

Minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

June 21, 2016

- A. **Wendy Ranney** called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm
- B. **ROLL CALL:**
In attendance: Wendy Ranney, Stephen Phillips, Dave Zastrow, Miriam Dunbar, Kara Johnson, Marvin Van Den Broek, Susie Herschleb, Heather Brannon, Kristen Gorman, Mandy Toong, Jen Smith, Pam Smith, 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:**
1. April Beedle said about 12 Christmas Bazaar vendors have told her that they would like to move it back to Mt. Eccles Elementary. She doesn't know if any of them have written letters yet. She talked to the school superintendent and wondered if she should also talk to the Interim City Manager. S. Herschleb thinks she should. A. Beedle hopes to get the other vendors to send their letters in by August 1. Her letter of April 24, 2016 to the council members, mayor, and city manager is in the packet.
 2. Kristen Gorman has concerns about the new "No Dogs" signs at the Whitshed ball field. She has only seen dogs playing there since August, not ball games. How can the city create spaces for dogs? Perhaps there can be some areas exclusively for dogs, and some areas not for dogs. Mandy Toong suggested that there be designated times for dogs to be off leash in the ball fields. The ball fields are great for dogs because they are fenced. S. Herschleb says that the bigger issue is that there is no fence at the municipal field (by high school), so loose dogs are pooping all over that field. M. Van Den Broek says dogs are pooping all over including the harbor area. K. Gorman says other cities do not have this poop problem. M. Van Den Broek explained that there is a \$75 fine for leaving dog poop on the ground in the city, but it is rarely enforced. M. Toong suggested signage about the fine might encourage dog owners to be responsible.
 3. Jen Smith is concerned that work being done at Nirvana Park might disturb Eyak grave sites there. She has been talking with Brooke Johnson at NVE about possible grants for an Eyak Memorial project. She sent a letter to the Commission, but too late for anyone to read it before the meeting. It describes the history of the site and her concern for respecting Eyak traditions there. There used to be a wooden grave house at the end of the spit, but the wind blew it down. New memorial should be weather resistant. Pam Smith feels that the use of the spit needs to be discussed with Eyak members. She was involved with the repatriation of remains from the Smithsonian at the end of the spit. We need to educate the general public about this. S. Herschleb would like help identifying areas throughout Nirvana Park that are culturally sensitive. D. Zastrow noted that John Johnson has this knowledge and may be able to help.
- E. **Consent Calendar:** Minutes of 4-26-16. **M/**K. Johnson to approve. **S/** S. Phillips. **V/**Unanimous Approval.
- F. **Director's Report by S. Herschleb:**
1. **Staffing** is short now, as there is no Rec Ops leader. She and Heather are working very hard to have a variety of children's programming, as well as keeping Bidarki open for summer folks.
 2. **New Pool Ops Leader** is Derek Hammer. He has created a pool schedule with 2 lifeguards and himself, which seems to be working well. S. Herschleb has been trying to make some of the business systems there easier to use. Derek can check on the pool chemicals, but needs further training to keep the system maintained. There are 2 newly certified life guards. Mr. Hamberger can train lifeguards, but she may try to get another trainer to come in during the school year.

3. **Summer Camp**—Full day camp will be next week. Other weeks there are half day sessions, and “Adventures” which are 2 hour sessions at different locations. Schedule is in the packet.
4. **Vault Toilet** has been ordered for Skater's Cabin and should arrive mid August. S. Herschleb will prepare a bid for installation.
5. **Fisherman's Memorial** is being renovated with new yellow cedar for additional plaques. Old wood was pressure washed and stained.
6. **Shelter Cove Camp Sites**-- People are taking sites without reserving them, then people with reservations can't use their sites. Trying to use wire and combination locks to save sites. Reservations require administrative time, including during the weekend. Iron Rangers to collect fees could be used instead. \$1000 has been made so far this year renting the 3 sites, and they are getting more popular. W. Ranney suggested an online reservation system. She is also concerned with safety in that area during fishing season. Fly fisherman are hooking people behind them, and people are parking on the road.
7. **Odiak Camper Park**-- Electricity, water, and sewer charges combined were \$4724 through May. One quarter of Micah's salary is spent at Odiak for maintenance. New playground equipment is needed, but it will cost about \$18,000, with an additional \$30,000 for installation. A temporary play structure that cost \$1000 is being installed now. W. Ranney feels that a play structure could be put in the grassy park next to Odiak, and then it could be used by children year round. The tenants are bringing bigger motor homes, which is causing space issues. There may not be room for a playground in the camper park. The Odiak tenants have voiced their desire for improvements on Facebook, but none came to this meeting or have sent letters. K. Johnson said she has been interacting with them on Facebook about the playground.

G. **Unfinished Business:**

Bidarki Bazaar-- W. Ranney feels that the Cordova Center was built for community events. The bazaar could be made to fit the venue better. Having it at Mt. Eccles is very disruptive for the school. We should try it again at the Cordova Center to see if it can work better. Outside food vendors and using the Pioneer Igloo would help. M. Van Den Broek felt the Bazaar felt too “cut up” and some vendors were in bad locations. S. Herschleb said many vendors told her that they made more money than previous years. P. Smith thought there was a safety issue since it was so crowded. S. Herschleb suggested a special meeting with the vendors in July. We will have our regular meeting, but it will just focus on the bazaar. K. Johnson suggested creating vendor feedback forms for the meeting.

H. **New Business**

1. **Dog Park**-- K. Johnson has been wanting one for a while, and would like to see it on the 10 Year Master Plan. Whitshed ball field is used by dogs now. D. Zastrow wondered how large a dog park had to be. K. Gorman said it only had to be 1/3 of the ball field. Going out the road is an option for letting dogs run, but you have to worry about traps in the winter. Dog parks are a safe place. W. Ranney thinks the best place would be between the ball field and the camper park. Fencing is expensive, so it won't happen soon. S. Herschleb suggested that the ball field be used for dogs except during baseball season. The “No Dogs” signs will be taken down after ball season. W. Ranney thinks we need to better educate the public about picking up dog poop. H, Brannon said that there are 12 dog waste bag receptacles around town. K. Johnson wondered if fines for leaving dog poop went to the general fund. Commission members can research what other communities do about the dog poop problem. S. Herschleb suggested that dog owners call Cordova Little League to find out when their season will be over and the signs will come down.
2. **Eyak Memorial Project**-- Mayor Koplin told S. Herschleb about a possible \$30,000 grant for a public improvement. She would like to have a meeting with J. Smith, Mayor Koplin, and the jet

skiers who have been using the spit. S. Herschleb met with Doug Phillips and learned about the different types of jet skis and their launching needs. Should we let them launch them at one part of the spit? We want to stop erosion and would prefer people not drive on the spit. She created more parking along Lake Avenue for that reason. The timbers cut for that were made into benches for Nirvana Park. W. Ranney would like to see photographs of the grave house, and would also like the Commission to go to Nirvana Park. J. Smith feels that Eyak people need to be involved in these discussions so that there is ongoing respect for Native people. Heather Hall is coming to town and can give input. John Johnson should also be invited. J. Smith thinks NVE may be able to get a grant for the Memorial. P. Smith noted that Eyak people will have to decide what the Memorial should be. S. Herschleb asked J. Smith if she is in favor of continuing work to stop erosion and building an area for a fire pit that would not be close to the Memorial. J. Smith is in support of these projects as long as Eyak people are included in the planning.

I. Pending Agenda:

1. Odiak Enterprise Fund

J. Commission Comments

S. Phillips has not seen any baseball games at the Whitshed field and is in favor of a dog park there. It doesn't have to be very big. M. Dunbar's last day at the library will be July 1, she will be using her personal e-mail address, jumpmelody@yahoo.com. M. Van Den Broek is concerned that the platform for the fire pit may be too close to the end of the spit, but S. Herschleb says it is quite a distance away. D. Zastrow appreciates that Susie and Heather are well prepared for our meetings. He would like for the commission to visit all the recreational sites. W. Ranney would like to start working on the Master Plan during the winter, just taking one piece at a time. She also finds the Facebook posts by uninformed people irritating.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 26, 2016 at 6 pm. It will be a special meeting about the Bidarki Bazaar. Invitations will be sent to vendors.

Adjournment: M to adjourn/ D. Zastrow, S/ S. Phillips
Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Miriam Dunbar, Secretary