

Minutes

January 14 2013

6:00pm Library Meeting Room

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

- A. Jim Kacsh calls the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
- B. **Roll Call:** Steve Barnes, Toni Godes, Dan Reum, Kara Johnson, Jim Kacsh, Karen Hallquist, Shelly Bourgeois, Jim Fritsch and Susie Herschleb.
- C. **Approve Agenda:** M/Reum, S/Barnes. Approved.
- D. **Communication by Visitors:** 1. **Kate Morse**, CRWSP  
Handouts: "Stormwater Pollution" and Copper River Watershed Project, Newsletter Fall 2012.  
**Morse** presents information to the commission. The Copper River Watershed Project (CRWSP) is interested in working with the city to help improve waste water management and water quality. Odiak Pond receives a lot of residential runoff. Odiak Pond provides an opportunity to see waste water management results. Odiak Pond is a beautiful part of our community and is also known to have Coho salmon. Local students go to the pond once per month to monitor water quality. **Morse** thanks the City of Cordova Parks and Recreation department for their time and assistance with the project. Morse addresses goals from Parks and Rec's master plan –  
Designated Open space and natural area  
Establish water quality maintenance  
Have parks maintenance keep creek area cleaned up and free of garbage  
Address drainage issues in grassy field  
Keep space as natural looking as possible  
**Morse** states that the Pond area is an amazing learning tool for the community, as hands on habitat. She wishes to keep engaging kids in the long term, so they can see the fruits of their labor. **Morse** summarizes activities in this area, including – *Stormwater Assessment:* An engineer will conduct a stormwater assessment of the watershed to quantify stormwater and pollutant loading and propose treatment alternatives for improving Odiak Pond water quality. *Native Plant Filters:* Native plants will be grown in strategic areas including near the capped landfill, to provide a natural filtration system for stormwater runoff. This will help protect Odiak Pond from pollutants. *Native Plant Garden:* A garden will be created to educate residents and visitors about native plants. Seeds will be harvested and dried each fall to provide a source of native plant seeds to use when restoring other areas treated for invasive plant removal. *Invasive Plant Removal:* Invasive plants can out-compete native plants and affect habitat quality and food availability for native fish and wildlife. We will be testing different methods for removing Reed Canary grass that is currently growing in the pond. *Ongoing Monitoring of Watershed:* Cordova Jr/Sr. High School 7<sup>th</sup> grade class will continue to monitor the pond. The students will continue to track water quality and make sure that it stays suitable for the salmon

that live there. **Morse** thanks staff and states that she is available for questions.

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2. **Don Moore**, Temporary City Manager introduces himself to the group.

E. **Consent Calendar**: M/Godes, S/Reum approve minutes from 11/20/12. Vote and Approved.

F. **Reports**: 1) *Directors Report*. **Herschleb** states that Iceworm preparations are underway. She also ask for questions on written report. **Herschleb** reviews written revenue report. **Herschleb** reports that we are still struggling to get kids to participate in sports other that basketball. She would like to see discussion on this in future and brainstorm on the issue. **Hallquist** asks when Janet McManus will be back. **Herschleb** replies sometime at the end of April and full time in May. We have people who have expressed interest in helping to organize different activities. We currently have a temporary Rec Aid who will be assuming some of the responsibility and has received a slight increase in pay for her efforts. **Herschleb** states that Janet has put together an information packet to help guide programming. She feels that we will be able to provide good programming while Janet is gone. **Reum** asks if the dance squad is still in the works. **Herschleb** replies that it was canceled due to lack of individual sign ups. We would like to try again in the future. **Herschleb** states that this is another example of lack of youth participation.

**Commission** discusses community outreach ideas. *Revenue Report*. **Herschleb** states that this year's revenue remained about the same as last year. After a few years of significant increases it has appeared to level off. She adds that snowpacolypse had an effect on totals as well.

**Herschleb** states that vendors from this year's Christmas Bazaar reported making more in the first day than the combined days last year. It would be interesting to see how much the city made in tax revenue from the Bazaar.

G. **Unfinished Business**:

1) *Odiak Camper Park*. **Herschleb** states that she was contacted by **Sam Greenwood**, City Planner, and asked if the Odiak Camper Park should be put on the City's land disposal list.

**Herschleb** states the language in the master plan suggests putting the camper park business into the public sector not necessarily the land. She feels that we do not want to lose any land that could be used for recreation. **Hallquist** asks how old the bathhouse is and if everything is in working order. **Herschleb**, everything is sitting on a landfill and 7 years ago we revamped the bathhouse. Everything is in pretty good working order. The playground equipment and covered area could use some work. **Barnes** doesn't want to lose the land and would like to see an alternative location for the business. He states that if we were out of camper park business it would free up valuable time for other interests and activities. **Herschleb** states that there is a need for additional camper space. A group of summer residents wrote a letter stating there are people including young family members who will need space in the near future. **Reum** agrees with Barnes, we do not want to lose the land. He asks about the 5 mile area. **Herschleb** states that one of the requirements of an avalanche zone is you cannot put up any permanent structures. The 5 mile area residents are not in favor of long term activity in the area.

**Bourgeois** asks if we were making a profit at the camper park. **Kacsh** states that the camper park is an enterprise fund and doesn't set out to make large profits. It makes money enough to support and manage itself and put away enough money to deal with any future needs and repairs. **Bourgeois** asks where the money would go if the property was sold. **Kacsh**, it would go

into the city's permanent fund. **Herschleb** would like to receive part of the proceeds for the department, but city charter does not allow this. We could be considered for capital projects using the money in the permanent fund. **Herschleb** states that Planning and Zoning is looking for a recommendation from Commission as to whether or not the property should be listed for sale. **Barnes** asks Mr. Moore if he had any input or suggestions. **Moore** replies he understands why the city would want to keep the land; that would be a manager's recommendation. He says that it would not be uncommon to bid out for a concessioner to come manage the established Camper Park. This would offer many advantages to the city. The city would retain the land, a concessioner would operate the facility and a portion of the proceeds would go to the city. A concessioner operating the park can do things a city can't. For instance, the city could not put in an espresso stand but a private concessioner could. This is something you might want to look at and could model from examples.

**Commission** concurs to have staff write a letter to Planning and Zoning that we are not in favor of selling the Odiak Camper Park land.

**Kacsh** suggests taking the Odiak Camper Park worksheet (p.8) home to add our thoughts and comments from what we have learned and these can be discussed at the next meeting.

**Commission** agrees. **Herschleb** states that as an advisory committee, we can use e-mail to express our thoughts as well.

H. **New Business:** None

I. **Pending Agenda:**

- 1) Community Outreach
- 2) Odiak Camper Park
- 3) Odiak Pond, Hollis Henrichs Park
- 4) Next meeting Tuesday February 19, 6pm Library Meeting Room

J. **Commission Comments:** **Reum** says this was a good meeting. **Barnes** welcomes new members and is happy to see all commission seats filled. **Hallquist** like the new coat hooks at Bidarki and thanks staff for their work.

K. **Meeting Adjourned:** M/Barnes S/Reum Adjourned 7:34 pm