

Minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

July 28, 2015

- A. **Wendy Ranney** called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm
- B. **ROLL CALL:**
In attendance: Wendy Ranney, Dave Zastrow, Kara Johnson, Marvin Van Den Broek, Miriam Dunbar, Susie Herschleb, Shannon Phillips, and Randy Robertson.
Absent: Karen Hallquist and Steve Barnes
- C. **Approval of Agenda:** **M/** D. Zastrow to approve agenda, **S/** M. Van Den Broek. **V/**Unanimous Approval.
- D. **Visitor Communication:** none
- E. **Consent Calendar:** Minutes of 5-26-15. **M/** M. Van Den Broek to approve minutes. **S/** D. Zastrow. **V/**Unanimous Approval.
- F. **Director's Report by S. Herschleb:**
 - 1. **Bidarki Summer Camp** will not be held this summer due to lack of trained staff. S. Herschleb said it felt strange to not have camp, but due to risk management, the decision had to be made. R. Robertson agreed that this was the wise choice.
 - 2. **Salt water system** is now operational at the pool. The U.V. system now needs some maintenance to get it running at optimal performance.
 - 3. **Pump Track Sign** just arrived and will be installed.
 - 4. **Bidarki Gym Floor--** no word back yet from the insurance company about coverage for repairs.
 - 5. **Salmon Runs** went pretty smoothly.
 - 6. **Parks Crew** has been getting a lot of work done, including thinning trees at Nirvana Park.
 - 7. **Shelter Cove Campsites** are very popular and management of them is going smoothly.
 - 8. **Skater's Cabin--** still a problem with people using the beach when it has been rented to others. The swim platform draws people to it, but that is the best place for it right now. There is signage explaining that the beach is for the cabin users, but it is largely ignored.
- G. **Unfinished Business:** none.
- H. **New Business**
 - 1. **Jet Skis on Eyak Lake at Nirvana Park** are now more prevalent. Someone put up buoys on the lake for a jet ski course. There is a danger that jet skis will run over a swimmer that they cannot see. Jet skis are being launched from the spit. This is also making it hard for Cordova Air to take off from the lake. No wake buoys could be added, and mooring and launching could be limited to the end of the spit. Permits from DNR are needed to make changes. There could be more liability for the city if there is a designated swim area. The many cars and trucks on the spit are causing a lot of erosion. Should the spit be limited to non-motorized transportation? There is now more parking at Nirvana Park since the trees have been thinned. S. Herschleb met with DOT and discussed where more trees could be cut down for additional parking. People should not park at the boat ramp at the end of the City Airport. Float planes are moored at Nirvana Park, and the owners will need access to them. W. Ranney and D. Zastrow agreed that closing the spit to motorized vehicles except plane owners would be a good idea. S. Herschleb noted that brush has been removed at the end of the spit, and picnic tables and fire rings will be added. Eventually there will be an ADA accessible trail from the parking lot to the foot bridge. If a hole is put in the concrete slab where the pavilion used to stand, a fire ring could be put there. The pavilion could be erected there in the future. **M/K.** Johnson to create limited motorized access to Nirvana Spit. **S/** D. Zastrow. **V/**Passed 4-1.
 - 2. **Pool Fundraising for Saltwater system--** \$5000 needs to be raised. W. Ranney suggested asking pool user groups first. The Iceworm and C.H.S. swim teams could help run a fundraiser. D. Zastrow asked how swim pass prices are decided. S. Herschleb explained that she compares our pass prices to those in other towns. K. Johnson wondered if coin operated showers could generate funds. S. Herschleb said that they require a lot of maintenance. Currently there are about 500

pool passes. M. Van Den Broek wondered if annual pool pass prices should be raised slightly, and that parents of tots could pay something to swim, since the tot swim is 3 times a week. R. Robertson agreed, and said it would be discussed when the next fee schedule is decided. Some fundraising ideas are: a swimming, biking, and hiking event, some activity with rubber ducks, and a rain gutter regatta. A new Rec Ops Leader will be hired soon, and can be the organizer of the fundraiser.

3. **Bidarki Summer Camp**—since the previous Rec Ops Leader resigned at the last minute, there was no time to train a new person to run the camp. R. Robertson explained that the risks are too great without a trained leader. He hoped to have the camp again, but there is no guarantee that it will happen. He would like to have a private business run the camp. S. Herschleb added that if there is an experienced Rec Ops Leader, the risks lessen. The high turnover in the position lately has affected the situation. NVE may partner with Bidarki in the future, which could be beneficial to both entities.

I. **Pending Agenda:** none

J. **Commission Comments**

M. Van Den Broek wondered if the pool cover was being used regularly. S. Herschleb said it was. M. Dunbar appreciated learning about the summer camp training and philosophy. W. Ranney has asked kids at the pump track what they think about it. She also thinks that the Future Problem Solvers should study what to do with the old city buildings. S. Herschleb said that the skate park can have a “Skate Board”—a board made of kids who use the park.

K. **Adjournment:** M to adjourn/ D. Zastrow, S/ M. Van Den Broek
Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25 at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Miriam Dunbar, Secretary