

Chair

Erin Cole

Vice Chair

Jim Fritsch

Commissioners

Gabby Brown

Kara Rodrigues

Kelsey Hayden

Danny Carpenter

Grace Lee

Parks & Recreation**Director**

Samantha Hagerthy-Schneider

**CITY OF CORDOVA
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH 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 July 28, 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
July 28, 2026
Cordova Center
Minutes

1. Call TO Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present 5- Commission Chair Erin Cole
Commission Vice Chair Jim Fritsch
Commission member Kelsey Hayden
Commission member Kara Rodriguez
Commission member Gabby Brown
Commission member Grace Lee

Excused Absence 1 – Commission member Danny Carpenter

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

3. Approval Of Minutes

K/Hayden K/Rodriguez to approve minutes of March 31th, 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 being at \$12,744
- Master Plan updates
 - There will be an additional community meeting.
 - Brief description of what the new facility will look like and what we are waiting to talk about with the designers of the plan.
- One side of the snack shack has new siding that was put on by our maintenance team and the volunteer help of Aaron Hansen. There are also all new appliances in the snack shack, and it is available for rent.
- We are still looking into what is going to happen with the previously purchased pool passes, but that will not be decided till there is an opening date for the pool.
- The pool is coming along nicely, and we are working on a couple more issues to avoid having to close the pool in the future.
- Parks and Recreation month is going well, and posts about what we do and what is going on in the Parks Dept. are being posted daily till the end of July.
- Questions and suggestions from council:
 - What will the winter hours look like?
 - They will be similar to last year's and be dependent on staffing.
 - Could we do volunteers on Sundays to open up the gym/pool to the public?
 - After speaking with our legal team, we are unable to allow volunteers to open up the building for the public.
 - Possibly doing drop-in or pay-to-play baseball.

6. New Business

7. Commission Business from the Floor

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 6:29 PM.

DRAFT



Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda Item #5a

On Agenda: 09/29/2026

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

September 29th 2026

Department Overview

September has been an exciting and busy month for Parks and Recreation, with the reopening of the Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool being our biggest milestone. After more than a year of closure, repairs, planning, and uncertainty, seeing the community back in the water has been incredibly rewarding.

We continue to work through operational adjustments while balancing community access, staffing, safety, and the department's reduced operating budget.

Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool

The Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool officially reopened to the community with a free Pool Party on September 12. It was a great opportunity to welcome everyone back into the facility after such a long closure and celebrate what it took to get us to this point.

Regular programming began September 14 and includes lap swim, recreational swim, School Swim, and swim team use. The schedule was developed around our current staffing and budget and provides as much community access as we can sustainably support at this time. We will continue to evaluate participation and make adjustments where they are reasonable and financially sustainable.

We have also continued working through maintenance issues that can be expected when bringing a facility back online after an extended closure. Staff and our maintenance team have worked hard to address issues as they arise and minimize interruptions to programming.

Aquatic safety and risk management continue to be a priority. The City's existing policy requires two qualified lifeguards whenever the pool is open for swimming. We have been reviewing CDC Model Aquatic Health Code guidance, American Red Cross training standards, and USA Swimming information to help clearly communicate the professional standards and risk-management considerations behind this policy.

The pool remains an American Red Cross training facility, which allows us to provide recognized aquatic safety training and swim and water-safety instruction. Maintaining those professional standards is an important part of our responsibility as a public aquatic facility.

Staffing & Lifeguard Training

Staffing continues to be one of the department's largest operational challenges following budget reductions. We are operating with fewer positions than in previous years while continuing to cover the pool, Bidarki Recreation Center, programs, parks, and other department responsibilities.

We recently completed a lifeguard certification course in partnership with Lavender Lifesaving Certifications. This provided additional trained guards and was an important step toward rebuilding our aquatic staffing capacity.

We will continue recruiting and training lifeguards as opportunities arise.

Programs & Activities

Our fall programming is off to a great start, and it has been wonderful to see so much activity throughout the department. Taylor is offering a dance class and is also supporting Girls on the Run two days a week as a coach. Basketball is in full swing, and our Active Older Adult classes continue to be well attended.

Between recreation programs, pool programming, community partnerships, and facility offerings, there is a lot happening this fall. Supporting programs like Girls on the Run is another example of how our staff can partner with community organizations to expand recreational opportunities for Cordova's youth.

Our new Parks & Recreation Activity Guide has been completed and ordered, and the digital version is already available online. The guide brings our programs, activities, facilities, and opportunities together in one place and gives the community a great look at everything Parks & Recreation has going on. We are excited to get the printed copies out into the community soon.

Skaters Cabin

Work continues on the replacement Skaters Cabin. Preliminary design work has been underway with Alaska Insulated Panels, and we are waiting for the final drawings and updated project numbers. I had hoped to have these available for the September Commission meeting; however, they are not yet ready and will be brought forward at a future meeting.

Fundraising continues to show strong community support for this project. We have now raised \$14,344 toward the \$20,000 Cordova Community Foundation matching opportunity, leaving just \$5,656 to complete the match.

Total fundraising for the Skaters Cabin project has now reached \$24,406!

Every additional dollar raised toward the remaining Community Foundation match is doubled, making the next \$5,656 especially important as we continue working toward completing the project.

Facilities & Maintenance

September has included significant facility work as we transition the pool back into regular operations.

Staff continue to monitor the pool's mechanical systems, including the boiler, pumps, chemical systems, and other equipment following the extended shutdown.

We are also continuing work related to the pool fuel tank and AKOSH consultation. The Cordova Volunteer Fire Department has offered to assist with a site review and pre-incident planning as part of the City's work toward a temporary variance and long-term correction plan.

At Bidarki, the replacement fuel tank project has been completed with substantial assistance from Public Works. Their support on this project is greatly appreciated.

Partnerships, Planning & Professional Development

Work with Corvus Design on the Parks and Recreation facility master planning process continues. This effort is looking at the long-term future of Bidarki Recreation Center and the Bob Korn Memorial Swimming Pool and will help identify facility needs, priorities, and potential future development.

I attended the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) workshop for Prince William Sound in Whittier. The Prince William Sound Economic Development District (PWSEDD) helped support my participation, allowing me to attend despite the department's limited travel budget.

The RERC workshop focused on how outdoor recreation can strengthen rural economies, improve quality of life, and create opportunities for greater collaboration throughout Prince William Sound. It was also a valuable opportunity to connect with regional partners and discuss how recreation fits into the broader economic future of our communities.

I also attended the Alaska Outdoor Recreation Alliance Confluence, which was held here in Cordova. The Confluence brought outdoor recreation professionals, organizations, agency representatives, community leaders, and other partners from around Alaska to our community, including the Alaska Marine Highway System Director.

The Confluence focused on outdoor recreation, connectivity, economic development, and opportunities to strengthen recreation throughout Alaska. Having this statewide gathering in Cordova was also a great opportunity to showcase our community, trails, outdoor recreation assets, and the unique opportunities and challenges that come with recreation in rural Alaska.

Both opportunities directly relate to the work Parks and Recreation is doing. Recreation facilities, trails, public spaces, and outdoor access contribute not only to quality of life but also to tourism, workforce recruitment and retention, and economic development.

These regional and statewide relationships are increasingly important as we continue looking for partnerships, outside funding, technical assistance, and other resources to support recreation, trails, facilities, and community projects without relying solely on City funding.

Looking Ahead

As we move into October, our focus will be on stabilizing pool operations, monitoring participation and staffing, continuing work on the Skaters Cabin and master plan, preparing for budget discussions, and moving several partnership and facility projects forward.

The reopening of the pool has been a major accomplishment, but it also marks the beginning of the next phase of work. Our goal is to provide programs and facilities that are safe, sustainable, and realistic within the resources available to the department.

Thank you to our Parks and Recreation staff, Maintenance and Public Works teams, community partners, volunteers, and community members who helped us reach this point. September has been a great reminder of how much these facilities, programs, and public spaces mean to Cordova.