

Minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
April 26, 2016

- A. **Wendy Ranney** called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm
- B. **ROLL CALL:**
In attendance: Wendy Ranney, Stephen Phillips, Dave Zastrow, Miriam Dunbar, Kara Johnson, Marvin Van Den Broek, Susie Herschleb, Heather Brannon, Kate Morse, and April Beedle.
Absent:, Karen Hallquist.
- C. **Approval of Agenda:** M/ S. Phillips to approve agenda, S/ D. Zastrow. V/Unanimous Approval.
- D. **Visitor Communication:**
April Beedle said she and many other Christmas Bazaar vendors would like to move it back to Mt. Eccles Elementary because there is more room and the customers can flow better. It is also harder for people in wheelchairs. The Cordova Center is beautiful, but not ideal for this event. S. Herschleb said she did not receive many letters from vendors, perhaps they were not delivered. W. Ranney said that we will put this issue on the agenda for the next meeting. The Commission cannot make this decision, can only make a recommendation. S. Herschleb advised that people writing letters should address them to the Parks & Rec Commission, and also should be sent to the City Manager.
- E. **Consent Calendar:** Minutes of 1-19-16. M/D. Zastrow to approve. S/ S. Phillips. V/Unanimous Approval.
- F. **Director's Report by S. Herschleb:**
1. **S. Herschleb asked Kate Morse** from the Copper River Watershed Project to report on their proposal to RAC which is due May 20, 2016. D.O.T. will be working in the Fleming Spit area making sure culverts are sufficient and removing the concrete pillows along the shore. The proposal is to install a stainless steel structure in this location to improve accessibility for fishing and kayak launching. It would be built by Mike's Welding AK and would be all above ground so that it could be removed, but is still stable. Part of the 10 Year Master Plan is improving accessibility. Erosion is now a problem and the sand bags are very slippery. K. Morse asked if the commission is in support of this proposal. M. Van Den Broek noted that the tide goes out 1/8 of a mile, so would the structure work at low tide? K. Morse explained that since most fishing happens at high tide, the structure would be at the right level for that, so some of it would be underwater. DOT will replace the concrete pillows with rip rap (large rocks). Construction will happen in 2017. The current structures were built in 1997. The cost of the new structure would be \$75/linear for the ADA approved parts. Not all of it has to be ADA accessible. After discussion, the Commission agreed that it was in support of improving the access for fishing and kayaking. Perhaps the proposal can be tiered for different levels of funding. W. Ranney noted that the area is getting busier. K. Johnson wondered if there will be enough parking. S. Herschleb thinks there is room for parking in the RV area across the street. K. Morse will draft a letter for the Commission to send with the proposal to RAC.
 2. **Staffing** is short now, as there is no Rec Ops leader and No Pool Ops leader. Currently advertising for the latter. Megan Abel has been doing a good job keeping the pool running.
 3. **Donations for Fisherman's Memorial** will now be handled by CDFU rather than the city finance department.
 4. **Bike Rodeo on April 30** needs volunteers. Julie Reynolds and Seawan Gehlbach are in charge. Kara Johnson will be helping.
 5. **Pool Energy Audit** identified several needed repairs. The staff will try to do some of the smaller projects during the May 3-16 pool closure.
 6. **Fill lot near PWSSC**-- Mary Anne Bishop wrote a letter stating that she would like to see benches and tables there since people like to enjoy the view. She would like a letter of support from the

Commission. It is not a zoned lot, so permitting is not possible at this time. S. Herschleb feels M. Bishop should make her views known to the City Manager. M. Van Den Broek noted that the lot could still be sold. D. Zastrow said that currently people can use the lot for watching the harbor. W. Ranney said that the Commission does not have money for benches and tables, and we do not have authority over the lot. Planning & Zoning is aware of the proposal, and they will need to act first. M/M. Van Den Broek to table the decision to support the project at this time. S/ D. Zastrow. V/Unanimous.

7. **Summer Camp**--S. Herschleb will be speaking with the City Manager about this next Tuesday. Several people are interested in working and volunteering for the camp. Need to find someone with a CDL to drive the school bus. S. Herschleb has almost always done it in the past. Having no camp last year was a hardship for many children.
8. **Dressed To Kill** made about \$5000 this year. A parent/tot swing will be purchased at cost. Also a bottle filler/drinking fountain, and some pool expenses will be paid.
9. **1st Quarter Data Collection** shows that pool visits are down 1000 compared to same time last year. Bidarki visitation is higher than last year. CAYAK programming was slow to start, probably because of a volunteer shortage. In early May CAYAK will be having a volleyball clinic for girls, and then a coaching clinic for adults.

G. **Unfinished Business:**

None

H. **New Business**

1. **Veteran's Memorial**— Eyak Corporation will finance this project. It will be installed on the the northwest edge of the breakwater between the buoy and the breakwater walk. They have already purchased the granite for the memorial.
2. **Spring Break Health Camp**-- W. Ranney learned about these camps that are being done in Anchorage where health care professionals work with children so that they can learn about these careers. There is also a living healthy component. She thinks this type of camp could tie in well with Parks & Rec. and there is currently a lot of interest from some at CCMC.
3. **Fleming Spit Disc Golf Course** could be put on the Land Trust donated land. Need to find out if the Land Trust trustees would agree to that use. The Copper River Watershed Project is interested in building trails, which fits well with the disc golf course. More tent platforms would be a good addition as well. M. Van Den Broek noted that with the creek there, we will be limited on what structures can be built.
4. **Skateboard Guidelines** need to be decided. It will be on the agenda for the next meeting.
5. **Fisherman's Memorial Expansion**-- S. Herschleb says the newly purchased yellow cedar will add more space which gives us a bit more time. W. Ranney wonders how to form a committee to make policy for the memorial. Perhaps we can draft an S.O.P. And ask for public comments.
6. **Community Garden Space**-- A gardening group from Scotland is coming July 15 with the help of Mayor Clay Koplín. The 10 Year Master Plan includes community gardens, and that is why the Parks & Rec Department cooperated with the Copper River Watershed Project to build the Native Plant Garden near the hospital.
7. **Alaska Rock Garden Club** will visit August 6-8.

I. **Pending Agenda:**

1. Swimming Pool programming.
2. Bidarki Bazaar

3. Fisherman's Memorial S.O.P.
4. Skateboard Guidelines
5. 10 Year Master Plan-- start working on a section of it.
6. Summer meeting scheduling.

J. Audience Comments

None

K. Commission Comments

K. Johnson appreciates the hard work of the Parks & Rec Department and looks forward to more gardens. S. Phillips is anxious to get up to speed on all the issues of the Commission and is excited about having disc golf here. M. Dunbar would love to see a park on the fill lot near PWSCC. D. Zastrow thought this was a good meeting. M. Van Den Broek said that opening the pool at 7 am is gaining lap swimmers. There are now 20 lap swims per week. The new pool manager should be willing to offer more tot swims and open swims for our children. W. Ranney noted that a junior life guard program has been discussed at school district meetings. The Ice Worm Swim Team has been doing very well this year. She appreciates everyone's enthusiasm. S. Herschleb said that the Pool Ops Leader job description includes a flexible work schedule to allow for more programming.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 6 pm.

Adjournment: M to adjourn/ K. Johnson, S/ M. Van Den Broek
Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Miriam Dunbar, Secretary