



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

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING**

**September 12, 2019**



**I. Call to Order**

The September 12, 2019 meeting of the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission, held at Spenard Recreation Center, was called to order by Chair Jon Dyson at 6:00 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken by John Rodda, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Kelly Chang  
Commissioner Jon Dyson  
Commissioner Grace Johnston  
Commissioner Erin Kirkland  
Commissioner Shannon Kuhn  
Commissioner James Winchester

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Eric Milliken  
Commissioner Alison Smith

A quorum was achieved with six members present.

Staff present:

John Rodda  
Josh Durand  
Maeve Nevins  
Taylor Keegan  
Diana Cramer

### **III. Approval of Agenda**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kirkland and seconded by Commissioner Chang, the Agenda for the September 12, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation was unanimously approved.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Winchester and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, the Minutes of the August 8, 2019 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

### **V. Director's Comments**

John Rodda, Director of Parks and recreation, provided the following comments:

1. We have completed the infield turf repairs and outfield warning track improvements at Mulcahy Park.
2. Hilltop Ski Area / Youth Exploring Adventure lease agreement expires in April 2020 and we are working on the voter-approved 10-year extension. This will be coming back to the Commission as the amended lease agreement is finalized.
3. Mayor's Marathon has chosen a new race route to include starting at Kincaid Park and not utilizing the JBER trails or facilities. The intent is to showcase our trail system and facilities, and not interfere with the military training areas east of Muldoon. The race will end at the Park Strip.
4. CWS / homeless cleanup crews have collected 341 tons of material from camp sites so far this year. This is 97 tons more than all of last year, and it is expected that we will exceed 400 tons by the time the crews are laid off in mid-October.
5. Mr. Rodda said thank you to the Commission for their community contributions, support for Parks and Recreation, and allowing him the privilege to work with so many wonderful people.

### **VI. Appearance Requests**

There was one appearance request for non-agenda items. Lester Sheppard presented his vision for a tennis facility to be constructed at Goose Lake Park. The Commission

advised Mr. Sheppard to reach out to Parks and Recreation staff and follow the proper procedure for presenting his proposal for approval.

## **VII. Anchorage Park Foundation**

There was no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

## **VIII. Action Item**

### **PRC 19-11 Taku Lake Park – South Gateway Improvements**

Resolution No. 2019-8

Presented by Taylor Keegan, Park Planner

Taylor Keegan, Park Planner, discussed the improvements, which were identified in the 2018 master planning process, to be undertaken in 2020 at Taku Lake Park. The improvements will focus on the South Gateway at Taku Lake Park. These will include a new skate park, a new inclusive playground, picnic areas, landscaping, circulation improvements, safety upgrades, lighting and new amenities. She provided details about the park's history and the planning and design process. The proposed improvements were largely driven by public workshops as well as the master plan. The skate park and playground will be in the same location where they are located presently, but each will be expanded. The adult fitness center will be relocated closer to the Campbell Creek Trail. LED lighting technology will be utilized, existing light posts retrofitted, and new lights installed where necessary. The parking lot will be upgraded with improved lighting, striping, signage and pedestrian walkways. The theme will reflect the natural environment and existing conditions. The play equipment will be forest themed highlighting the colors of the birch grove. The skate park will reflect an Alaska flag theme in its design. Details on project funding were provided.

Parks and Recreation staff recommends the Commission pass the proposed resolution supporting the improvements identified for the South Gateway of Taku Lake Park.

There were no Appearance Requests for this Action Item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Chang and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, Resolution No. 2019-08, Taku Park South Gateway Improvements, was unanimously approved as follows:

PRC RESOLUTION NO. 2019-08  
Taku Park South Gateway 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, Taku Lake Park is a 53 acre park located along the Campbell Creek Greenbelt in the Taku/Campbell neighborhood of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department collaborated with local community members and stakeholders on the 2018 *Taku Lake Park Master Plan* to identify improvements proposed for the South Gateway; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department has continued to work with the community throughout the design development process soliciting input from the community advisory group, skatepark users, local businesses, and the general public through a series of workshops and design meetings; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed South Gateway improvements include skatepark upgrades, a new inclusive playground, picnic areas, circulation improvements, safety upgrades and lighting, landscaping, and new amenities;

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements are intended to serve the larger community offering a range of highly desirable recreational opportunities for families and individuals of all ages and abilities; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the Taku Lake Park South Gateway 2020 Improvements project.

Voting record Resolution PRC 2019-08:

Yea: Commissioners Chang, Dyson, Johnston, Kirkland, Kuhn,  
and Winchester

Nay: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Milliken and Smith

## **IX. Information Items**

### **A. Campbell Creek Trail Resurfacing and Upgrades – Phase 4**

Presented by Maeve Nevins-Lavtar, Park Planner

Using funding from the 2019 park bond and residual funding from last year's project, Phase 4 of the Campbell Creek Trail project is underway. This phase of trail resurfacing and upgrades will cover the trail from 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue near Taku Elementary School to the bridge at Fairbanks Street and 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This phase should take about six weeks to accomplish.

### **B. Vision Zero**

Presented by Holly Spoth-Torres, Huddle

Vision Zero is a community initiative whose commitment is for zero fatalities as a result of the transportation system in our city through engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement, and evaluation.

### **C. South Anchorage Sports Park – North 70 Acres**

Presented by John Rodda, Director, Parks and Recreation

Now that 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been completed, Parks and Recreation is moving forward on development of the north 70 acres of South Anchorage Sports Park. Bids will go out very soon requesting proposals from contractors to extract and use the fill on the site, and in exchange the contractor will provide Parks and Recreation with a developed site. This will be a long-term project. A decision as to what the site will be used for has yet to be made. It could be an opportunity for the community to create a major outdoor event venue, or it could be developed for sporting events or multiple activities. The Commission will be presented with information as things develop.

## **X. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Kirkland stated that she is on the Russian Jack Springs Park master planning committee. On Saturday, September 28, 2019, at Lidia Selkregg Chalet, there will be an open house to kick off the community involvement for the plan.

## **XI. Upcoming Meetings**

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 10, 2019, at Spenard Recreation Center.

## **XII. Adjournment**

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kuhn, seconded by Commissioner Johnston, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019: 2020

  
Chair

Parks & Recreation Commission

  
Director

Parks & Recreation