

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, June 30ST 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 March 31, 2026, 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, 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
March 31, 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 Chair Erin Cole
Commission member Gabby Brown
Commission member Kelsey Hayden
Commission member Kara Rodriguez
Commission member Danny Carpenter
Commission member Grace Lee

Excused Absence 1 – Commission member Jim Fritsch

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

3. Approval Of Minutes

K/Rodriguez G/Lee to approve minutes of January 27th, 2025, regular meeting

Upon voice vote, the motion carried 6-0

4. Public Business From The Floor

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 and being halfway to the \$20,000
 - Met with Shay about the cabin and talked about possible foundation options.
- Approval of the second half of the master plan.
 - Plan will be rescoped for the pool and Bidarki
- New plumbing at the pool for the main drainage system waiting on one more part for that.\
- City Approved \$100,000 for pool
- Akosh inspections and health inspections
- Taylor Fire came in and checked facilities
- Both playgrounds are in need of repairs
 - Heather with Northwest Playgrounds has offered to come in and give a presentation on grants and offer resources. She has also offered to come in at no charge to us to do this.

6. New Business

a. Resolution to make July Parks and Recreation Month

- No statements from the commission
- Motion to pass **K/Hayden K/Rodriguez**
 1. Voted unanimously in favor, and the resolution passed.

7. Commission Business from the Floor

- a. Trails Committee is looking for volunteers for assistance with some projects this summer, and request for the Trails Committee come in and do a presentation on the volunteer opportunities.

8. Comments From The Audience

9. Pending Agenda

10. Adjournment

K/Hayden K/Rodriguez to adjourn the meeting

Chair E/Cole adjourned the meeting at 7:14 PM.



Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda Item #5a

On Agenda: 06/30/2026

ITEM TITLE: Director's Report

SUBMITTED BY: Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider

☒ **INFORMATION**

☐ **MOTION**

☐ **RESOLUTION**

Information:

Director's report will speak to the pool, Skaters' Cabin, Master Plan, and current activities.



Parks & Recreation Director's Report

June 30, 2026

The past few months have been incredibly busy for the Parks & Recreation Department. As we head into another exciting summer season, there have been many moving parts, from facility projects and capital improvements to new programs, regional partnerships, and community events. It has been rewarding to welcome both new and returning seasonal staff to our team. Although our seasonal staffing budget is more limited this year, we have worked hard to strategically schedule staff in a way that continues to provide quality programs, maintain our parks and facilities, and meet the recreation needs of our community.

Fired' Up for Skaters'

Our Fired Up for Skaters fundraiser was a tremendous success and highlighted just how much Skaters' Cabin means to the Cordova community. It was inspiring to see so many community members come together to support the rebuilding effort.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and especially to the many volunteers who donated their time to make the event possible. From setup and food service to fundraising and cleanup, your hard work and dedication made the event a success. Community support like this is what makes projects such as Skaters' Cabin possible.

Skaters' Cabin Rebuild

Momentum continues to build for the Skaters' Cabin rebuilding project.

Thanks to the generous \$20,000 matching grant from the Cordova Community Foundation, every community donation currently has twice the impact. Since announcing the matching campaign, the community has contributed more than \$11,000, bringing total community fundraising to over \$24,000, not including the matching funds.

Staff continue to actively pursue grant opportunities while working toward the next phase of the project. I plan to move forward with a design agreement, as completed design drawings will strengthen future grant applications, assist with fundraising efforts, and provide the community with a clear vision of the finished cabin.

I have been working closely with Alaska Insulated Panels and am hopeful we will soon enter into a design contract to begin developing detailed plans for the future Skaters' Cabin. This will represent an exciting milestone as the project continues to move from concept toward construction.

Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool

Progress continues at the Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool as we move closer to reopening.

Staff have successfully completed draining the pool and are currently working through several maintenance and preparation projects before the liner installation crew arrives next week. Completing this work now will help ensure everything is ready for a smooth repair.

Following the liner repair, staff will begin refilling the pool and begin balancing the water chemistry.

Reopening the pool will require additional time to certify lifeguards, complete staff training, and safely bring the facility back into operation. I am currently developing an operating schedule that balances community needs with the department's available staffing and budget. While I anticipate operating hours will be somewhat limited initially, our goal is to maximize access while ensuring we can operate safely and sustainably.

We continue to experience challenges with the aging pool boiler and are currently waiting on replacement parts. Due to the age and unique make of the system, sourcing components has proven difficult. Fortunately, we have been working with an excellent mechanical contractor who has been diligent in locating the necessary parts and assisting us through the repair process.

The City Manager and I have also begun meeting with the Corvus Design team as work continues on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. We are excited about the progress being made and look forward to sharing future concepts with the Commission and community.

Summer Recreation Programs

Summer programming is off to a fantastic start.

Our new 3-on-3 Basketball League recently tipped off and has already seen great participation and enthusiasm from players. It has been exciting to see the gym full of activity, and we look forward to watching the league continue throughout the summer.

We have also seen a dedicated core group regularly attending our Active Older Adult fitness programs held every Tuesday and Thursday morning. It has been wonderful to watch these participants build friendships while staying active, and we hope to continue growing this program throughout the year.

We are also excited to partner with JD Elquist, Pacific Northwest Native Lacrosse, and Native Village of Eyak (NVE) to bring a free community lacrosse program to Cordova on July 11. The program will feature two sessions where participants will learn about the history and cultural significance of lacrosse, develop fundamental skills, and experience the game firsthand.

Thanks to the generosity of our partners, every participant will receive a lacrosse stick and ball to take home. In addition, Pacific Northwest Native Lacrosse is donating equipment to the Parks & Recreation Department, allowing us to continue offering lacrosse programming in the future and introduce even more youth to this exciting sport.

Overall, participation across our summer recreation programs has been encouraging, and staff continue to explore additional opportunities to meet the recreational needs of our community.

Odiak Camper Park

Reservations at Odiak Camper Park continue to come in each day as visitors make their summer travel plans. With Salmon Jam just around the corner, we encourage anyone planning to stay at the campground during that weekend to reserve their campsite as soon as possible. That week is filling up fast.

Maintenance staff continue to provide routine mowing, restroom cleaning, campsite inspections, and general upkeep to ensure campers have a clean and enjoyable experience. Odiak Camper Park remains an important recreational amenity for both residents and visitors, and we are excited for it's future.

Covered Spaces Project

I was honored to attend the dedication ceremony for the Covered Spaces Project's first covered gathering space. This exciting project will be located near the South Harbor, adjacent to the Breakwater Trail and Veterans Memorial, creating a welcoming place for residents and visitors to gather while enjoying one of Cordova's most scenic waterfront locations.

Once construction is complete, the Parks & Recreation Department will assume responsibility for the long-term care and maintenance of the space. We are proud to be part of this project and have worked closely with the Covered Spaces Project throughout the design process to ensure the structure is both functional and low maintenance. We will continue working together on selecting durable materials and developing a long-term maintenance and sustainability plan so the space can serve the community for many years to come.

Eyak Mountain Trail Project

The Parks & Recreation Trails Committee continues to partner with the U.S. Forest Service on Phase II of the Eyak Mountain Trail Improvement Project. Committee members, volunteers, and partner agencies have dedicated countless hours to improving one of Cordova's most iconic trail systems.

Volunteer workdays will be announced soon, and we encourage community members to join us in preserving and improving our local trail network. These projects continue to demonstrate what can be accomplished through strong community partnerships and volunteerism.

Odiak Pond Bioswale Partnership

Maintenance staff recently had the opportunity to work alongside the Copper River Watershed Project and Cordova Community Medical Center to clean and restore the bioswale at Odiak Pond.

The improvements have made a noticeable difference, and I encourage everyone to take a walk through the area to see the results. The bioswale plays an important role in improving water quality, managing stormwater, and enhancing one of our community's beautiful natural spaces.

This work has been completed under a Memorandum of Understanding between the participating organizations. That agreement has since expired, and I will be working with our partners to develop an updated MOU so we can continue this successful collaboration into the future.

Professional Development & Regional Collaboration

I am honored to serve on the Prince William Sound Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) Steering Committee. This regional initiative brings together community leaders, agencies, businesses, and nonprofit organizations from across Prince William Sound to identify opportunities that strengthen local economies through outdoor recreation, tourism, and community development.

As a member of the steering committee, I will help guide the planning process, identify regional priorities, and develop strategies that support sustainable recreation while enhancing quality of life for both residents and visitors. I look forward to contributing to these discussions and helping share perspectives from our community as part of the broader regional effort

I am also participating in the Alaska Municipal League's "Leveraging Your Asset Data" Cohort, a professional learning program focused on infrastructure asset management and data-driven decision making.

Through this cohort, I am learning practical strategies for collecting, organizing, and using asset data to make more informed decisions about maintaining City facilities and infrastructure. The knowledge gained will strengthen long-term planning, improve maintenance practices, support future capital improvement projects, and help ensure we are making the best use of available resources for the benefit of our community.

Parks & Recreation Month

Don't forget! July is Parks & Recreation Month! I am happy to share that the City Council has officially adopted a resolution proclaiming July as Parks & Recreation Month in the City of Cordova.

Throughout the month, the department will be highlighting our parks, trails, facilities, programs, staff, volunteers, and community partnerships through daily social media posts. Parks & Recreation Month is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the important role parks and recreation play in improving quality of life, promoting healthy lifestyles, protecting natural resources, and bringing our community together.

Closing

As always, I would like to thank the Commission for your continued support of the Parks & Recreation Department. I am also incredibly grateful to our staff, volunteers, community partners, and residents who continue to support the work we do every day.

The beginning of the season has been busy but rewarding. From planning the rebuilding beloved community spaces and improving our parks and trails to expanding recreation programs, strengthening regional partnerships, investing in professional development, celebrating Parks & Recreation Month, moving exciting community projects forward, and moving closer to reopening the Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool, I am optimistic about the direction our department is heading. I look forward to sharing even more progress with the Commission and our community in the months ahead.

Regards,

Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider

Director, Cordova Parks & Recreation