



City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686

Meeting Agenda

Parks and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Regular Meeting

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [Approval of Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes for November 13, 2025](#)

IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

V. REPORTS

1. [PRCS 2025 Year End Report](#)
2. [PRCS Interim Director Report](#)

VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

VII. ADJOURNMENT



City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686

Legislation Text

File #: 26-0056, **Version:** 1

ITEM TITLE:

Approval of Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes for November 13, 2025

SUBMITTED BY: Lisa Anderson

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: N/A

Unencumbered Balance: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes for November 13, 2025

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

N/A

City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



DRAFT - Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 13, 2025

6:30 PM

Regular Meeting (Note Date Change Due to Holiday)

Council Chambers

Parks and Recreation Commission

REGULAR AGENDA - 6:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Present 4 – Chair Sarah Jorgenson-Owen
Chair Pro Tempore Benjamin Rush
Commission Member Jeremy Robida
Commission Member Jessica Tran

Absent 1 - Commission Member Heidi Johnson

Also Present 3 - PRCS Director Bridget Rich
Deputy Clerk Elise Sorum-Birk
PRCS Office Manager Lisa Anderson

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approval of Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes for August 12, 2025

Minutes were adopted by consent.

IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Deputy Clerk Sorum-Birk gave an overview of the basics of how a Commission works.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Election of PRCS Chair

MOTION: Commission Member Robida moved, seconded by Commission Member Rush, to nominate Chair Jorgenson-Owen for Chair.

VOTE ON MOTION:
Yays: 4 - Chair Jorgenson-Owen, Commission Member Rush, Commission Member Robida, and Commission Member Tran

Absent: 1- Commission Member Johnson

MOTION CARRIED
- 2. Election of PRCS Chair Pro Tempore

MOTION: Commission Member Rush moved, seconded by Commission Chair Jorgenson-Owen to nominate Commission Member Robida for Chair Pro Tempore.

VOTE ON MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Chair Jorgenson-Owen, Commission Member Rush, Commission Member Robida, and Commission Member Tran

Absent: 1- Commission Member Johnson

MOTION CARRIED

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. 2025 PRCS Commission Goals Review
Discussion will continue in the upcoming work session.

VII. REPORTS

1. PRCS Director Report
PRCS Director Rich gave an update on the department.

VIII. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commission Member Robida welcomed Commission Member Tran to the Commission. Asked Director Rich questions about the Meals Hill project, and she responded that they did some recent work up there and there will be continued work there for the foreseeable future. Commission Member Robida asked if that trail will be connected to other trails. Director Rich didn't have a definite answer to the question. He also asked if it was time to move the rope tow due to the mild winters, to be able to open sooner. He commented that he would like to see a snowcross event in town.

Chair Pro Tempore Rush commented on how they used to have snow machine races over by the senior center. He also welcomed Commission Member Tran to the Commission. He thanked Chair Jorgenson-Owen for being the Chair again.

Chair Jorgenson-Owen welcomed Commission Member Tran to the Commission. Requested to review the Master Plan and at least two goals for 2026 in a work session in December or January.

IX. ADJOURNMENT



Legislation Text

File #: 26-0057, **Version:** 1

ITEM TITLE:

PRCS 2025 Year End Report

SUBMITTED BY: Lisa Anderson

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: N/A

Unencumbered Balance: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

N/A



Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services 2025 Year-End Report



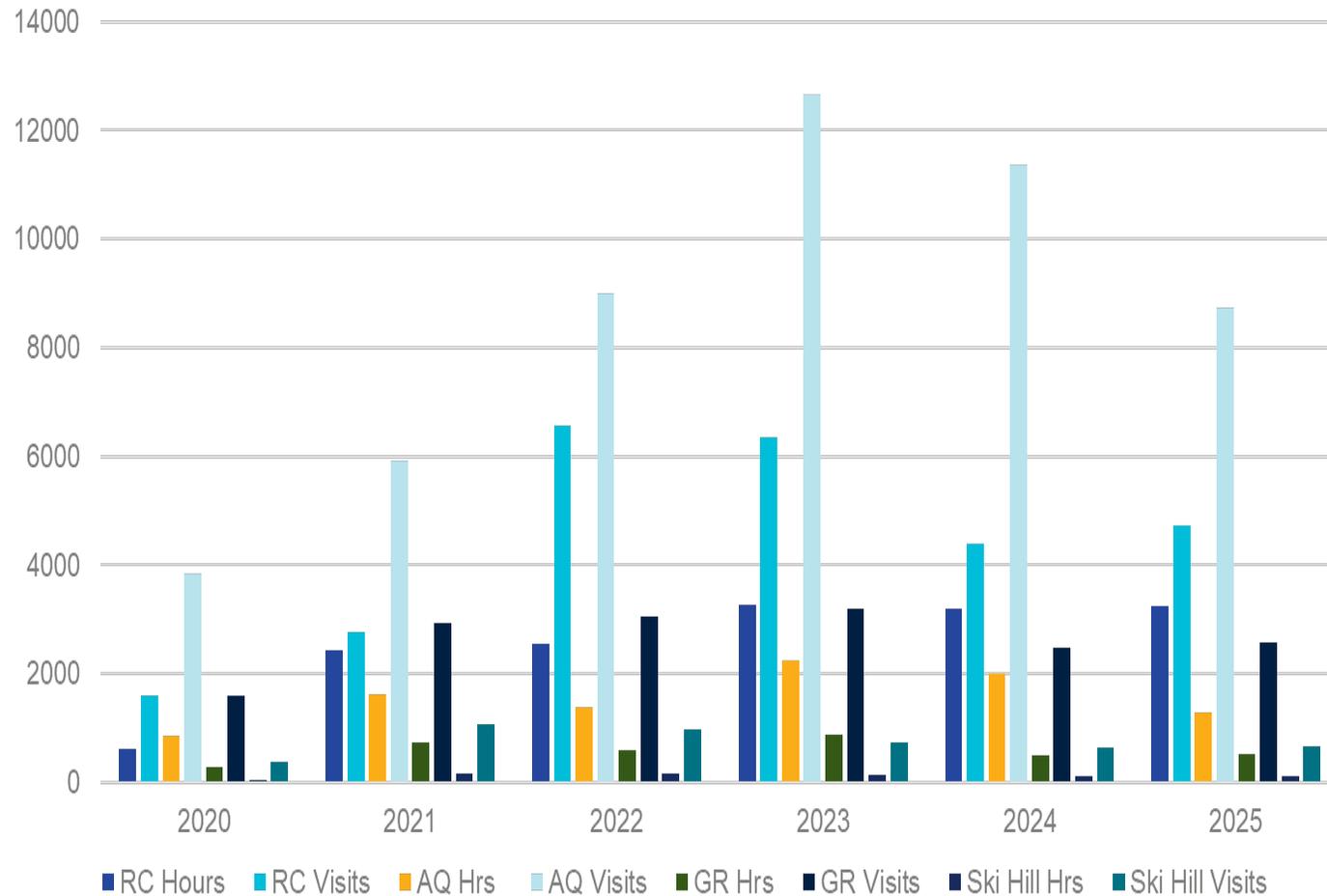
Recreation

Recreation – Program & Budget Measures

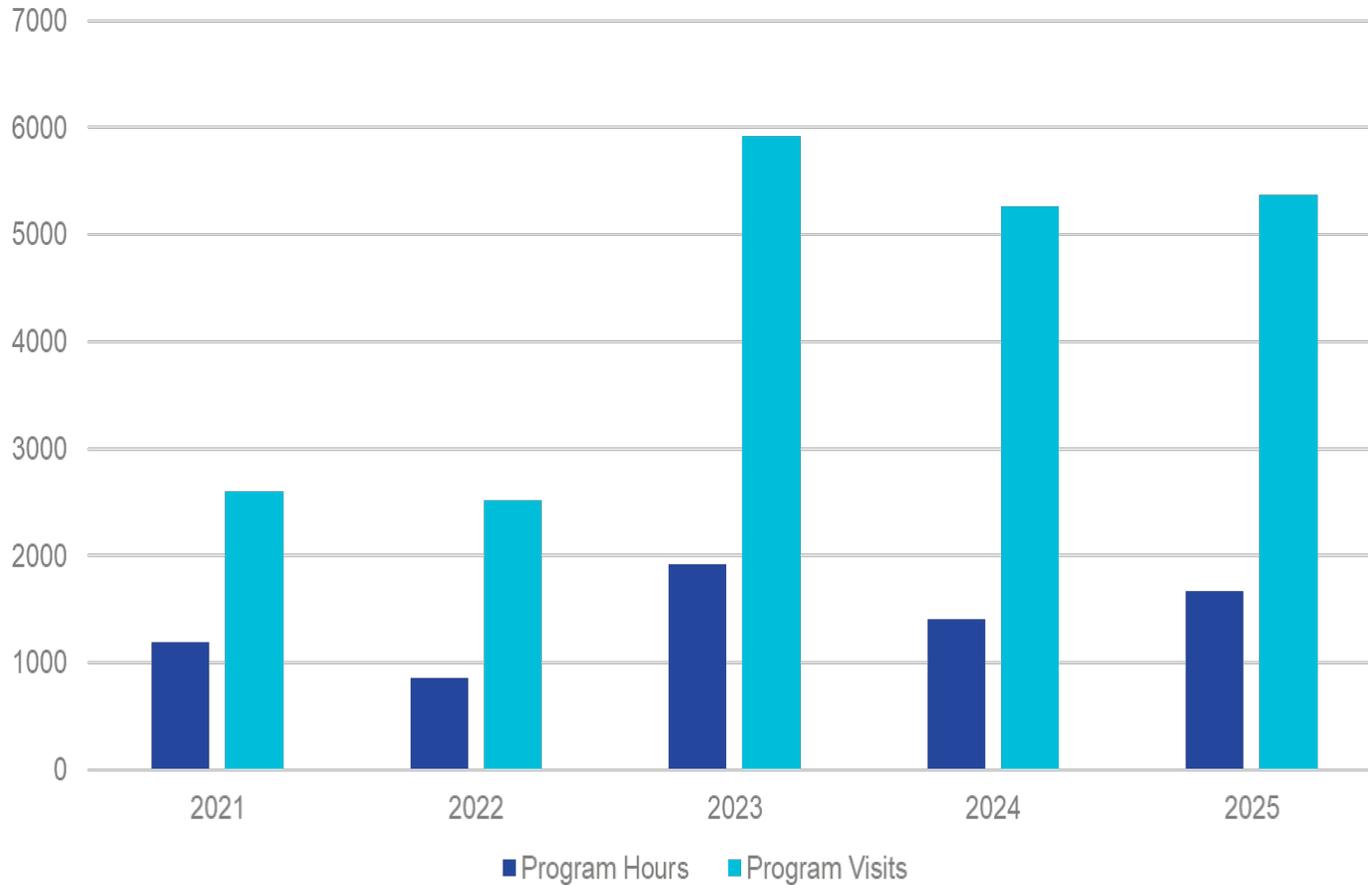
Function of Responsibility	Measures
Communication	<p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1500 Activity Guides Distributed to the community
Special Events	<p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 Community/Special Event Offerings throughout the year • Promoted Floatin' & Franks and the Splash-n-Dash Triathlon to meet community interest
General Programming, Drop-In & Facility Rentals	<p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,819 Active Memberships • 149 program sessions offered in 2025 • 2025 revenue (includes rentals, concessions & program) - \$43,366.10
Outdoor Recreation	<p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current programming hours to include; 108 hours of Ski Hill operations, yearly trail use incentive (I Share the Trails), beginner drop-in outdoor activities (Group Hikes, Winter Excursions etc.)
Day Camps/Out – Of School	<p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain after school programming to fill early release Fridays throughout the school year • Supported 12 total weeks of day camps across Summer Fun, Spring/Winter Break, and Coastal Connections
Maintain General Operations across all Recreation facilities	<p>Measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,234 Recreation Drop-In Hours • 1,272 Aquatic Drop-In Hours • 527.5 Gym & Rockwall Drop-In Hours • 108 Ski Hill Drop-In Hours



Recreation – Drop-In Programming & Visits



Recreation – Program Hours & Participation



Camp Highlights

- Parks & Recreation offered a total of 10 weeks of day camps for elementary students during spring, winter, and summer breaks
- Plus 2 weeks of camps for middle school students (Coastal Connections)



Valdez City Pool Highlights



Non-Resident revenue was \$1,696.00

There were 8,724 resident member check-ins/visits

The swim lesson program proudly taught water safety skills to nearly 100 children and generated \$3,906.40 in program revenue.

We held the annual Banana Meet for the Torpedo Swim Club, which had over 150 kids from 7 different teams participate



Recreation – Looking Forward

Staff are Currently Working On...

Improving on services already provided and focusing on quality

- Continued enhancements to existing programs supported increased community participation at Haunted Homestead Trail, New Year's Eve Fireworks, and 4th of July
- Training & growing new professionals in coordinator positions



Expanding Program Offerings & Recreation Opportunities

- Supporting staff-led program development to introduce additional recreation opportunities to the community
- Expanding access to recreation through creative use of existing facilities and partnerships
- Promoting increased use of Nayurluku Park through hiking and mountain biking opportunities

Staff Development & Community Engagement

- Regular meetings and check-ins with staff, providing a space to share ideas, discuss community needs, and collaborate on improving programs. These sessions include professional development, training, and opportunities to empower staff in public service roles. We anticipate the following benefits;
 - Strengthened communication across full-time and temporary staff
 - Enhanced ability to translate community voices into actionable programming
 - Alignment on goals, processes, and priorities



Park & Trail Maintenance

Park & Trail Maintenance

Provide inclusive high-quality parks and programs that utilize our unique resources for a fun and healthy community.



Parks & Sports Fields

Continued maintenance on all existing parks.



Winter Trails

Providing grooming for all types of recreation.



Nayurluku

First full summer managing our new park!



Campground Maintenance

Added responsibility in the maintenance and beatification of both city owned campgrounds

Winter Trails & CSO Grooming

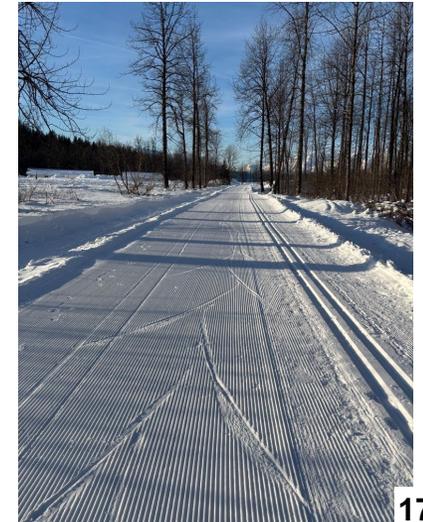
Completed 2025

- 33 miles of trail are groomed weekly
- Ski hill grooming and maintenance
- 75 hours of Grooming for Motorsports Club



To Do 2026

- Ski Hill inspection passed January 21st
- Ski Hill opening February 7th
- Begin grooming the dikes at Alpine Woods
- Continued grooming support for the motorsports club
- Groom mountain bike trails on Nayurluku



Summer Trails

Completed 2025

- Brush-cut all city-maintained trails twice. First round of brush cutting completed by June 21.
- Dug drainage ditches on Goat Trail water crossings
- Widened Pack trail
- Opened up the river access on Wagon Road.
- Built two bridges on Wagon Road.
- Ruth Pond Staircases.

To Do 2026

- Complete Alder Flow surfacing
- Forest Flow drainage issues
- Widen Pack Trail continued
- Goat Trail View Area
- Organize a trail volunteer day
- Routine maintenance



Goldfields Sports Complex

Completed 2025

- Machine raked the warning tracks
- Cleaned organics out of alleyways and brought in fill
- Fixed all French drains
- Repainted dugout trim
- New lawn by park sign
- Disc Golf-Reset hole 9 and build a new path

To do 2026

- Replace two broken retractable awnings
- Till and level the grass infields
- Replace old bases and reset new ones on both grass fields.



Glacier & Allison Point Campgrounds

Completed 2025

- Took on new maintenance responsibilities at Glacier and Allison Point campgrounds.
- Cleared all 110 campsites at Glacier of alders, repaired tent pads and fire rings, and gravel on parking pads.
- Glacier Park installed a new fire pit, picnic tables, and a parking barrier.
- Developed a new campground contract with MWR

To Do 2026

- Allison Point contract out to bid
- Begin brush clearing of Allison Point
- Continued brush clearing and tent pads at Glacier
- Middle School Work Day 2026



Park Maintenance

Completed 2025

- Purchased and installed a new skateboard ramp
- Improved fall zone at Corbin Playground
- Hydroseed and restored the old Dog Park grass
- Middle School Workday
- Rifle Range cleaning
- Park shelter rentals
- Provided support to city events and CSOs

Staff Certifications

- 3 Parks Maintenance employees passed CPSI course
- 1 Additional employee certified as Herbicide applicator



Park Maintenance

Other great projects

- Hosted ARPA Conference
- Haunted homestead
- Pop-up Ice Rink
- Christmas Tree Lighting
- Updated all cemetery records





LIBRARY



Library Mission

Provide barrier-free access to robust collections, communication technologies, and meaningful experiences that will inform, engage, and connect patrons and foster community.



2025 Highlights

- New Windows
- New reading tables
- New Audio-visual technology
- Record-breaking Annual Book Basket Auction
- First Adult Book Fair
- New Mural in Storytime Area



2026 Initiatives

- Develop volunteer-led digital literacy clinics
- Increase physical circulation by 5%
- Rearrange collections to create an adult reading room on the main level
- Train team members in cataloging and collection development

The Valdez Consortium Library Strengthens our Community

Valdez residents value their library because they know their library is a . . .



Learning Center

Last year 8,393 participants attended 449 library programs for youth, families, and adults.



Community Hub

Community members visited their library 22,609 times. 860 folks used our meeting rooms.



Resource Provider

947 folks checked out 19,969 items. 6,983 items were downloaded. 5,575 folks used the City Wi-Fi. 2,315 folks used the Library's public computers.

Program Participation

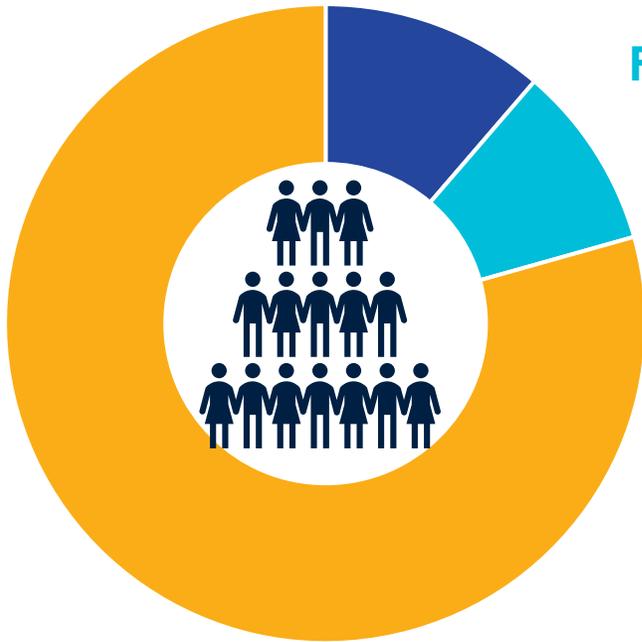
Participants

Adult: 952
 Family: 786
 Youth: 6690
 Total: 8428

Adult
12%

Family
9%

Youth
79%



Programs

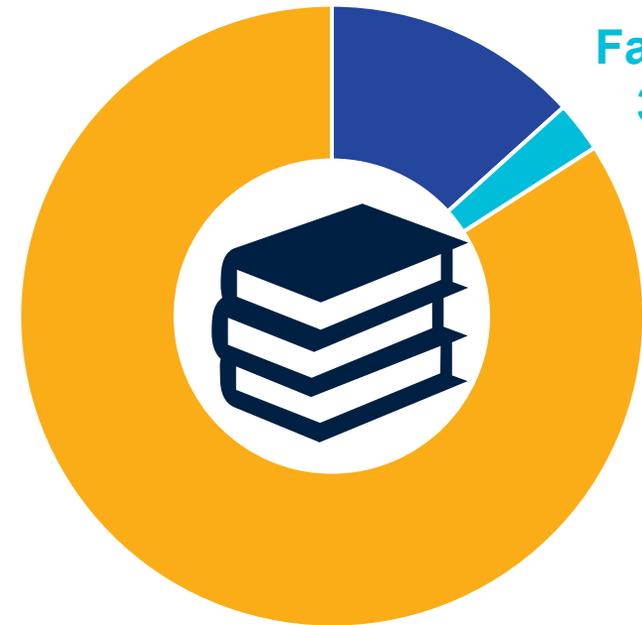
Programs

Adult: 61
 Family: 12
 Youth: 386
 Total: 459

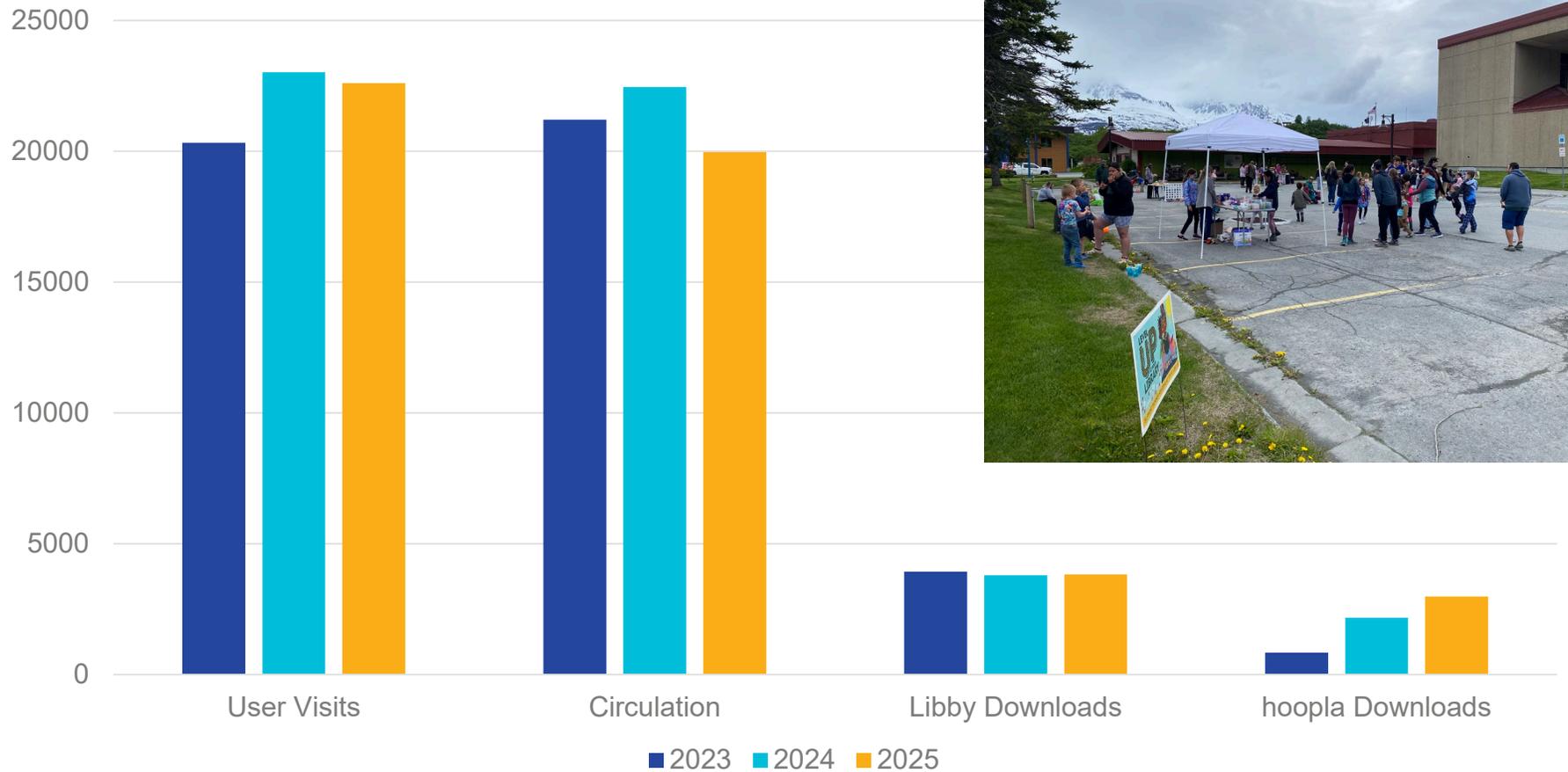
Adult
13%

Family
3%

Youth
84%



Three-Year Snapshot





Events - 146

Movies - 41





Yearly VCCC Traffic



Jan - April
 9,606 INS
 51 Events
 17 Movies

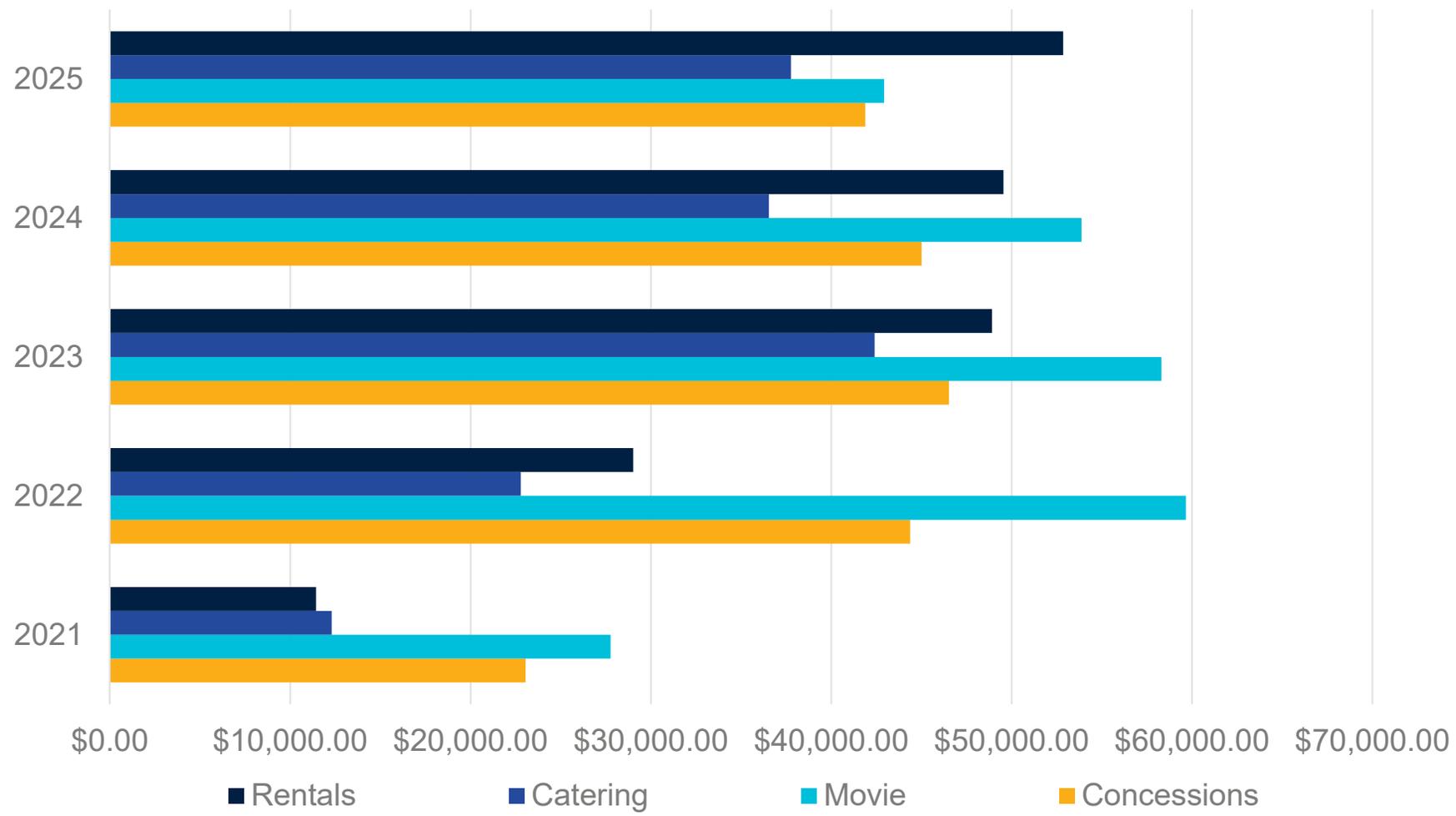
May - Aug
 16,908 INS
 43 Events
 12 Movies

Sep - Dec
 13,640 INS
 53 Events
 12 Movies

2025 Totals
 40,154 INS
 146 Events
 41 Movies



Yearly VCCC Revenue



Rentals
 \$52,863.00 - 2025
 (+6.7% change)
 \$49,543.23 - 2024

Catering
 \$37,768.00 - 2025
 (+3.4% change)
 \$36,536.39 - 2024

Movies
 \$42,934.00 - 2025
 (-20.3% change)
 \$53,875.50 - 2024

Concessions
 \$41,886.34 - 2025
 (-6.9% change)
 \$45,001.25 - 2024

2025 Highlights

We've been working to update and modernize our image, offerings and equipment.



RENTAL REVENUE

There was an increase of Rental and Catering rentals during 2025.



LOBBY FURNITURE

Our lobby furniture has been replaced with matching, quality and comfortable furniture.



OPPORTUNITY

Our new prices can be used to promote the VCCC and Valdez as a destination with the assistance of Economic Development.



Mission

The Valdez Convention & Civic Center is a multi-purpose public facility that encourages a variety of uses to meet the economic, social, cultural, convention and recreational needs of Valdez.



2025 Progress

- Event Temple has been implemented. Helping organize and streamline the booking and billing process.
- Green Room and Dressing Room remodel is complete. New meeting space, new lighting and internet access.
- The VCCC is advertising with Wedding Pro, the Visitor Guide and Mountain Sky Southern.
- Fee Schedule is ready for review and implantation.



2026 Goals

- Work with Economic Development to build packages to attract more business to the VCCC and Valdez businesses.
- Create agreements with local business services to enhance VCCC package offerings.
- Finish policy updates to align policy with current operations.
- Explore opportunities to modernize facility and offerings in spaces.



OPPORTUNITIES IN EVERY SEASON





Legislation Text

File #: 26-0058, **Version:** 1

ITEM TITLE:

PRCS Interim Director Report

SUBMITTED BY: Lisa Anderson

FISCAL NOTES:

Expenditure Required: N/A

Unencumbered Balance: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

N/A