

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