



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING

October 10, 2024

The October 10, 2024 meeting was held in person at the Spenard Community Recreation Center

CALL TO ORDER

The October 10, 2024, regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Vice Chair Edwin Blair at **6:18 p.m.**

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present:

- Commissioner Edwin Blair
- Commissioner Bruce Graham (Online)
- Commissioner Andrew Kastning
- Commissioner GeorgeAnne Sprinkle
- Commissioner Scott Wamsganz

A quorum was achieved with **five** members present.

Staff present:

- Mike Braniff
- Taylor Keegan
- Nicolette Dent
- Melanie Hess
- Ellen Devine

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon motion duly made by **Commissioner Kastning** and seconded by **Commissioner Wamsganz**, the Agenda for the October 10, 2024, meeting was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made by **Commissioner Wamsganz** and seconded by **Commissioner Kastning** the Minutes of the August 8, 2024, meeting was unanimously approved.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director's Comments section was provided by Taylor Keegan, Parks Superintendent

1. **Wrapping up Construction Season!** Taku Lake Skate Park is complete and is open. Also, there has been a small reroute on the Coastal Trail due to coastal erosion near Point Woronzof.
2. **Recreation Trails Plan:** Planning in cooperation with AMATS for the Recreational Trails Plan. A survey is currently open, and we are looking for a diverse group of respondents to provide input.
3. **Peratrovich Park:** On track for a 2026 construction timeframe along with PM&E
4. **Winter Prep:** Preparing for winter, doing a lot of clearing woody debris as well as lighting up Town Square Park
5. **Finalizing L71 Contact Negotiations:** Everyone is excited about reaching an agreement soon.
6. **Fairview Updated:** Approved a contract to paint the lobby, update the gymnasium, and resurface the indoor playground.
7. **Tuesday Night Races:** It has been a wonderful year with good attendance throughout the season.
8. **Event updates:** Haunted and Enchanted Trails is coming up at the end of the month, Boo at the Beach is this weekend, and we have a Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission on 10/23.

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

No report provided

NON-AGENDA APPEARANCE REQUESTS

Matt McDaniel and Vincent English

- Addressing the topic of the Bartlett Diving Boards, in concerns to challenges with public process.
- Dimond Alumni Association worked to procure funds for the installation of diving boards at Bartlett High School, which spurred conflict between user groups.
- Looking to encourage a third-party review, work with Becky Pearson to confirm that the third-party review of the diving boards consults both the diving community and the swimming community.

- Disputing the current third-party review with Bettisworth North, and that the diving community is not currently being engaged in the third-party review.

Commissioner Comments:

- Can you explain further about this situation? Not all the commissioners are up to date on the diving board situation. –
 - o Matt McDaniel: Private swim clubs have contracts with Parks and Recreation and have control to public access of our public facilities and the diving boards we procured conflict with that.
 - o Mike Braniff: In 2022, the State Legislature approved ~\$558K for diving board updates in Anchorage. The project went forward in a slightly different way than normally, and in essence this has become a conflict between user groups—the swimming community and the diving community. We will do a deeper dive into this at our October 23 meeting.

Mike: Downtown Community Council

- I am here in support of the pickleball community to add sets of pickleball lines on 4 of the 8 courts on the Delaney Park Strip.

Commissioner Comments:

- It sounds like there is a lot of advocates for this, and with these courts we just want to confirm that the pickleball community engages the community councils as well as other user groups who may want to use the courts.

ACTION ITEMS

PRC 24-09: PRC 24-09 Dedication of Seward Highway Buffer Park North for Park and Recreational Purposes
PRC Resolution 2024-09
Presented by Nicolette Dent

Nicolette Dent, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Park Planner, presented the proposed dedication of the Seward Highway Buffer Park North. This land is already owned and operated by Anchorage Parks and Recreation. The dedication process secures the long-term use of the property for the community. For the past decade we have worked to dedicate parkland and to rezone parkland in alignment with the comprehensive plan.

The area in quest is along the Seward Highway between Northern Lights Blvd and a bit past Fireweed Ln. This has been parkland since 2001, and the Rogers Park Community Council advocated for it to be dedicated as it provides a noise and visual barrier between the highway and the community.

Upon motion made by **Commissioner Sprinkle**, seconded by **Commissioner Wamsganz** and unanimously approved by commissioners the resolution was passed.

**PRC 24-10: PRC 24-10 Name Addition to Anchorage Veterans Memorial
PRC Resolution 2024-10**

Presented by Melanie Hess

Melanie Hess, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Park Planner, introduced the proposed addition of a name to the Anchorage Veteran's Memorial on the Delaney Park Strip. We are looking to add an additional WWI veteran, Edwin M. Staton, to the panels at this memorial.

There are two criteria for Veterans to be named on the memorial.

- They need to be an Alaska resident, and member of a US military unit
- Identified by the US Defense Department as Killed in Action in a combat zone
- Must have been deceased for at least one year prior to the date of application

Edwin M. Staton information was discovered while working on adding Jack Henry's name to the memorial. Edwin Staton was originally from Iditarod, Alaska, and newspaper articles confirmed his residency in this area. He was killed in action during WWI and we request the support from the Commission to add his name to the Memorial.

Upon motion made by **Commissioner Wamsganz** seconded by **Commissioner Kastning** and unanimously approved by commissioners the resolution was passed.

**PRC 24-11: PRC 24-11 Chugach Electric Association (CEA) and GCI
Request for Electric/Communications Utility Easement, Tract J
PRC Resolution 2024-11**

Presented by Nicolette Dent

Nicolette Dent, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Park Planner, presented a request from Chugach Electric Association and GCI for an electric/communications easement in Government Hill in Tract J. The easement request goes partially through the parkland and will not provide any impact to the park. Tract J is currently a green space buffer between the community and the industrial areas nearby. CEA and GCI request the easement in order to construct a cell tower to provide better service to the Anchorage bowl.

Upon motion made by **Commissioner Kastning**, seconded by **Commissioner Sprinkle** and unanimously approved by commissioners the resolution was passed.

**PRC 24-12: PRC 24-12 Chugach Electric Association (CEA) Request for
Electric Utility Easement at Williwaw Park
PRC Resolution 2024-12
Presented by Nicolette Dent**

Nicolette Dent, Anchorage Parks and Recreation Park Planner, presented a request from Chugach Electric Association and GCI for an electric/communications easement in the Russian Jack neighborhood in Williwaw Park. The Russian Jack Community Council secured a grant to develop a community garden and need access to water. Unfortunately, access to water under Debar was deemed too expensive and not feasible. Instead, it was deemed that a well pump would be able to accommodate the garden and are requesting a Chugach Electric Association easement to bring power out to power the well pump.

Upon motion made by **Commissioner Kastning**, seconded by **Commissioner Sprinkle** and unanimously approved by commissioners the resolution was passed

INFORMATION ITEMS

There were no information items.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

UPCOMING MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., on Thursday, October 23, 2024, at the Spenard Community Recreation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by **Commissioner Kastning** seconded by **Commissioner Graham** and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at **7:31 p.m.**

MINUTES APPROVED this ___ day of _____, 2024:

Brian Looney, Chair
Parks & Recreation Commission

Mike Braniff, Director
Parks & Recreation

