

**Chair**

Erin Cole

**Vice Chair**

Jim Fritsch

**Commissioners**

Gabby Brown

Kara Rodriguez

Kelsey Hayden

Danny Carpenter

Grace Lee

**Parks & Recreation**

**Director**

Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider

**CITY OF CORDOVA  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
MEETING AGENDA  
TUESDAY, FEB. 24<sup>TH</sup> 2026. 6 PM  
COMMUNITY ROOM A & B  
CORDOVA CENTER**

**REGULAR AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. Minutes from January 27, 2025, Regular Meeting.
- 4. COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS**
  - a. Audience Comments regarding agenda items
- 5. REPORTS**
  - a. Director's Report – Verbal and written report including update on department projects and activities.
- 6. NEW BUSINESS.**
- 7. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**
- 8. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**
- 9. PENDING AGENDA**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

You may submit written public comments via email to [parksandrec@cityofcordova.net](mailto:parksandrec@cityofcordova.net), mail comments to Dept. of Parks & Recreation, City of Cordova, PO Box 364, Cordova, AK 99574, or deliver them to Bidarki Recreation Center directly. Written public comments must be received by 4:00 p.m. on the day of meeting.

**City of Cordova**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**January 27, 2026**  
**Cordova Center**  
**Minutes**

**1. Call TO Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by **acting chair Erin Cole**.

**2. Roll Call**

Present 5- Commission member Erin Cole  
Commission member Gabby Brown  
Commission member Kelsey Hayden  
Commission member Jim Fritsch  
Commission member Danny Carpenter

Excused Absence 1 – Commission member Grace Lee  
Commission member Kara Rodriguez

Also present: P&R Director Samantha Hagerthy- Schneider  
Recreation Clerk Taylor Shoemake

**3. Approval Of Minutes**

**J/Fritsch G/Brown** to approve minutes of November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, regular meeting

Upon voice vote, the motion carried 5-0

**4. Public Business From The Floor**

David Zastro of 607 Ceder St, Cordova, AK 99574 stated that the council would love to have more info regarding the pool. As well as talked about the possibility of doing a joint meeting with the council to show what the real issues are and go over short and long-term fixes. Also spoke about the idea of getting the public involved and their input.

All of this was said in reference to the current pool issues and was spoken about at the end of the meeting after a request for audience participation and comments.

## 5. Reports

### a. Directors Report

Director Hagerthy-Schneider spoke to the Director's report. Topics to include:

- General updates
- Updates about programs and what is going to be going on over the next few weeks.
- Skaters' Cabin update and speaking about the match that has been offered of up to \$20,000 from the Cordova Community Foundation.
- Donations that are being made to Bidarki and the rest of the parks department.
  - Donations are coming from:
    - Ridgeline Aviation
    - Trident
    - First National Bank Alaska
- Ice worm events
- Osha audit
- Possibility of monthly membership drafts and the possibility of gift cards.

## 6. New Business

### a. Agenda Item #6a

- **Item Title: Elect Chair of Cordova Parks & Recreation Commission for 1 year term.**
- **Submitted by: Samantha Hagerthy-Schnieder**
- **Motion**
  1. **E/Cole K/Hayden** Nominated **J/Fritsch**
  2. **J/Fritsch D/Carpenter** Nominated **E/Cole**
  3. Motion went to a voice vote with **E/Cole** being voted to chair 4-1

### b. Agenda Item #6b

- **Item title: Elect Vice Chair of Cordova Parks and Recreation Commission for a 1-year term.**
- **Submitted by: Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider**
- **Motion**
  1. **G/Brown K/Hayden** Nominated **J/Fritsch**
  2. Voice vote motion carried.
  3. **J/Fritsch** is voted vice chair of the commission.

**c. Agenda Item #6c**

- **Item Title: Pool Update and Open Discussion**
- **Submitted by: Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider**
- **Information**
  1. There is a severe leak and a crack in the sump pump. The pool needs to be opened up in order to assess the damage and figure out the next realistic steps.
  2. Peterson's has given a quote of \$7,000 to cut open the pool. Spoke with engineers about the pool and the current issues, and they were not surprised by the current issues.
  3. If the pool is opened and they are able to fix it when the pool is resealed, it needs to be immediately filled to stop the bedrock from shifting and recreating the problem. Renosys will then have to come back out to do repairs to the pool liner.
  4. To do any of these fixes, we have to wait for clear weather and no water in the pool.
    - a. When it rains, the groundwater is pushed up through the drains and into the pool.
  5. Juneau has the same type of pool but does not have the same groundwater issue.
  6. Next step is the city council and talking about how much money we can realistically invest into the pool. Since this will only be a band-aid fix.
  7. The main thought is that either way we will be opening the pool to see what the issue is, but we have to wait for

the perfect conditions before we are actually able to begin working on it and looking at the problem.

8. Whatever fix is done is a band-aid, and we need to start thinking about the future and a new pool.
9. The question was asked if we can take the money that was budgeted for the pool and put it towards the master plan if we are unable to fix the pool at this time.
10. Bo is the engineer who has been assisting with the pool.
  - a. Bo has been assisting with the pool pro bono for the last year.
11. Once we have more information, we will be putting out a bigger update.
12. The space in the pool that needs to be opened is a 5'x7' area around the drains.
13. We will need to check the master plan and update it to ensure that the pool is included and that it goes somewhere sustainable.

#### **7. Commission Business from the Floor**

- a. In the future, add communications from the public to the end of the meeting.
- b. Questioning when the bonds are going to expire and the possibility of doing that for the rebuild of the pool.
- c. Spoke about the mental health aspect of not having the pool and having more limited recreation activities, not only for adults but for the youth in town as well.

#### **8. Pending Agenda**

#### **9. Adjournment**

**D/Carpenter K/Hayden** to adjourn the meeting

**Chair E/Cole** adjourned the meeting at 7:03 PM.



# Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda Item #5a

On Agenda: 02/24/2026

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**ITEM TITLE: Director's Report**

**SUBMITTED BY:** Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider

**INFORMATION**

**MOTION**

**RESOLUTION**

**Information:**

Director's report speaking to the pool, Skaters', and general updates about Parks and Programs.



# Directors Report

February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Acknowledgement

I just want to start by saying thank you again to our staff and community partners. This time of year, it is busy, sometimes a little chaotic, and always full and I truly appreciate the teamwork and support that keeps everything moving forward.

## Summary

February felt like a month of real progress. We've taken some important steps forward with the Bob Korn Memorial Pool, which I know has been on everyone's minds. Being able to open the shell and actually see what we're working with gave us clarity and direction and honestly, that feels really good.

I've also been spending quite a bit of time working through policies. Not glamorous work, but important. My goal is to make sure our guidelines are clear, fair, and easy to follow for staff and for the public. Tightening these up now will help us tremendously move forward.

We've started a few new programs this month, and it's been exciting to see people show up and try something new. At the same time, I've noticed we're slowing down a bit with Wellness Memberships. That's something I'll be keeping an eye on and brainstorming ways to re-energize.

## Programs & Activities

Our regular programming continues to hold steady, which I love to see. Whether it's open gym, fitness, or youth programs, people are consistently using the spaces and that tells me we're meeting real needs.

## New Programs

We launched some new offerings this month for both youth and adults, and the feedback so far has been positive. We love trying new programs and it's also how we grow.

Jake and Taylor have been doing great work alongside the Cordova Family Resource Center and plan on lending a hand coaching their "Let Me Run" program. I'm really proud of the collaboration happening there, it feels natural and community-driven, and that's exactly how it should be. These partnerships make it possible for us to offer more for the community.

## Administration Projects

A lot of my desk time this month has been focused on policy updates — reviewing facility use, personal training guidelines, and internal procedures. Specifically, this includes drafting a formal Personal Training Policy, reviewing and updating all OSHA-related safety policies, and creating new field and snack shack rental terms and conditions.

This is really a step forward in making expectations consistent, clearly documented, and compliant. It gives our staff clear direction and ensures the public understands what to expect as well.

It may not be the most exciting part of the job, but it is an important effort to make sure all of our programs and facilities are sustainable for the future. Strong policies now mean fewer problems later and a more stable department overall.

In addition, I have been working with Planning & Zoning and Public Works regarding the Mt. Eyak lease that is expiring this year. We are reviewing next steps and making sure we are proactive and thoughtful as we move forward.

We're also still making steady progress on document retention and organizing old records. Slow and steady wins that race.

**Parks & Facilities**

**Bob Korn Memorial Pool – Update**

We are still moving forward with a fix for the pool. We were able to open the shell and get a much better look at what's happening. Having that information allows us to make informed decisions about what direction we would like to go.

The City approved a contract for boiler maintenance with Caliber Mechanical, and they've already made time to look at the pool boiler. It's running, but it still needs adjustments to operate the way it should. We'll continue working through those details to make sure everything is functioning properly and efficiently.

There's still work ahead, but we are no longer in "unknown" territory — and that feels like real progress.

**General Maintenance**

Our maintenance crew continues to impress me. Between snow removal and starting to think about spring prep, they just keep going. Our facilities stay safe and usable because of their effort, and I don't say that lightly. I want to remind everyone that moving forward, because of staff cuts we will not just have 2 maintenance employees for P&R with no temp working with them this summer. This means making choices about priority areas to focus on. For reference I wanted to share a list of what areas that are under the Parks & Recreation umbrella. Not listed are areas that we provide snow plowing and shoveling support.

Green Space (Undeveloped/Unnamed)

	<u>Approx. Size</u>
Tract A-3. Lot 9, Mt Eccles Estate, Mt Eccles Street	0.273 acres
Tract A of K&H LLC Subdivision, Copper River Highway	0.16 acres
Lot 1 (Area 2), 110 E. Heinrichs Loop, Whiskey Ridge	0.67 acres
Tract 11A ATS 220 of Sawmill Ave	0.14 acres.

Pocket Parks

Nettie Hansen Park, 401 Browning Ave	0.103 acres.
Fisherman's Memorial, Nicholoff Way	0.028 acres

Community Parks & Natural Resource Area

Nirvana Park & Cemetery, Lake Avenue	1.75 acres
Hollis Henrich's Park, 1300 Copper River Hwy	10.785 acres.
Noel Pallas Children's Memorial Playground & Orca Inlet 101 South First Street	0.87 acres.
Breakwater Park, Trail & Veterans Memorial, 118 Nicholoff Way	0.084 acres

Athletic Fields

Cordova Municipal Park, 100 South First Street	1.46 acres
Orca Inlet Recreation Area, (Ballfield & Multipurpose Field), 1451 Whitshed Road	6.504 acres

Camping Areas

Odiak Camper Park, 1401 Whitshed Road	5.436 acres.
Eyak Lake Skater's Cabin, 2210 Power Creek Road	0.485 acres.

Public Recreation Lands

Mt Eyak Recreation Area (Ski Hill), Ski Hill Road	200 acres.
Fleming Spit Recreation Area, Pt England Cannery Road	16 acres
Meals Reservoir Disc Golf Course, 0.6-mile Whitshed Road	60 acres

Total 305 acres.

Recreation Facilities

Bidarki Recreation Center	12,500 SF
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**Safety and Risk Management**

We are working on required training and certifications, so they are kept up to date, and safety remains front and center. As policies get updated, safety procedures are being reviewed right alongside them to make sure everything lines up.

**Budget & Finance**

We're still and will be for the year, operating within tight parameters, and that means being thoughtful and creative. Even with limitations, we're keeping programs going and pushing forward on high priority projects like the pool and Skaters' Cabin.

**Community Engagement & Partnerships**

Partnerships continue to be one of the best parts of this job. Working alongside other organizations makes our impact bigger and stronger.

I'm especially excited about our upcoming event, "Fired Up for Skaters." This is a fun way to build energy around the Skaters Cabin rebuild. I also want to gently remind everyone that we still have matching funds available because of the generous donation from Cordova Community foundation. Those matches matter, and every bit gets us closer to the finish line.

**Upcoming Priorities**

- Keep momentum going on pool repairs and boiler adjustments
- Finalize and implement updated policies
- Monitor Wellness Membership trends and look for ways to boost participation
- Host "Fired Up for Skaters" in April and continue fundraising efforts for the new cabin
- Begin shifting into spring facility and park preparation

As always, I'm grateful to be in this role and to work with a board that cares deeply about recreation in our community. Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully,

Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider  
Director, Parks & Recreation