

# City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

## Parks & Recreation Commission

**WORK SESSION AGENDA - 6:00 pm****1. [Meals Hill Access Work Session](#)****REGULAR AGENDA- 7:00 PM****I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Valdez Parks & Recreation Regular Commission Meeting was called to order, at the Valdez City Council Chambers by Chair Amy Goold (no time was heard on recording).

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: 5- Chair Amy Goold  
Chair Pro-Tempore Sarah Jorgenson-Owen  
Commission Member Brian Teale  
Commission Member Pete Carter  
Commission Member Carl Gressel

Absent Excused: 1- Commission Member Benjamin Rush

Absent Unexcused: 1- Commission Member Michael Britt

Also Present: 2- PRCS Director Nickolas Farline  
PRCS Office Manager Ann (Nikki) Duhamel

**III. PUBLIC APPEARANCES****1. [Valdez Homeschool LEGO Robotics presentation](#)****2.**

Director Farline introduced the Valdez Homeschool LEGO Robotics team to the Commission and thanked the Lego Robotics team for taking the time to do a presentation for the Valdez Parks & Recreation Commission. Christina L. is the Valdez Homeschooling LEGO Robotics coach, for the team "Insert Team Name". Christina stated that each year First LEGO chooses a theme, then the team is to find and solve the problem within that theme. This year's theme was how to encourage people to become more active. The "Insert Team Name" team thinks they could get more people active by building a sports complex. The team "Insert Team Name" started by introducing themselves to the Commission. Gunner was the first member of the team to speak and this is his fifth year doing LEGO Robotics. Seconded member of the team to speak was Setra and this is her second year, and Weston was the third member to speak and this is

also his second year in LEGO Robotics. The team gave great details as to how and why a sports complex would be beneficial to the community's overall health and wellbeing. Commission gave the team kudos for their well-presented presentation and felt they had great ideas.

#### IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Chair Amy Goold invited anyone that has a non-agenda item to speak about, to please come up and state their name and where told the speaking limit is five minutes per person.

Matt Smelcer come and spoke to Commission tonight to inform them on how the ice rink has been doing. Matt Smelcer stated the Ports & Harbor has been a huge support this winter with the ice rink. Mr. Smelcer let Commission know he has reached out on his Facebook page asking how many families use the ice rink and he had over 80 families respond. Mr. Smelcer is looking forward to the Work Session and Commission Meeting in April. Mr. Smelcer shared the ice rink is participating in the Frosty Fever Festivity's and hopes to see everyone there. Matt Smelcer also thanked Marci Robertson for her time and efforts with helping get the kids snowmachine races set up. Matt Smelcer thanked Commission for their time as well. Commissioners thanked Mr. Smelcer.

Tommy Kimberlin did some research on his own and presented the Commission with other easy up ice rink ideas and where they can be purchased. He also presented Commission with a list of names showing committed volunteers for the ice rink. Mr. Kimberlin also gave kudos for the presentation that was done by the Valdez Homeschool LEGO Robotics team, he felt they had great ideas. Chair Amy Goold thanked Mr. Kimberlin for presenting the Commission with a list of names and thinks the best way to proceed on the matter is to continue the conversation at the work session next month.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. [PVC "Founder Memorial" Location](#)

**MOTION: To discuss the Port of Valdez Company John Clarks request for a proposal of an art design competition and a specific location for the "Founder Memorial" at Meals Hill. Commissioner Teale moved to discuss and Seconded by Commissioner Carl Gressel.**

Director Farline introduced John Clark the president of the Port of Valdez Company that is calling into tonight's Commission Meeting from Kentucky. Director Farline informed Commission that this item is to identify a specific location that Mr. Clark can use for a "Founder Memorial" RFP for a design competition.

Mr. Clark thanked Commission and Director Farline for allowing him to speak. Mr. Clark informed the Commission that when Meals Hill was sold it was in agreement that \$100,000 dollars would be put aside to build a memorial for the founders of Valdez,

which also happens to be the founders of PVC. Mr. Clark has hopes of having this amount doubled by going to various foundations and other type of funding sources in Alaska to generate enough money to do a significant memorial for the two gentlemen this memorial will be recognizing. John Clark explained he has experience with this same situation in Kentucky. Mr. Clark said he has put together a draft RFP that explains how the process would work. Mr. Clark said they are willing to put up \$2,500 to \$7,500 for honorariums for the three finalist based on a specific location. Mr. Clark explained the importance of having a specific location when building a memorial. John Clark asked Director Farline if he shared the draft RFP with the Commission. Director Farline confirmed it was part of the Commission Agenda packets. Mr. Clark made it clear he is not asking the City of Valdez for any money, he thinks the money can be raised, but if the City of Valdez would like to add to the fund they can. Mr. Clark stated he and Director Farline have had many conversations and agree that \$200,000 would be easier to raise, especially because we have already raised half of that amount. To get the other half raised it would help to have a design that we can show people what they would be investing in. John Clark stated this why you have a competition and hope you get good resumes. From those resumes the plan is to pick three people and give them \$2,500 each to come up with a design that can be presented to a public committee or Parks & Recreation specifically because they are in charge of the Meals Hill project. Mr. Clark encouraged Commission to read the draft RFP to get a feel for what is expected from potential applicants. John Clark stated he would be happy to stay on the line to answer any questions or concerns the Commission may have. Chair Amy Goold asked her fellow Commission Members if they had any specific questions they would like to ask Mr. Clark.

Chair Pro-Tempore Jorgenson-Owens only concern is to make sure the final design is respectful and won't offend anyone. Chair Amy Goold stated she hears and feels Chair Pro-Tempore Jorgenson-Owens concern, but tonight's meeting has nothing to do with input on the design but to give a location for the memorial to be placed. Chair Pro-Tempore Jorgenson-Owens stated that was fine. Chair Amy Goold asked Mr. Clark if there was a specific spot already in mind. Mr. Clark answered the question by communicating he has two spots listed in the draft RFP. John Clark stated the number one spot that has been listed is the entrance from S. Hazlet Ave. the stone wall could be used and Mr. Clark stated he reached out to the City of Valdez to make sure there was no future plans to change the stone wall. John Clark emphasized this memorial is not just going to be a plaque it will be much more. Commissioner Teale had a suggestion of making sure the memorial has a usage as well. Again Chair Amy Goold redirected Commission to stay on the task for a specific location. Chair Goold got clarification from Mr. Clark that the specific location that he would like to see used for the memorial is S. Hazlet Ave. John Clark confirmed that is the location he would like. Chair Goold also brought to light this is something City Council will have the final vote on. Director Farline reassured Commission there is great open communication with Mr. Clark and that will continue as this process moves forward. Director Farline agreed with Chair Amy Goold that she is correct about the City Council having the final say for the memorial location. After the vote all commissioners thanked Mr. Clark for his time.

**MOTION: To have the “Founders Memorial” location be on S.Hazlete Ave (Meals Hill) and to allow an art design competition.**

**VOTE ON MOTION: 4 Yays; Chair Amy Goold, Chair Pro-Tempore Sarah Jorgenson-Owen, Commissioner Brian Teale, and Commissioner Carl Gressel.  
1 Nay; Commissioner Pete Carter**

2. [Luke Horning Memorial Skate Park](#)

**MOTION: To place the Luke Horning Memorial Skate Park for discussion. Moved by Commissioner Carter and seconded by Commissioner Teale.**

Director Farline explained this particular item was put on the agenda due to some public comment in the February Commission Meeting and the Commission decided to have this placed as a regular agenda item. Director Farline told Commission there are three options regarding the Skate Park and those are one new park project, two an updated park or third no changes. What Commission is voting on is what option the Commission thinks is best for the Luke Horning Memorial Skate Park out of those three options. Chair Pro-Tempore Jorgenson-Owen got clarification from Director Farline that the location of the Skate Park is going to stay regardless of the new fire station being built. Director Farline confirmed. Chair Amy Goold stated the concern is about some of the features that were taken away from the Skate Park while the fire station is being built. Director Farline stated the plan is to bring back as many features as we can after the completion of the fire station. Commissioner Pete Carter asked if there has been any discussions of having a cover placed over the Skate Park. Chair Goold and Director Farline spoke on what would need to take place for something like a covering to be placed over the Skate Park. Commissioner Carter inquired if having a covered area could be addressed as an improvement project, he has seen other Skate Parks with covered areas and noticed the usage went up. Director Farline explained how the ranking process works and just because something is placed on the CIP list doesn't mean it's going to happen. Chair Amy Goold inquired about ways to possibly get projects on the CIP list to move higher rather than stay as a lower priority. Director Farline touched base on the different factors of the ranking system.

Ben Fagan gave his brief history with Valdez. He stated while he is here in Valdez he liked to use the Skate Park small ramps exclusively. Mr. Fagan found out that when they get removed for the fire station project they aren't in the greatest of condition to be repaired. Mr. Fagan said he hasn't had the opportunity to follow up with Joey enough to have that presentation ready for Commission, but he has communicated plans of being in Alaska in April. Mr. Fagan is hoping to have Joey come to the April Commission Meeting. Mr. Fagan doesn't feel having a cover over of the Skate Park is necessary, but feels the money could be used to update the Park itself to a concrete park. Commissioner Teale inquired about the grant money. Mr. Fagan gave an

example of the Tony Hawk Foundation, Mr. Fagan stated he has personally reached out to the foundation. Chair Goold thanked Ben Fagan for his time and thinks that with community support this can keep moving forward.

Chair Amy Goold suggested to put updates on the CIP list for the Luke Horning Memorial Skate Park.

**MOTION: To place updates to the LUKE HORNING MEMORIAL SKATE PARK on the CIP list for 2022.**

**VOTE ON MOTION: 5 YAYS; Chair Amy Goold, Chair Pro-Tempore Sarah Jorgenson-Owen, Commissioner Brian Teale, Commissioner Pete Carter, and Commissioner Carl Gressel.**

## **VI. REPORTS**

### **1. [Directors Report](#)**

Commission was presented with hard copies of the Directors report. Director Farline went through the report with Commission. Director Farline started with the Maintenance report. Marcie Robertson had a letter with her outline/scoop of what the Park Maintenance has been doing and plan to do. Director Farline said the capacity of the Park Maintenance work has increased by 257%. Director Farline also reminded Commission that additional staffing is all approved by City Council. Since 2015 Parks Maintenance has been able to add a couple of employees. Director Farline asked Commission to look at the end of Mrs. Robertson's report and take note of the couple things that have been highlighted. Park Maintenance Department is currently grooming six days a week, and helping with other grooming needs like the 120 races and Mayors Cup. Parks Maintenance is still moving forward with the Cemetery expansion. Alpine Woods Playground planning is currently under way as well as Robe River Playground to be installed in the 2021 summer season.

Director Farline moved on to the Recreation Division. Again Commission has hard copies of this report. Director Farline started with the Aquatics and the attendance was 914 participants with only 118 activity hours. The Recreation Center is in the process of trying to open for rentals and some open After-School Rec Hours. Director Farline said that the department is looking at May possibly. Salmonberry Ski Hill has had a very successful season. The Valdez Snow Authority dissolved so now all the volunteers' services are under Recreation Department. Director Farline highlighted some of the programs that have been offered at the Recreation Center. Director Farline stated all the numbers and hours for the programs are listed in the hard copies of the report and encouraged Commission to read over them. Even with all the Covid-19 mitigation the Parks & Recreation Department has been able to safely engage with the community and Director Farline feels proud of all the accomplishments that Recreation and Maintenance has done. Director Farline said he is open for any questions or comments from the commission and communicated he still has an update to share about the Feasibility RFP. Commissioner Teale

feels the Parks & Recreation Departments has been cranking on all cylinders and he understands Park Maintenance Director Marcie Robertson's boundaries she faces with increased work load and limited staffing. Commission Jorgenson-Owen mentioned it's just not the staffing but a trickle down affect, with more staffing you need more equipment which also means for money. Commissioner Teale also suggested maybe some of the responsibility needs to be shifted to other departments within the City of Valdez. Chair Amy Goold asked that Director Farline pass onto Marcie Robertson how much she appreciates all she does and her opinion. Chair Amy Goold said when moving forward to consider things holistically is going to be very important. Chair Goold also agreed that it would be nice to have things speared throughout but in reality is that really going to happen. Commissioner Teale voiced that sometimes you just have to try something new and see if it works.

Director Farline filled Commission in on the Feasibility RFP. He stated there where a total of eight applicants that submitted a RFP for our feasibility study on a multi-use recreation center indoor recreation facility. All the applications have been reviewed, scored and are moving forward with setting up interviews with three different firms. Director Farline is hopeful in having an interview date set by the end of the week. Once the interviews are complete we will start the negotiations process with the firm that we deem most qualified for the city. Director Farline hopes to be able to present a report on the contract at the last Council Meeting in April. Director Farline wanted to just keep Commission informed and up to date. Commissioner Goold asked if any Commissioners had questions or comments on the Feasibility Study. There was none.

## **VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Commissioner Pete Carter expressed the need for a toboggan hill. He said it's a cheap and fun activity. Chair Pro-Tempore Jorgenson-Owen asked if this would be different sledding hill than the water tower sledding hill. Commissioner Carter stated yes and that he don't feel that current sledding hill is very safe. Chair Amy Goold agreed that the water tower sledding hill is unsafe. Commissioner Gressel also said he has heard a lot that it's an unsafe hill. Chair Amy Goold asked if there was any other Commission Business from the Floor, there being none she thanked everyone for their time.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Chair Amy Goold adjourned the Regular Commission Meeting at 8:14PM