

Minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

December 29, 2015

- A. **Wendy Ranney** called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm
- B. **ROLL CALL:**
In attendance: Wendy Ranney, Karen Hallquist, Dave Zastrow, Miriam Dunbar, Stephen Phillips, Marvin Van Den Broek, Susie Herschleb, Heather Brannon, and Kate Morse.
Absent: Kara Johnson
- C. **Approval of Agenda:** M/ K. Hallquist to approve agenda, S/ M. Van Den Broek. V/Unanimous Approval.
- D. **Visitor Communication:**
1. Kara Johnson sent a note complimenting the Bidarki staff on doing a great job with the Bidarki Bazaar, and all the youth programs that they have been running.
 2. Kate Morse gave presentation "Odiak Watershed Restoration Update", which was created by Kristin Carpenter. The Copper River Watershed Project has an excellent partnership with the Parks & Rec department. Morse explained that "storm water" is not treated and goes directly into fish habitats and can threaten water quality. Odiak Pond is a "living laboratory" which can inspire school age students to appreciate and study the natural environment. Sampling there started in 2012, and has shown that the sediments contain heavy metals and have a lower PH level. Best management practices include preventing oil spills from residential oil tanks. The Bioswale was built so that plants can capture pollutants. Native plants were planted in 2014 and there was a 90% survival rate to 2015. Snow storage piles also collect pollutants. DOWL engineers visited Cordova and identified challenges for our watershed. Odiak Pavillion was moved and a sediment trap was built. Runoff from the snow storage on 2nd and Adams Streets goes directly into a storm drain. A future project is building a sediment trap for this area. Stream channel restoration was completed near the Copper River Highway so that there are now more Coho and Pink salmon in Odiak Pond. A native plant garden was created to educate people of all ages. Cadie Moffitt made a mosaic sign for the garden. Lots of community partners fund and volunteer on these projects. M. Van Den Broek asked if the effects of the area formerly being a dump have been examined. Morse said that is a tricky issue, as it focuses on problems that are hard to solve. D. Zastrow asked how far back the data records for the sediment went. Morse said only since 2012. There is a fecal chloroform problem near the Copper River Highway. Morse praised Belle Mickelson for adding Odiak Pond to the Ten Year Master Plan in 2007.
- E. **Consent Calendar:** Minutes of 10-27-15. M/ D. Zastrow to approve. S/ K. Hallquist. V/Unanimous Approval.
- F. **Director's Report by S. Herschleb:**
1. **Swimming Pool** inspection by the ADEC went very well. There was a problem with hot water last Sunday, probably due to a circulation pump. Staff is working to remedy the situation.
 2. **Bidarki Christmas Bazaar** was challenging since having it at the Cordova Center was a new experience for everyone involved. Lots of feedback from the vendors, especially "lack of flow" for the public, but most vendors made more money than last year. S. Herschleb feels the event needs to be designed to "fit the venue". W. Ranney agreed, and that the elementary school is not ideal for the bazaar because the school needs to focus on education, not community events. Food vendors could be serving from the Cordova Center kitchen and also set up outside the building. There were 6 more vendors than last year.
 3. **Budget constraints** in 2016 will force some programs at the pool and Bidarki to be scaled back. Every year temporary funds have been used to supplement the regular budget. The Rec Ops Leader is not funded for 2016. This has been a very hard position to fill, as the winter and summer duties are so different. \$15,000 in temporary funds will be used to pay enthusiasts for some of the programs.

4. **Iceworm Festival** is being planned now. Basketball, Dodge Ball, and Volleyball tournaments are being organized.
 5. **Summer Camp** will happen next summer and should be similar to past years.
 6. **Youth Basketball** will be starting in cooperation with CAYAK.
 7. **Bidarki Gym** visitation is higher than in past years probably due to growth in adult personal fitness. Also there is better tracking with the new swipe system. Pool attendance is also up, so revenue is up from previous years.
 8. **Vault Toilet** project is stalled right now. D. Zastrow explained that the problem is that the U.S.F.S. committee in Washington D.C. is still appointing members. Once that is finished, the committee will meet and the project will go forward.
- G. **Unfinished Business:**
1. **Property behind the high school**—the empty building still hasn't been moved. The satellite dish will also need to be moved which will be a big project. There are 2 basketball shooting stations currently in Parks & Rec. storage that could be put there.
- H. **New Business**
1. **Pump Track Celebration** will happen in the spring. We need to start brainstorming ideas for the event. W. Ranney is still working on getting a youth advisory group together. This group could have a representative attend our meetings to give feedback about youth programs.
- I. **Pending Agenda:**
None to add
- J. **Commission Comments**
M. Van Den Broek suggested more maps and signage for Bidarki Bazaar, and that extra vendors could have their tables outside. W. Ranney thinks the Pioneer Igloo could also be used for the event, and would like to see the city Christmas tree moved to the front of the Cordova Center. M. Dunbar noted that the current craft program for children at Bidarki seems to be going very well. H. Brannon agreed and has been pleased that all ages of children have participated. They received lots of great donations of craft materials. D. Zastrow appreciates Kate Morse and other speakers coming to our meetings and talking about their successes. He also loves having the meeting in the Cordova Center. K. Hallquist thanked Susie and Heather for all the hard work that they do. W. Ranney appreciates Stephen Phillips joining the commission. S. Phillips thanked everyone for welcoming him.
- K. **Adjournment:** M to adjourn/ M. Van Den Broek, S/ D. Zastrow.
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 6 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Miriam Dunbar, Secretary