



**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING**



OCTOBER 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The October 14, 2021 regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Acting Chair Jon Dyson at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was a virtual meeting held using Microsoft Teams.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present:

Commissioner Jon Dyson
Commissioner Grace Johnston
Commissioner Andrew Kastning
Commissioner Nora Morse
Commissioner Alison Smith

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Brian Looney
Commissioner Eric Milliken

A quorum was achieved with five members present.

Staff present:

Josh Durand
Steve Rafuse
Diana Cramer

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Morse and seconded by Commissioner Smith, the Agenda for the October 14, 2021 meeting was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made by Commissioner Morse and seconded by Commissioner Johnston, the Minutes of the July 15, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Josh Durand provided an overview of various activities, issues and items of concern to Parks and Recreation:

The bond package for 2022 as it relates to Parks and Recreation is 2.3 million dollars and includes funding for AMATS; improvements at Chester Creek Sports Park, Spenard Recreation Center and Fairview Recreation Center; soft surface trail, drainage and electrical improvements at Pamela Joy Lowry Park; development of new playgrounds; planning for Ure Park; continuation of Campbell Creek Trail rehabilitation; and the Ship Creek-Coastal Trail connection project.

Parks and Recreation is currently working on a Visioning Exercise for our recreation centers by engaging the community to determine what they want and need, and what changes and improvements are needed to accomplish that.

Trails are being swept regularly to keep them free of leaves and debris until snow falls because snow adheres to the paved trail surface if it is clear.

Commissioner Morse asked about a timeline for the Coastal Trail/Ship Creek Trail connection. Mr. Durand responded that the complicated process of dealing with the numerous landowners and government entities involved will take at least two years, but during that two years planning will continue and soon after a plan should be ready to present it to the community.

APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Liz Snyder addressed the Commission about the skateboard park at Spenard Recreation Center. Access to the skate park has been limited, due to the park being closed to the public when Spenard Recreation is closed and, even then, if there are any wet areas on the surface, even small ones that could be easily cleaned up, recreation staff will not open the park. She does not feel concerns she presented to leadership at Spenard Recreation Center were properly considered. She suggested that the skateboard community would be more than willing to assist in upkeep of the skate park if only they had access.

Director Durand responded that he was aware of the concerns she raised with Spenard Recreation Center staff. He stated that the reasons for closing the skate park are safety centered, but the Department is looking into how it can be more accommodating to the

public and move toward a “skate at your own risk” approach like that at the Russian Jack and Taku Lake skate parks.

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION REPORT

There was no report from the Anchorage Park Foundation.

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items presented.

INFORMATION ITEMS

PRC 21-14: 2021 Construction Project Recap and Overview of 2022

Presented by Steve Rafuse, Park Superintendent

Projects completed during 2021 included:

- Frontierland Park upgrades and playground.
- Jewel Lake Park playground.
- University Lake Park parking lot and dog memorial.
- Taku Lake Park ADA trail connection from fit lot to Campbell Creek Trail;
- Chanshtnu Muldoon Park parking lot, food forest, garden fencing and custom gate, raised garden beds, shrub and tree planting, trail to the lookout, offleash dog park, and 80% completion on the pump track.
- Westchester Lagoon indigenous place naming plaza.
- Kincaid Park informational kiosks.
- Fairview Park playground, raven sculpture, and basketball/volley ball court art.
- Folker Park reflexology path.
- 1% for Art – fish drying rack at Westchester Lagoon and murals on the underpass walls on the Chester Creek Trail at A Street and C Street.
- Tikishla Park playground.
- Youth Employment in Parks projects
 - Chanshtnu Muldoon Park trail building, ADA pad building, and invasive species removal.
 - Chester Creek streambank restoration and invasive species removal along the Nature Trail;.
 - Westchester Lagoon streambank restoration at the IPN plaza.
 - tree planting at various locations.
 - Folker Park concrete bench pads and bird feeder installation.
 - Tour of Anchorage trail rehabilitation.

Projects upcoming for 2022 include:

- Elderberry Park upgrades,
- William B. Lyons upgrades,
- South Anchorage Sports Park bike park,
- continuing work at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park,
- KFQD Park upgrades,
- Dave Rose Park parking lot expansion,
- McPhee Gardens improvements,
- Campbell Creek Trail bridge replacement and streambank restoration,
- Government Hill planning,
- Waldron Lake master plan,
- Inventory and mapping of all trails in the Municipality,
- trail wayfinding,
- Invasive species removal and removal of spruce bark beetle killed trees,
- Recreation center visioning exercise as previously mentioned by Director Durand.

In November 2021, the Russian Jack Springs Park Master Plan will first be presented to the Commission for approval, and then to the Planning and Zoning Commission for its approval. Work on trail paving and trail upgrades generally, wayfinding, and lighting should begin in 2022.

Mr. Rafuse announced a firewood giveaway on Saturday, October 16, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m., at Russian Jack Springs Park just north of 6th and Boniface at the old Lions Club Campground. The wood is from harvested beetle-killed spruce. Parks and Recreation staff will be on hand to help people load wood into their vehicles.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Johnston asked if the playground equipment for Moen Park might be installed this summer. Mr. Rafuse said that the equipment is being lined up for delivery this winter and installation would be in summer 2022.

Ms. Johnston also asked if Parks and Recreation was aware of a park being put in at Goldenvue by Greatland Trust. Mr. Durand stated that this park is an idea that is being pushed by Greatland Trust, and would include property from a private estate, GCI, and MOA property managed by Heritage Land Bank. They are interested in conserving the park for its natural values in an undeveloped state.

Commissioner Smith commented on the wonderful ribbon-cutting at Frontierland Park and how much she liked the trail and inclusive playground maps that she received at that event.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mr. Rafuse said that because the scheduled date for the November meeting is November 11th, Veterans Day, it is proposed that the meeting will be moved to November 18th and asked Commissioners to let him know if this posed scheduling problems for them. Unless there are objections, the next meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m., November 18, 2021, at Spenard Recreation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Morse, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2021:

Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Director
Parks & Recreation