



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**



August 13, 2020

I. Call to Order

The August 13, 2020 regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Kelly Chang at 6:05 p.m. The meeting was a virtual meeting held using Microsoft Teams.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken by Chair Kelly Chang.

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Kelly Chang
Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Erin Kirkland
Commissioner Eric Milliken
Commissioner Alison Smith

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Grace Johnston
Commissioner Andrew Kastning

A quorum was achieved with five members present.

Staff present:

Steve Rafuse
Tom Korosei
Taylor Keegan

III. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kirkland and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Agenda for the August 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 Dyson, the Minutes of the July 9, 2020 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission were unanimously approved.

V. Director's Comments

Josh Durand, Director of Parks and Recreation provided this report on Parks and Recreation activities:

CARES Act funding: The intent of CARES Act funding is intended to get unemployed and furloughed workers back in the work force. Parks and Recreation is the recipient of 3 million dollars of outdoor public lands money for projects in Anchorage, Eagle River and Girdwood. Round 1 funds will be used for trails, the Eagle River Nature Center, indigenous place naming, and the spruce bark beetle tree abatement program.

Parks and Recreation has three open positions: a Community Engagement Specialist/ Volunteer Coordinator, an Associate Planner, and a Landscape Architect.

Parks and Recreation is looking into ways Fairview Recreation Center and Spenard Recreation Center can be utilized to help provide child care services for the community.

Homeless camps: To date this year we have removed 282 tons of trash from our public spaces and rights-of-way throughout town. 6,400 hours have been dedicated to the cause from our staff and CWS workers. The Municipality is looking at changes to how we do camp abatement – specifically turning it into a year-round program and determining whether the program will continue under Parks and Recreation or be moved to Solid Waste Services or another municipal department.

Youth Employment in Parks successfully completed their planned projects this summer in spite of the shortened season.

Construction projects are underway at Chanshtnu Muldoon (Phase 2), Jewel Lake, and Hamilton Park, and Frontierland will begin next week. Upcoming projects are connecting Fish Creek Trail to the Coastal Trail and connecting the Ship Creek Trail to the Coastal Trail.

Emergency Order 16 limits gatherings in public spaces to 50 people (25 if there is food) which has created limitations for special events and large gatherings, therefore none have been permitted. The order has had no effect on other permitted park activities.

VI. Appearance Requests

There was one public appearance request for a non-agenda item.

Daniel Kim, a retired army combat veteran and Eagle River resident, said his reason for addressing the commission was to promote the petition to change the name of Anchorage's Town Square Park to Black Lives Matter Park. He believes this wonderful name change not only would speak to Anchorage's commitment to equity but also its commitment to anti-racism, an example that other cities can aspire to. He said a public naming panel has already been chosen and the public naming process is underway.

VII. Anchorage Park Foundation Report

Beth Nordlund, Executive Director of the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF), stated that the CARES Act funding passed by the Assembly on August 12 included \$40,000 for indigenous placenaming plazas. She also stated that, as Mr. Durand said, the Youth Employment in Parks program had a shortened, but successful, season. Ms. Nordlund said that APF continues to promote the Schools on Trails program with the Anchorage School District.

VIII. Action Items

A. PRC 20-12: Renewal of Permit for Telecommunications Tower in Kincaid Park

PRC Resolution 2020-10

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner

This action item was continued from the July 9, 2020 commission meeting primarily to address concerns that Commissioners had related to the visual compatibility of the tower with the park environment. The Commission desired clear conditions of approval to be incorporated into the terms of the permit. Commissioners, working with Mr. Korosei, prepared a revised resolution to be voted on at this meeting. Mr. Korosei noted that one of the Commission's concerns was electrical equipment outside the fenced area that

surrounds the tower. He said that that electrical equipment actually belongs to Chugach Electric Association and is not part of the GCI facility. Other conditions requested by the Commission will be incorporated into the new permit to required landscaping to enhance the appearance of the facility at ground level and that modifications to the tower beacon so that it is less intrusive visually. Parks and Recreation staff recommended approval of the revised resolution.

Commissioner Smith expressed her opinion that because this is a long-term use of dedicated park land it should be a lease rather than a short-term, renewable permit and thus put on the ballot for approval by the voters. Robin Ward, Director of the Municipality's Real Estate Department, stated that the current Administration felt that the benefit provided to the community by the communication tower was too great to risk having it rejected by voters in the event they did not understand the language or terms of the lease. Ms. Ward pointed out that GCI has taken considerable risk installing millions of dollars worth of equipment under a revocable use permit that has no long-term guarantee.

Commissioner Smith also questioned how the stipulations in the permit would be enforced. Mr. Korosei stated that there is a section in permit that allows the Municipality to terminate the permit with 30-days' notice for non-compliance.

There were no public appearance requests on this Action item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Milliken and seconded by Commissioner, PRC Resolution 2020-10 Proposed Renewal of Revocable Use Permit for a Telecommunications Tower at Kincaid Park was approved with 4 commissioners in favor and 1 abstaining.

A copy of the approved resolution is attached to these Minutes as Attachment 1.

Voting Record – PRC Resolution 2020-10:

Aye: Commissioners Chang, Dyson, Kirkland and Milliken

Opposed: None

Abstained: Commissioner Smith abstaining.

Commissioner Smith stated her reason for abstaining is her belief that more thought should be given to this being a lease rather than a permit and that this should be taken up with the next Administration.

B. PRC 20-13: Indigenous Place Names Project – Margaret Eagan Sullivan Park

PRC Resolution 2020-11

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Superintendent and
Bri Keifer, Huddle Alaska

In June, Commissioners were presented with information about the overall vision of the Indigenous Placenames Movement project and specifically asked to approve an installation at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park. That installation was approved by the Commission. Ms. Keifer provided a recap of the program, then presented the proposed installation for Margaret Eagan Sullivan Park at Westchester Lagoon. Two options were presented: Option 1 will use engineered wood turf around the base of the installation and Option 2 would have a concrete plaza rather than engineered wood. Details about and pictures of the proposed site and the place-name signs were provided. This information is included in meeting materials provided to Commissioners. The South Addition Community Council has approved the project.

Commissioner Smith stated she preferred Option 2 that uses asphalt rather than Option 1 that uses engineered wood fiber chips. Mr. Rafuse stated that Option 1 was chosen because of budget constraints but if funding is realized Option 2 will be used. Beth Nordlund of Anchorage Park Foundation stated the Anchorage Assembly has approved additional funding for indigenous place-naming project plazas. Commissioners requested that language should be included in the resolution stating that the Commission prefers Option 2 but is not opposed to Option 1 if funding is not available for Option 2. The resolution was amended at the meeting for vote by the Commissioners.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Dyson and seconded by Commissioner Kirkland, PRC Resolution 2020-11 Indigenous Place Names Project – Margaret Eagan Sullivan Park at Westchester Lagoon, as amended, was unanimously approved. A copy of the approved resolution is attached to these Minutes as Attachment 2.

Voting Record – PRC Resolution 2020-11:

Aye: Commissioners Chang, Dyson, Kirkland, Milliken and Smith

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

C. PRC 20-14: Request for Electrical Easement at KFQD Park

PRC Resolution 2020-12

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner

Chugach Electric Association has requested a 15' x 25' easement in KFQD Park for above-ground electrical equipment intended to serve Bayshore Elementary School. The

easement would overlap an existing underground easement directly across from the school. The new equipment requires more space than the current easements provides. The above-ground equipment is 6' x 6.5" in size and 5' in height. The size of the easement is required to provide a clear zone around the equipment. CEA will re-seed any disturbed areas of the park. Parks and Recreation recommends approval of this easement, subject to the following conditions:

1. Chugach Electric Association, Inc., shall pay to the Municipality applicable fees in addition to fair market value, if assessed, and associated administrative costs.
2. Chugach Electric Association, Inc., shall obtain all other required permits and approvals for the proposed project.
3. Chugach Electric Association, Inc., shall provide appropriate landscaping and screening as mitigation for the visual impact of the equipment at a location to be determined and in accordance with a plan CEA shall submit for approval by the Parks & Recreation Department.

There were no public appearance requests on this Action item.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kirkland and seconded by Commissioner Smith, PRC Resolution 2020-12 Request for Utility Easement at KFQD Park for Electrical Equipment was unanimously approved. A copy of the approved resolution is attached to these Minutes as Attachment 3.

Voting Record – PRC Resolution 2020-12:

Aye: Commissioners Chang, Dyson, Kirkland, Milliken and Smith

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

D. PRC 20-15: Proposed Slalom Course Trail Improvements at Hilltop Ski Area, Far North Bicentennial Park

PRC Resolution 2020-13

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner

The manager of Hilltop Ski Area, Youth Exploring Adventure, Inc. (YEA), has proposed alterations to the Hilltop facility to extend the slalom course on Wolverine Run near the existing ski jump. This project will allow the course to meet standards for particular events and enable race teams to train their athletes for those events. The existing run would be extended to 210 meters. The first 90 meters would require creation of a start mound to be built with existing soil removed from the grading needed for contouring the trail and would require removal of 12 trees, as well as sculpting and grading of the terrain. The

remaining 120 meters would be unaltered. The project is supported by local ski organizations and coaches.

Trevor Bird of YEA stated that the improvements will be a benefit skiers in the Anchorage area by having a slalom course that meets international standards and allows athletes to train on a regulation course. It will also allow YEA to host international slalom competitions.

Parks and Recreation recommends approval of the project subject to the following conditions:

1. YEA shall submit a site development plan acceptable to municipal staff showing specific alterations including clearing, filling, grading, and revegetation.
2. The plans shall minimize site disturbance to the extent possible and shall be consistent with MOA Standards and Specifications (M.A.S.S.) and Design Criteria.
3. YEA shall obtain all other required permits and approvals for the proposed project, including filling, grading, and storm water management.

There were no public appearance requests by the public.

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Kirkland and seconded by Commissioner Dyson, PRC Resolution 2020-13 Hilltop Ski Area Slalom Course Development was unanimously approved. The approved resolution is attached to these Minutes as Attachment 4.

Voting Record – PRC Resolution 2020-13:

Aye: Commissioners Chang, Dyson, Kirkland, Milliken and Smith

Opposed: None

Abstained: None

IX. Information Item

PRC 2020-16: Proposed Temporary Art Installations – Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, Kiwanis Fish Creek Park, and Gardens at Bragaw

Presented by Tom Korosei, Park Planner and

Jonny Hayes, Chief Design Officer for the Anchorage Museum

Mr. Hayes described the concepts planned for the three temporary exhibits to be installed at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, Kiwanis Fish Creek Park, and the Bragaw community gardens. The structures will mirror an exhibit that is currently in place on the Anchorage

Museum lawn. He noted that installation has required no repairs or modification since it has been up. The current project consists of smaller version of the Museum exhibit using the same type of structure and the addition of a printable, vinyl mesh material. The mesh allows both light, sight and precipitation to pass through. The date of installation and the duration is yet to be determined. Mr. Hayes shared program background and funding information, as well as photographs and design details.

Parks and Recreation intends to issue a temporary use permit for the project that includes standard requirements, insurance and compliance with applicable permitting requirements.

X. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Chang inquired whether Commissioners would be interested in an earlier starting time for the meetings so we could be done a little earlier, and suggested 5:30 as the time. Commissioner Kirkland responded that due to after-school sports activities of her children, she was unable to attend meetings at that time. There were no other comments and Commissioner Chang withdrew the suggestion.

XI. Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., September 9, 2020.

XII. Adjournment

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Dyson, seconded by Commissioner Smith, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2020:

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



**PRC Resolution No. 2020-10 Proposed Renewal of Revocable Use Permit for a
Telecommunications Tower at Kincaid Park**

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, AWN, LLC, was granted a Revocable Use Permit in 2016, along with related easements, to construct and operate a telecommunications tower in Kincaid Park significantly for the purposes of improving wireless communications, thereby increasing safety and convenience for park users; and

WHEREAS, the tower was specifically designed and intended to be visually compatible to the extent possible with the character of the surrounding park, and additions to the tower may limit the effectiveness of the "stealth" design; and

WHEREAS, the project as constructed lacks some features including landscaping, wood fencing, and enclosed electrical equipment as approved; and

WHEREAS, the original Permit and authorized extensions end in September 2020; and

WHEREAS, AWN, LLC, has requested a renewal of the Permit to continue operation of the tower for an additional year with options for two additional one-year extensions; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission finds that the tower has resulted in improved wireless service for many park users and continued service as requested would be likewise beneficial; and

WHEREAS, the tower, related facilities and equipment, and certain required project enhancements noted above are to be installed and maintained to be visually and aesthetically compatible with the surrounding park land; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission supports the request to renew the Revocable Use Permit for one year with options for two additional one-year extensions, subject to the following conditions, to be incorporated into the terms of any renewed permit:

1. The Permittee shall submit a landscaping plan prepared by a licensed landscape architect to the Parks & Recreation Department for approval.
2. The Permittee shall install and maintain landscaping and other site improvements in accordance with the approved plans. Permittee shall complete installation of landscaping no later than June 15, 2021.
3. Permittee shall modify the tower beacon to the extent permissible to prevent light from intruding into park property. Permittee shall complete such modifications and/or report progress and findings regarding modifications to the Parks and Recreation Commission no later than November 1, 2020.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska

4. Permittee shall maintain the "monopine" tower to ensure effective camouflage of the tower and antennas. Maintenance shall include repair or replacement of damaged and lost branches as needed but at least annually, and addition of branches as needed if antennas are added or replaced.
5. Prior to addition or replacement of antennas or other changes to the facility Permittee shall submit drawings or other representations to the Parks & Recreation Dept. for review to adequately show the proposed change(s).

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

Kelly Chang
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Chang
Date: 2020.08.13 19:40:29
-08'00'

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:



Josh Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department



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

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



PRC RES NO. 2020-11

Indigenous Place Names Project – Margaret Eagan Sullivan Park at Westchester Lagoon

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 Indigenous Place Names project (IPN) is a collaboration with several organizations to bring awareness to Anchorage's Dena'ina history and place names; and

WHEREAS, funding from the Alaska Native Heritage Center with a National Endowment for the Arts grant and funding through the Anchorage Park Foundation with a Rasmuson grant, implementation will begin with the installation of a 'Chanshtnu' place name sign. 'Chanshtnu', meaning Grass Creek is the Dena'ina place name for Chester Creek; and

WHEREAS, the project uses materials that are consistent with current wayfinding standards and will feature the place name on the front of the post, interpretive and wayfinding information on panels on the back and sides, with a metal plate featuring two project phrases and topped with a weathering steel sculptural piece inspired by the dentalium bead pattern and firebag which represents the living off of the land; and

WHEREAS, project organizers have worked closely with the Parks and Recreation Department in the site selection process to choose a suitable location at Margaret Eagan Sullivan Park at Westchester Lagoon.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves the proposed Indigenous Place Names Project for Margaret Eagan Sullivan Park with a preference for the all concrete plaza design and is not opposed to the design that includes engineered wood fiber as presented.

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

Kelly Chang Digitally signed by Kelly Chang
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Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST: 
Josh Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department



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

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



Resolution No. 2020-12

Request for Utility Easement at KFQD Park for Electrical Equipment

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, Chugach Electric Association desires to install certain electric utility equipment in KFQD Park to serve Bayshore Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, CEA indicates that the proposed location is the most feasible given existing constraints including equipment limitations and existing utilities, and visual and use impacts at this location would be minimized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that a 15-foot by 25-foot easement be granted to Chugach Electric Association, generally as shown on the attached diagram, for the purpose of installing equipment as proposed to provide service to Bayshore Elementary School, subject to the following conditions:

1. Chugach Electric Association, Inc., shall pay to the Municipality applicable fees in addition to fair market value, if assessed, and associated administrative costs.
2. Chugach Electric Association, Inc., shall obtain all other required permits and approvals for the proposed project.
3. Chugach Electric Association, Inc., shall provide appropriate landscaping and screening as mitigation for the visual impact of the equipment at a location to be determined and in accordance with a plan CEA shall submit for approval by the Parks & Recreation Department.

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

Kelly Chang
Digitally signed by Kelly Chang
Date: 2020.08.13 19:40:53 -08'00'

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:



Josh Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department



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

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



**Resolution No. 2020-13
Hilltop Ski Area Slalom Course Development**

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, Hilltop Ski Area at Far North Bicentennial is a popular recreation facility that provides winter recreational opportunities for Anchorage residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Youth Exploring Adventure, Inc., manager of Hilltop Ski Area, desires to construct improvements to the ski area to provide a slalom run suitable for advanced training and competition to serve more skiers; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements, if properly constructed, are consistent with the plan and operation of the facility; and

WHEREAS, the proposed improvements are supported by alpine ski user groups including Special Olympics Alaska, Alyeska Ski Club, and the Hilltop Alpine Racing Team; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Commission approves in concept the proposal by YEA, Inc., to construct improvements to the slalom race course on Wolverine Run at Hilltop Ski Area, subject to the following conditions:

1. YEA, Inc., shall submit a site development plan acceptable to municipal staff showing specific alterations including clearing, filling, grading, and revegetation.
2. The plans shall minimize site disturbance to the extent possible and shall be consistent with MOA Standards and Specifications (M.A.S.S.) and Design Criteria.
3. YEA, Inc., shall obtain all other required permits and approvals for the proposed project, including filling, grading, and storm water management.

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

Kelly Chang

Digitally signed by Kelly
Chang
Date: 2020.08.13 19:41:17
-08'00'

Chair
Parks and Recreation Commission

ATTEST:

Josh Durand, Director
Parks & Recreation Department