



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**



May 14, 2020

I. Call to Order

The May 14, 2020 regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Kelly Chang at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was a virtual meeting held using Microsoft Teams.

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 Grace Johnston
Commissioner Erin Kirkland
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner Alison Smith

A quorum was achieved with five members present.

Staff present:

Josh Durand
Steve Rafuse
Maeve Nevins-Lavtar
Taylor Keegan
Tom Korosei
Diana Cramer

III. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Dyson and seconded by Commissioner Kirkland, the Agenda for the May 14, 2020 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Minutes of the February 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 how the Covid-19 pandemic has affected park operations and facilities, and the process for reopening and permitting use of those facilities.

Elizabeth Stanley, Administrative Manager for Parks and Recreation, retired recently and Shanna Alexander was hired for that position. Ms. Alexander comes to Parks and Recreation with a strong background in finance, budget and management, and experience using SAP.

The Youth Employment in Parks program will be starting in July. Details on proposed YEP projects for the summer will be presented to Commissioners in June.

Park construction projects will commence in June.

Recreation staff are working on summer events – mountain biking jamboree, GIS scavenger hunt, victory gardens, and other ideas are in the works.

Homeless camp cleanup continues, with crews hitting things hard for about the last two weeks. In just one week, 40,000 pounds of trash was taken to the dump from camp cleanups. The site at 3rd and Ingra on the old Native hospital grounds has been completely cleaned up. The crews will now focus on the Chester Creek Greenbelt between A Street and the New Seward Highway.

There are ongoing challenges related to spruce bark beetles and invasive species such as bird cherry trees that will be topics presented at future meetings.

VI. Appearance Requests

There were no appearance requests for non-agenda items.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation

Diana Rhoads, Anchorage Park Foundation and Karol Fink of the State Department of Public Health, presented information from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

Ms. Rhoads discussed the Connect Anchorage program and the Moose Loop, so named because it looks like the profile of a moose. Connect Anchorage looks for ways to connect Anchorage through our parks and trails and created the Moose Loop map using Google maps. The Moose Loop is about 32½ miles of trail connecting the major trail systems in Anchorage. As part of this topic, the dangerous connection on the Campbell Creek Trail at Lake Otis and the complications in resolving that issue were discussed.

Ms. Fink is the Director of Physical Activity and Nutrition for the State Department of Public Health. She discussed connecting trails, parks and health, about recommendations for physical activity and good health and how physical activity improves the quality of life, and how Alaskans rate in meeting recommended physical activity guidelines. Physical activity increases when everyday destinations are connected by a physically active route. She has been working with state and local partners to create these connections and educate the community.

VIII. Action Items

A. PRC 20-04 Elderberry Park Upgrades

PRC Resolution 2020-04

Presented by Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Senior Park Planner

Elderberry Park is a neighborhood park in downtown Anchorage. A master plan for the park was completed in 2016. Priorities for improvement include playground upgrades, ADA compliant pathways, a plaza/overlook, terraced seating area, a new M Street path to the Coastal Trail, and improved visibility of the Oscar Anderson House. Gardens and ADA access were upgrade and improvements made at Oscar Anderson House in 2019. This phase of the improvements will focus on the playground and circulation. Using a Powerpoint presentation, Ms. Nevins-Lavtar provided details of the proposed improvements for the playground and the new pathways. Construction will begin this summer. Funding for the project is from bonds and a donation from the Downtown Rotary Club.

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends approval of the proposed improvements.

Public Appearance Request

Leah Boltz is the co-founder of Parks for All and past president of the Downtown Rotary. Downtown Rotary specifically looked for an inclusive play project in downtown Anchorage to support. This project will make a difference to the community by providing inclusive play opportunities and so Downtown Rotary made a \$21,000 donation to support the project.

Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Dyson and seconded Kirkland, PRC Resolution 2020-04 Elderberry Park 2020 Improvements was unanimously approved. A copy of the approved resolution is attached to these Minutes as Attachment A.

Voting record:

In favor – Chang, Dyson, Johnston, Kastning, Kirkland, Milliken and Smith
Opposed – none
Abstained – none

B. PRC 20-05 Hamilton Park 2020 Upgrades

PRC Resolution 2020-05

Presented by Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Senior Park Planner

Hamilton Park is a neighborhood park in the Old Seward/Ocean View Community Council district. Capital improvement requests were approved in 2019 and the project received \$200,000 from the 2019 park bond. Proposed improvements for 2020 include refurbishing the existing 2-5 year old tot lot with upgraded surfacing and safety bar; replacing the existing swings; rehabilitating the asphalt path; remove cottonwoods that have damaged the hardscape; expand the playground to include 5-12 year old play equipment; replacing existing benches with picnic tables; and refurbishing the basketball court. Using a Powerpoint presentation, Ms. Nevins-Lavtar provided details of the proposed improvements.

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends approval of the proposed improvements.

There were no appearance requests for this action item.

Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner Smith, PRC Resolution 2020-05 Hamilton Park Upgrades was unanimously approved. A copy of the approved resolution is attached to these Minutes as Attachment B.

Voting record:

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

Opposed – none

Abstained – none

C. PRC 20-06 Tikishla Park 2020 Upgrades

Resolution No. 2020-06

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Superintendent

Proposed improvements at Tikishla Park for 2020 include parking lot upgrades; a plaza, inclusive playground, and landscaping; a small sledding hill; and LED lighting upgrades. The proposed improvements are consistent with the 2018 Tikishla Park Master Plan and priorities identified by the community. Using a Powerpoint presentation, Mr. Rafuse provided a description of the proposed projects which will focus on the area of the park located at East 20th Avenue. Project funding comes from the 2018, 2019 and 2020 park bonds.

The Parks and Recreation Department recommends approval of these improvements by the Commission.

There were no appearance requests for this action item.

Resolution

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Dyson and seconded by Commissioner Smith, PRC Resolution 2020-06 Tikishla Park 2020 Improvements was unanimously approved. A copy of the approved resolution is attached to these Minutes as Attachment C.

Voting record:

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

Opposed – none

Abstained – none

IX. Information Items

A. PRC 20-07 Campbell Creek Trail Rehabilitation – Phase 5

Presented by Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Senior Park Planner

This project is a continuation of the Campbell Creek Trail Rehabilitation project that began in 2013. Phase 5 includes a new steel bridge, trail realignment of a short section of the trail to avoid creek erosion hazards, addition of soft-surface shoulders on each side of the trail, and wayfinding. There will be little disturbance to users of the trail during construction. Access to the construction area will be through the Fairbanks Street spur trail. The old bridge will remain in place while the new bridge is being constructed, after which in 2021 the old bridge will be removed. It is anticipated that construction will begin in August 2020. Asphalt work will likely not be completed until spring 2021. Engineering and design for the 2021 Phase 6 will begin in September 2020.

B. PRC 20-08 Bonnie Cusack Outdoor Hockey Rinks at Chester Creek Sports Complex

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner and
Edwin Blair and John Monroe, Anchorage Skate Club

Representatives of the Anchorage Skate Club provided information on the proposed upgrades to the Bonnie Cusack outdoor hockey rinks. This is an Anchorage Park Foundation Challenge Grant project that includes repairs to fencing, rinks, and the warming shelter; a new sign/reader board with electronic displays; a new public address system; and restoration of the turf area along the parking lot to the north. Fence repairs will increase security. Repairs to the warming shelter will address maintenance issues with new door, flooring and locker room cabinets. Dasher boards will be repaired and new bench/bleacher added to the rink area. The electronic displays and PA system will be supported by upgrades to the electrical system. The restored turf will improve the overall appearances of the facility during non-winter months. The project is expected to be completed this year.

X. Commissioner Comments

There were no commissioner comments.

XI. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., June 11, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., at Spenard Recreation Center unless otherwise announced prior to said meeting.

XII. Adjournment


Upon motion made by Commissioner Dyson, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 11 day of JUNE, 2020:

Kelly Chang

Digitally signed by Kelly
Chang
Date: 2020.06.16 14:12:21
-08'00'

Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission



Director
Parks & Recreation



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

632 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519
Tel 907-343-4355
URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



**PRC RES NO. 2020-04
ELDERBERRY PARK 2020 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 Elderberry Park Master Plan was completed in 2016 providing a 20-year vision for the management, maintenance, and development of the park; and

WHEREAS, the first phase of implementation will focus on addressing public safety concerns as well as the community's desire for investment at Elderberry Park at West 5th Ave. and M St.; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements are consistent with community priorities outlined in the master plan and reaffirmed through the planning process and include improved ADA circulation, new paths and plazas, playground, landscaping, amenities, and LED lighting; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements are supported by the South Addition Community Council; and


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

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of May, 2020.

Kelly Chang
Digitally signed by Kelly Chang
Date: 2020.05.15 08:31:31
+0800

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST


Josh Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska



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

632 W. 8th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519
Tel 907-343-4355
URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



**PRO RES NO. 2020-05
HAMILTON PARK UPGRADES**

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, Hamilton Park is a 1.69-acre Neighborhood Use Park located in the Old Seward/Oceanview area of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department has worked with volunteer community advisors and the Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council to identify and prioritize maintenance improvements at Hamilton Park; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department has worked with volunteer community advisors to select the preferred unique playground equipment that would rehabilitate and improve inclusivity of an existing playground; and

WHEREAS, additionally, the proposed improvements include maintenance rehabilitation of the existing cracked asphalt trail, safety surfacing upgrades to existing toddler play area (ages 0-5), new "beginner" sledding hill (3-4 feet in height), an upgraded playground with custom designed "Ninja Course" play equipment geared for children ages 5-12 and a new ADA access connection from existing asphalt trail, as well as landscaping and beautification, and

WHEREAS, these proposed improvements are supported by the Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council, as presented at their February 26, 2020 meeting, and supported by the Parks and Recreation Department, and


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

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of May 2020

Kelly Chang Digitally signed by Kelly Chang
Date: 2020.05.15 08:53:23 -08'00'

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:


Joshua Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska



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

832 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 630
P.O. Box 196650
Anchorage, AK 99519
Tel 907-343-4355
URL www.muni.org/departments/parks



PRC RES NO. 2020-06

TIKISHLA PARK 2020 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 Tikishla Park Master Plan was completed in 2018 providing a 20-year vision for the management, maintenance, and development of the park; and

WHEREAS, the first phase of implementation will focus on addressing public safety concerns as well as the community's desire for investment at Tikishla Park at East 20th Ave; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements are consistent with community priorities outlined in the master plan and reaffirmed through the planning process and include a new plaza and playground, landscaping, amenities, parking lot upgrades, and LED lighting; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements are supported by the Airport Heights Community Council; and


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

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission this 14th day of May, 2020.

Kelly Chang Digitally signed by Kelly Chang
Date: 2020.05.14 08:53:13
+08'00'

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:


Josh Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska