

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, MARCH 31ST 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.**
 - a. Resolution to Make July Parks and Recreation Month
- 7. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**
- 8. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**
- 9. PENDING AGENDA**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

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 25th, 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: 03/27/2026

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.



Parks & Recreation Director's Report

Tuesday March 24th, 2026

I'd like to start by sharing several updates and highlights from the past month, along with a look ahead at what's shaping up to be a busy and exciting spring and summer season. Our team has been working hard across multiple fronts, and I'm proud of the progress being made—even as we continue to navigate limited resources and growing needs.

Facilities & Projects

We continue to make steady progress on several key facilities, with the pool remaining a major focus. Currently, the sumps have been removed and are at Peterson's for flange installation a returned. This is an important step forward in the repair process, and I will provide a more detailed update at the meeting as additional information becomes available.

The AKOSH health inspection has been completed, and I am actively working with them to finalize the process, including submitting all requested documentation. I'm proud to report that the inspection went very well. I also invited AKOSH to review our pool chemical handling procedures to ensure we are operating safely and in alignment with best practices. Employee safety remains one of my top priorities, and I am committed to continually improving our knowledge and procedures in this area.

At the Skaters Cabin, we are continuing to pursue funding opportunities. We recently submitted a Tier 1 grant to Rasmussen. Taylor and I had a meeting with them this past Wednesday to review the application. If approved, this would be a significant step closer to constructing a new cabin and improving that space for community use.

Additionally, I submitted a Letter of Interest for the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) for the project titled: *Community Health Infrastructure – Replacement of the Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool and Bidarki Recreation Center*. This program is designed to support rural communities by funding infrastructure that improves health, wellness, and safety. This submission is the first step in positioning our community for future funding opportunities, and we are hopeful about its potential.

I'm also excited to share that recent budget amendments have funded both the current pool repairs and the development of a Master Plan. I have reached out to Corvus Design to begin this process. The Master Plan will focus specifically on the Bidarki Recreation Area and the pool, helping us take a more strategic, long-term approach to these important community assets.

As we transition into spring, it's great to see Little League gearing up for the season, which is a true sign that warmer weather is on the way. I continue to work closely with Little League, the Mayor, City Council, and the City Manager regarding the fee schedule and reservation system.

Community & Partnerships

Building strong partnerships continues to be a key part of our work. I had the opportunity to attend a Cordova Community Foundation meeting to give them an update on the Skaters' Cabin match grant that was awarded. I truly appreciated how gracious and welcoming they were. It has been incredibly rewarding to build relationships, develop friendships, and collaborate with so many different community partners during my time here. I look forward to continuing to strengthen those connections and working together on future opportunities.

I'd also like to give a big shoutout to the community members who created the skate rink at Odiak Pond. It was wonderful to see families and kids out enjoying the space. There were some concerns about potential misuse or cleanup, but after connecting with those involved, I'm happy to share that the area has been treated with respect and care, and they've committed to ensuring it is left in good condition when the ice melts.

I also met with Cathy Renfeldt at the Chamber of Commerce to discuss expanding marketing efforts for the Odiak Camper Park. While we fell slightly short of our revenue goal, we saw a 44% increase compared to the 2024 season, which is a significant accomplishment. We remain committed to building on that momentum and working toward a fully utilized camper park. Improvements such as the installation of a new propane boiler and streamlining the reservation process have already made a noticeable difference, both for user experience and administrative efficiency.

Programs & Events

Our recreation programs continue to be active and well-attended. Basketball, soccer, and pickleball just to name a few, provide consistent opportunities for community members of all ages to stay active and connected.

Looking ahead:

- **Fired Up at Skaters** – June 20th (Changed from April 4th)
- **Bay to Bay** – May 9th

We're excited to keep building momentum with these events as we move into the summer season. That said, I do want to note that due to current budget constraints, some programs and hours of operation may be limited. We are doing everything we can to maximize offerings with the resources available.

Maintenance & Operations

Our maintenance team has been incredibly busy behind the scenes. Flowers have started in the Bidarki plant nursery, and preparations for fields and facilities will begin soon as we gear up for summer. We are addressing several known deficiencies (some health and safety) in the fields and snack shack. I meet regularly with maintenance staff to prioritize and tackle these issues, we are doing our best to make meaningful improvements within a very limited budget.

In addition to seasonal work, the team has been heavily involved in pool repairs while also responding to day-to-day maintenance needs across all facilities. Much of their work goes unseen, but it is essential to keeping everything running safely and smoothly. They are continually working through a long list of maintenance needs, and we are incredibly grateful for their dedication, flexibility, and hard work.

At the same time, I am continuing to finalize and update departmental policies and procedures to ensure we are operating as efficiently and consistently as possible. We have also been able to fit in valuable staff training this month, including certifications focused on working with children and ensuring their safety.

Investing in our team in this way is critical to maintaining high standards across all of our programs and services.

Trails Committee

The Trails Committee continues to do great work and is moving into a phase where volunteer support will be key. There will be opportunities for community members to get involved in upcoming projects, and I encourage everyone to keep an eye out for those announcements. I will also be sharing information through our social media channels.

Additional Notes

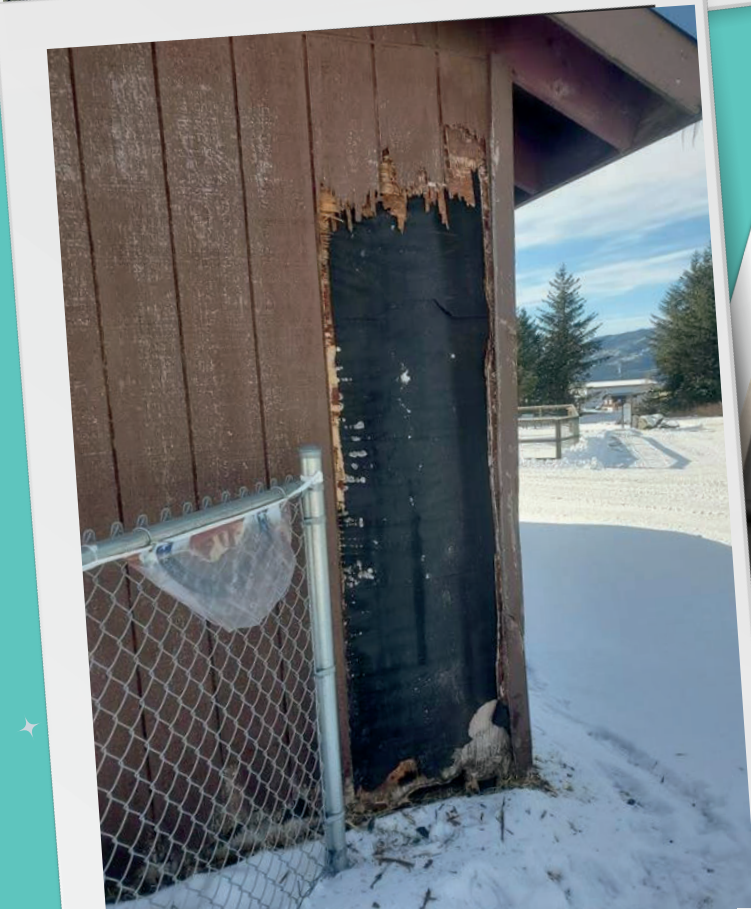
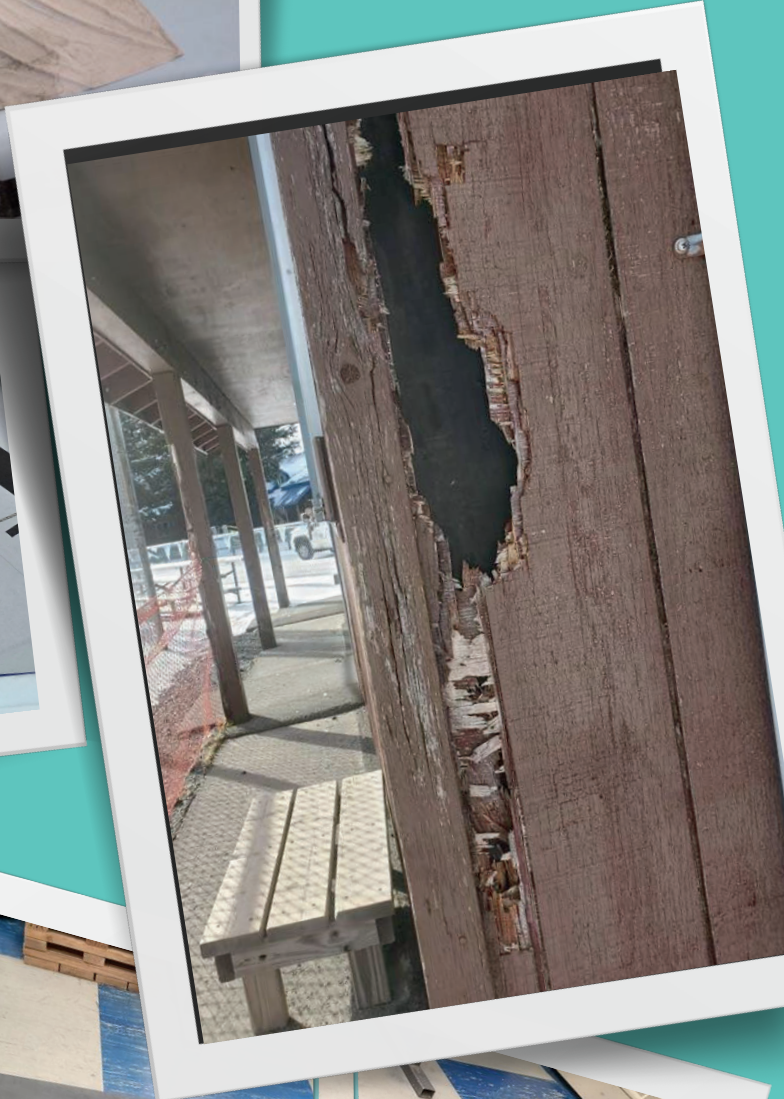
For both new and returning board members, I strongly encourage reviewing the 2022 condition assessments for our parks and facilities. These documents provide important insight into existing deficiencies and help guide our priorities as we plan for improvements and future investments.

Overall, there is a tremendous amount of work happening across our department, from daily operations and maintenance to long term planning, training, and partnerships. I am proud of what our team is accomplishing and excited about the direction we are heading as we continue working to provide safe, accessible, and high quality recreation opportunities for our community.



CITY of CORDOVA
PARKS
& RECREATION







Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda Item #6a

On Agenda: 3/31/2025

ITEM TITLE: Resolution 2026-01

SUBMITTED BY: Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider

INFORMATION

MOTION

RESOLUTION

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: N/A
Unencumbered Balance: N/A
Funding Source: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Vote to make July official Parks and Recreation month.

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The resolution recognizes the role that parks and recreation play in the health, wellness, environmental sustainability, and economy of the community. It highlights its importance in promoting active lifestyles, supporting youth development, connecting people to nature, and strengthening the community.

ATTACHMENT 1

**CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
RESOLUTION 2026-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA RECOMMENDING CITY COUNCIL
MAKE JULY PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH**

WHEREAS parks and recreation is an integral part of communities throughout this country, including Cordova; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation promote health and wellness, improving the physical and mental health of people who live near parks; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation promotes time spent in nature, which positively impacts mental health by increasing cognitive performance and well-being, and alleviating illnesses such as depression, attention deficit disorders, and Alzheimers; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation encourage physical activities by providing space for popular sports, hiking trails, swimming pools, and many other activities designed to promote active lifestyles; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation is a leading provider of healthy meals, nutrition services and education; and **WHEREAS** park and recreation programming and education activities such as out-of-school time programming, youth sports and environmental education, are critical to childhood development; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation increases a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation is fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and

WHEREAS parks and recreation is essential and adaptable infrastructure that makes out communities resilient in the face of natural disasters and climate change; and

WHEREAS our parks and natural recreation areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and

WHEREAS the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July Parks and Recreation Month; and

WHEREAS Cordova recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY the City of Cordova that July is recognized as Park and Recreation Month in the City of Cordova.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 31ST DAY OF MARCH 2026.

Commission Chair

Attest:

Department Director