

Minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting
July 25, 2017 DRAFT

- A. **Wendy Ranney** called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm at Odiak Camper Park
- B. **ROLL CALL:**
In attendance: Wendy Ranney, Marvin Van Den Broek, Miriam Dunbar, Kara Johnson, Susie Herschleb, Heather Brannon, and about 15 tenants of Odiak Camper Park.
Absent: , Dave Zastrow, Karen Hallquist, and Stephen Phillips.
- C. **Approval of Agenda:** **M/M.** Van Den Broek to approve. **S/M.** Dunbar . **V/Unanimous Approval.**
- D. **Visitor Communication:**
none
- E. **Director's Report by S. Herschleb:**
S. Herschleb explained that the meeting was called to get input from the Odiak Park tenants. The park is funded primarily from an enterprise fund derived from user fees. Pedestals for electricity for each site were added with money borrowed from the City of Cordova. The enterprise fund needs to pay the City back about \$4000 each year. Any money left over goes into a savings account to be used for improvements to the park. S. Herschleb would like to get a priority list for possible improvements. She thinks there is approximately \$60,000 in the savings account. About \$13,000 is still owed for the pedestals. The savings could be used for this.
- F. **Unfinished Business:**
None
- G. **New Business**
Odiak Camper Park Master Plan Review-- S. Herschleb asked the tenants what they would like to see happen in Odiak Camper Park. Most feel that the current rate of \$25/day is high, so they do not want rates to increase. The biggest problem right now is that there is only one toilet for men. S. Herschleb asked whether the urinal could be replaced with a toilet, and all agreed that it could. That should be able to happen using the operating funds very soon. The tenants have been wanting water/sewer hook ups at each site for many years. Some wondered why the City couldn't pay for that. S. Herschleb explained that water and sewer line construction is tricky because the park is on an old landfill. Also, the City has had to make many budget cuts in all departments, so she doesn't think it would lend money to the enterprise fund for hook ups. There is a chance that there is a state or federal grant available for this. Park expansion has been discussed in the past, including the plan that added 5 more sites. One tenant noted that RV's come into the park occasionally, but there is no site open for them. S. Herschleb explained that the city property at 5 mile could become an RV park in the future, but water and sewer lines will be problematic there also due to being so close to the lake. Shelter Cove now has 3 developed sites for camping, and RV's can also use the parking lot. The top priority in the Master Plan for Odiak Camper Park is to "support the development of an RV park in the private sector". However, there is very little land available that is suitable for this purpose. Several tenants noted that the coin operation machines for the showers often do not work. S. Herschleb agreed that they are old and should be replaced soon with operating funds. Some tenants wondered why the showers need coin operation. S. Herschleb explained that this was to cover the cost of fuel to heat the water. A few tenants noted that the cost of electricity seems higher than other parts of Cordova. S. Herschleb explained that the tenants are charged what CEC charges Odiak Park for electrical use. New playground equipment is needed, but a real playground built to federal guidelines would cost about \$40,000. One tenant would like to have a concrete pad so that the kids could play basketball. Another tenant stated that laundry facilities right in the park would be very

helpful. S. Herschleb isn't sure how that could be done. One tenant wondered whether Dan Nichols could provide it. S. Herschleb asked whether adding chip seal to the parking and roadway is something the tenants see as a priority. Most would like that, but it is not as important as the other issues discussed. W. Ranney explained that the Commission needs to know the tenants' priorities so that we can look for grants to help fund the projects. The priority list from the tenants is:

1. Full hook-ups at each site
2. Upgrade to bath house including laundry facilities
3. Concrete pad for basketball and new playground
4. Chip seal on roadway

S. Herschleb encouraged the tenants to write a group letter to the City Council expressing their wishes. She will be speaking to the City Council also, but it is good for them to hear directly from the tenants.

H. **Commission Comments**

W. Ranney thanked all for the input. The commission members are still learning about the history of Odiak Camper Park. The next step is to get estimates for water and sewer work for hook-ups. We should get estimates with and without the bath house. The bids will be public, and S. Herschleb encouraged any contractor with this type of experience to submit a bid. She also reminded the tenants that they can contact the commission at any time for information or suggestions.

Next meeting is scheduled for August 29, 6 pm

Adjournment: M to adjourn/K. Johnson, S/ Van Den Broek.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Miriam Dunbar, Secretary