appearance requests for this action item.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Dyson and seconded by Commissioner Smith, PRC Resolution 2021-04 “Proposed Use of Dedicated Park Lands at Connors Bog Park for Access to the West Anchorage Snow Disposal Site” was approved on a vote of 5 to 1. The Resolution is attached as Attachment 1 to these minutes.

Voting record - PRC Resolution 2021-04:

In favor – Commissioners Chang, Dyson, Kastning, Johnston and Smith

Opposed – Commissioner Milliken

Abstaining – None

Absent – None

## **2. PRC 21-07 Dave Rose Park Parking Lot Expansion**

PRC Resolution 2021-05

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Superintendent

Parks and Recreation proposes to expand the parking lot at Dave Rose Park to help meet the increased demand for parking on weekends due to increased use by the kilikiti cricket league. The expansion will also include a power outlet to support PA systems for sporting events, a location for portable toilets, an ADA trail connection to the existing paved trail loop, and new amenities such as trash cans and benches.

Parks and Recreation recommends approval of a resolution supporting this project.

There were no appearance requests for this action item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner Smith, PRC Resolution 2021-05 “Dave Rose Park Parking Lot Expansion” was unanimously approved. The Resolution is attached as Attachment 2 to these minutes.

Voting record - PRC Resolution 2021-05:

In favor – Commissioners Chang, Dyson, Kastning, Johnston, Milliken and Smith

Opposed – None

Abstaining – None

Absent – None

## **3. PRC 21-08 Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) 2021 Summer Projects**

PRC Resolution 2021-06

Present by Brad Muir, Natural Resources Manager, and Annie DuBois, YEP Program Manager

Youth Employment in Projects is starting its 15<sup>th</sup> summer in operation. Mr. Muir provided an overview of the program, and the application, interview and selection process of

program participants. He also gave a general description of the projects proposed for 2021. The projects include:

- University Lake Dog Park trail upgrades,
- Far North Bicentennial Park/Tour of Anchorage Trail upgrades,
- Campbell Creek Greenbelt tree planting,
- Frontierland Park landscaping and tree planting,
- Westchester Lagoon Nature Trail streambank restoration,
- Chanshtnu Muldoon Park trail and overlook construction, and community garden development, and
- Far North Bicentennial Park Campbell Tract trail maintenance.

Parks and Recreation supports the proposed projects and recommends that the Commission pass a resolution approving the 2021 YEP projects.

There were no public appearance requests for this action item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Dyson and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, PRC Resolution 2021-06 “Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) 2021 Projects” was unanimously approved. The Resolution is attached as Attachment 3 to these minutes.

Voting record - PRC Resolution 2021-06:

In favor – Commissioners Chang, Dyson, Kastning, Johnston, Milliken and Smith

Opposed – None

Abstaining – None

Absent – None

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

### **4. PRC 21-09 1% for Art Installations at Fairview Recreation Center and Ship Creek Trail, Salmon in the City Art Installations at Chester Creek**

Present by Tom Korosei, Park Planner, and  
Gideon Gerlt, Curator of Public Art

As part of the 1% for Art Program, three art projects are proposed for Anchorage parks and trails for 2021. The projects are directed by Gideon Gerlt, the Municipal Curator of Public Art, with assistance from Parks and recreation staff. Mr. Gerlt described the process for site selection and for recruiting and selecting artists pursuant to the public art process outlined in AMC 7.40, Funds for Works of Art in Public Facilities” and the Public Art “Policy and Procedures Manual.” He also provided general details about the projects that have been selected which are in the concept stage.

The projects are:

- Fairview Recreation Center indoor playground, one art installation.

- Ship Creek Trail, proposed for a high visibility location near where the trail and the railroad cross Ship Creek. This project is funded by the AWWU Ship Creek Water Treatment Facility construction project and, as it is on railroad property, must be approved by the Alaska Railroad.
- Two Salmon in the City projects –
  - Westchester Lagoon Overlook - 2 paintings by Danielle Larsen to be created on site then permanent installed on the Busy Beans Café near the Westchester Lagoon Overlook and a non-permanent fish-drying rack created by Charlie Pardue.
  - Westchester Lagoon Area – murals by artists Will Kozloff and Rejoy Armamento to be painted on bridge structures at A Street and C Street. These bridges are owned by the State of Alaska and the projects must be approved by Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

The Public Art Program confirms that MOA Maintenance and Operations will be responsible for maintenance of these public art installations. Installation is expected to commence this summer.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Chang announced that she intends to step down from the commission sometime this summer, probably as soon as the three new commissioners are on board.

### **Upcoming Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, June 10, 2021, and will be held using Microsoft Teams.

### **Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 10th day of June, 2021:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair  
Parks & Recreation Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Parks & Recreation



**Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska  
Parks & Recreation Commission**

632 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 630  
P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519



**Resolution No. 2021-04**

**Proposed Use of Dedicated Park Lands at Connors Bog Park for Access to the West Anchorage Snow Disposal Site**

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission serves in an advisory capacity to both the Mayor and the Assembly;

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;

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Project Management and Engineering (PM&E) Department is proposing to develop a snow disposal site south of Javier De La Vega Park in the easterly part of Connor's Bog Park (Exhibit A);

WHEREAS, the proposed snow disposal site requires an access road that traverses a portion of Connor's Bog Park;

WHEREAS, the proposed access road would require an Intragovernmental Use Permit (Exhibit B) to use approximately 8,917 square feet of Connor's Bog Park, a municipal park including approximately 104 acres formally dedicated;

WHEREAS, the affected area of Connor's Bog Park is primarily a natural resource area with unpaved and/or social trails used by dog walkers in winter months and connecting to Javier De La Vega Park;

WHEREAS, PM&E agrees to work with the Parks and Recreation Department to offset impacts to trails and visual impacts of the proposed snow disposal site with design features including reconstructing trails, including an improved perimeter trail along the easterly part of the park parallel to Minnesota Drive, landscaping, and other improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Sand Lake Community Council at its meeting of March 8, 2021, considered the proposed snow disposal site and indicated general support; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends approval of the Intragovernmental Use Permit or other form as appropriate to allow use of a portion of Connor's Bog Park for an access road to the proposed West Anchorage Snow Disposal Site, subject to the process outlined in Anchorage Municipal Code, and incorporation of design features in facility plans to offset trail and visual impacts to the reasonable satisfaction of the Parks and Recreation Department. Such design features shall include but not be limited to berms and landscaping, perimeter trail along Minnesota Drive, and fencing, signage, and other amenities.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of May, 2021.

**Kelly Chang**

Digitally signed by Kelly Chang  
Date: 2021.05.14 09:21:33  
-08'00'

Kelly Chang, Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

  
Josh Durand, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department



**Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**

632 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 630  
P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519  
Tel 907-343-4355  
URL [www.muni.org/departments/parks](http://www.muni.org/departments/parks)



**PRC RES NO. 2021-05**

**DAVE ROSE PARK PARKING LOT EXPANSION**

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, Dave Rose Park became the home of the Alaska Cricket Association in 2017 and currently hosts Samoan Cricket (Kilikiti) matches on weekends during the summer; and

WHEREAS, the popularity of Kilikiti at Dave Rose Park has resulted in a shortage of available parking at the park leading to congestion and parking along neighborhood streets; and

WHEREAS, the proposed parking lot expansion from 25 to 50 spaces will help meet the demand for parking at Dave Rose Park; and

WHEREAS, the parking lot upgrades will include a power outlet to support sports events, a location for fenced port-o-potties, an ADA connection to the existing paved trail loop, and new amenities such as trash cans and benches.

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements are supported by the Russian Jack Community Council; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed improvements for Dave Rose Park as submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department.

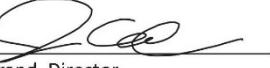
PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of May, 2021.

**Kelly Chang**

Digitally signed by Kelly Chang  
Date: 2021.05.14 09:22:02  
+08'00'

Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

  
Josh Durand, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska

**ATTACHMENT 2 - MAY 13, 2021, MINUTES PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**





**Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**

632 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 630  
P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519



**PRC RES NO. 2021-06**  
**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT IN PARKS (YEP) - 2021 PROJECTS**

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 Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) is a joint program of the Anchorage Park Foundation and the Municipality of Anchorage's Parks & Recreation Department and is focused on providing Anchorage teens with meaningful job experience, outdoor education and environmental stewardship skill in Anchorage Parks and Trails; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department, the Anchorage Park Foundation, and various project partners has dedicated or achieved \$272,500 in funding to support the 2021 Youth Employment in Parks projects; and

WHEREAS the Youth Employment in Parks (YEP) is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation with a planned scope of work that includes trail work, bank restoration, slope stabilization, landscaping and vegetation rehabilitation, and park beautification projects to be completed during the 2021 YEP program season; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the scope of work submitted by the Department for the 2021 Youth Employment in Parks Projects.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 13th day of May, 2021.

**Kelly Chang**

Digitally signed by Kelly  
Chang  
Date: 2021.05.14 09:22:29  
-08'00'

Chair  
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

Josh Durand, Director  
Parks & Recreation Department

ATTACHMENT - MAY 13, 2021 MINUTES PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION