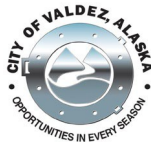


City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Civic Center Conference Room

Parks & Recreation Commission

REGULAR AGENDA- 7:00 PM**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Parks and Recreation regular Commission Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm, at the Valdez Civic Center Conference Room by Chair Amy Goold.

II. ROLL CALL

Present	6-	Chair Amy Goold Chair Pro-Tempore Sarah Jorgenson-Owen Commission Member Brian Teale Commission Member Carl Gressel Commission Member Michael Britt Commission Member Benjamin Rush (Phone In)
Excused	1-	Commission Member Pete Carter
Also Present	2-	PRCS Director Nickolas Farline PRCS Recreation Coordinator Krystal Moulton

III. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**CSL and Perkins & Will Feasibility Study Presentation**

Tyler with CSL and Perkins & Will called in to give the Parks & Recreation Commission members a feasibility study presentation. CSL is a consulting firm and Perkins & Will is an architecture firm. Tyler gave insight into the multistep process, industry trends and case studies. The process will consist of interviews with facility users and stakeholders along with community engagement, site analysis, financial projection and key study goals. Tyler believes he should have a final report by mid-August to present to Commission. Tyler said he would be in Valdez June 14th-16th and is looking forward to the community engagement and feedback process. Commissioner Teale stated he will be setting up a time to speak with CLS to share his ideas. Director Nick Farline thanked Tyler and introduced Recreation Manager Jared Lusting as the project lead. Director Farline gave instructions on how to set up one-on-one time to speak with Tyler.

IV. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no public business from the floor.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Chair Pro-Tempore Sarah Jorgenson-Owen moved to place Recommendation to City

Council for Adoption Meals Hill Master Plan to the number one spot and move Approval of Ice Rink upgrade Process to spot number two. Seconded by Commissioner Michael Britt.

Vote on Motion: 6 Yays; Chair Goold, Chair Pro-Tempore Jorgenson-Owen, Commission Member Teale, Commission Member Gressel, Commission Member Rush, and Commission Member Britt

1. [Recommendation To City Council For Adoption Meals Hill Master Plan](#)

Chair Pro-Tempore Sarah Jorgenson-Owen moved to place the Recommendation to City Council for Adoption Meals Hill Master Plan on the floor for discussion. Seconded by Commissioner Britt.

Director Nick Farline spoke on acquisition history of the Meals Hill property in 2019. On June 16, 2020 Valdez City Council approved the contract with Huddle. Director Farline then introduced Holly Spoth-Torres with Huddle. Mrs. Spoth-Torres gave a description on the project team and what their roles in the project are. Holly Spoth-Torres stated she feels her team is right on track. Holly Spoth-Torres gave a brief review of what has already been accomplished. Those accomplishments consisted of three public meetings, and 5 work sessions with the Valdez City Council and Parks & Recreation. There are five themes to the Meals Hill Master Plan. Degree of support, significance, desired uses, preference, and long-term success. Holly expressed how the Meal Hill is the first thing you see when entering the Valdez Port and it should reflect the public image of the Valdez. The Valdez community has shown support in having Meals Hill be a year-round recreation resource. Mrs. Spoth-Torres went over site plans, access entries, amenities and connectivity. She also explained how there is a large diversity of trails. Holly did state that the community of Valdez did not support parking on the site, but the idea is to have some type of formal parking at the entry. The goal is to provide accessible recreation for all ages and abilities.

Director Farline highlighted the different ways the community has showed their support. Director Farline explained that there is still 612k of funding available. Part of the requirement of that funding is to spend it on reliable uses by December 31, 2023. Director Farline communicated examples of what that money could be used on. If the Meals Hill Plan is adopted, then the Master Plan Committee will come to an end. The Recreation Commission will then become the citizen authority to make reconditions to the Valdez City Council regarding Meals Hill.

Director Farline explains the next step will be requesting an FTE for maintenance operations and implementation of the plan. Huddle, contract will assist with next steps and POC to make sure we stay intentional and focused on the building out and taking care of this property. Commission Member Gressel inquired what the cost is for

implementing this plan. Mrs. Spoth-Torres's total projected cost with everything listed and fully loaded is 6.5 million. A plan of phasing overall cost is five to ten years. Director Farline explained Huddle has identified different funding sources for different parts of the project. Grant opportunities are available right now that focuses on getting people outside. Director Farline highlighted that most of the funding is coming from grants. Commissioner Teale feels the plan looks really busy, but likes that the trails are wide and can see the wildlife. He thanked Huddle for all the work that has been done. Chair Goold thanked Huddle for all their efforts as well. Chair Goold asked for some clarity on the phases. Director Farline stepped in and stated the priority is to use the funding from EVOS. After adoption, it comes back to the Recreation Commission to talk about what we have to done by 2023. Director Farline explains we then move onto addressing community needs, like what is feasible. Commission Rush asked Mrs. Spoth-Torres if it would be best to do this project over a 5-10 years or just one big project. Mrs. Spoth-Torres explained due to the size of this park a phased development would be best. Commissioner Rush inquired about upkeep and maintenance cost. Director Farline shared there has not been an itemized maintenance cost for upkeep of trails. Commissioner Gressel voiced his concern for maintenance staff and how they are already beyond max work load. Director Farline explained that once the plan is adopted, the City of Valdez is not obligated for any type of funding. The plan is a representation of the community and how they want to recreate on Meals Hill. Priority and funding are addressed as they come up. Commissioner Britt asked about trustee funding. Director Farline spoke on how that process would go.

MOTION: The Recommendation to City Council for Adoption Meals Hill Master.

VOTE ON MOTION: 6 YAYS; Chair Goold, Chair Pro-Tempore Jorgenson-Owen, Commission Member Teale, Commission Member Gressel, Commission member Britt, and Commission Member Rush. Motion Passes.

2. [Approval of Ice Rink Upgrade Process](#)

Commissioner Britt moved to place the approval of Ice Rink Upgrade Process on the floor for discussion. Seconded by Chair Pro-Tempore Jorgenson-Own

Chair Goold explained that the goal is not to replace, but to upgrade what we had last year. Chair Goold asked for a quick rundown from the Director. Director Farline spoke about what the process has been for the last year. Director Farline also highlighted that a coved ice rink has been on the city's CIP list for years and is presented yearly to the city council and has not been funded. In lieu of a more permeant solution this plan can create an overall better user experience. The timeline is fairly aggressive, but the end date we want to keep focused on is late October so we can get it set up and going early. Commissioner Teale asked if the city is going to provide insurance. Director Farline confirmed the city would be covering the liability insurance. Director Farline explained the 20k would be used for making a more level barrier, an actual

easy rink, shipping, and storage solution. Commission Britt asked about the CSO (Community Service Organization), and what the process consists of. Director Farline informed Commission and stated that the end goal is to have a better user experience. Chair Amy Goold stated we already have this chunk of money for the first year and we can make changes as needed to improve down the line. Commissioner Britt expressed his concerns about liability. Commission Member Gressel inquired what would happen if a volunteer group don't take on the ice rink. Director Farline explained that if a group is not formed then it will go back to commission to decide what to gets took over by Parks & Recreation. Commissioner Rush asked if there was community support. Chair Amy Goold confirmed that Tommy Kimberlin has stepped up.

Citizen Brandi Smelcer spoke about her frustrations with the lack of communication from Parks & Recreation. Mr. Smelcer continued on with a history of what has took place over the last few years trying to get an ice rink done. Mrs. Smelcer appreciate all the work that has been done, but does not understand why it has been such a challenge. Mr. Smelcer thanked commission for their time.

Citizen Matthew Smelcer – representing Friends of Valdez Ice Rink Committee (Matt Smelcer, Brandi Smelcer, Tommy Kimberlin, Jordan Nelson, Andy Beck and Christina Roach). After the ice rink was took away they came together to be a voice of the skaters and ice rink in Valdez. Mr. Smelcer is pleased to hear of a possible MOU. If we are to go forward with the process of CSO that proposed process isn't going to happen. Chair Pro-Tempore Sarah Jorgenson-Owen was not under the impression that the organization has to have a 501C3 statues when doing a CSO. Mr. Smelcer stated he could share an agreement copy of the CSO.

Citizen Derek Hall stated he has been part of the ice rink group informally over the years. He would like to see a permeant place for a rink not a temporary rink. Mr. Hall don't feel the ice rink is never a priority.

3. [Discussion Item: Approval of Meeting Minutes](#)

Director provides summary of Commission Meeting Minutes. We have a total of 18 that are outstanding and need approved. Director Farline explains the goal is to be caught up with all meeting minutes by 2022. Director Farline explains the back log of years of meeting minutes that must be approved and how Office Manager Nikki Duhamel and Administrative Assistant Mary Baron have been tackling this task. The Commission agrees as a group to review five minutes per meeting, starting with most recent.

CONSENT AGENDA

VI. REPORTS

1. [Directors Report](#)

Summer Camps started this week and going great and filling up fast.

The new Parks & Recreation VESP (Valdez Eco Stewardship Program) starts June 14th. Summer Interns have arrived. Students earn a stipend, 3 college credits, and 1 high school credit for completing the program.

Park Maintenance side North Meyring Park planting and trail clearing.

Summer reading program kicked off.

In response to our Shooting Range operation, Parks & Recreation received a letter of interest to take on operations.

Parks & Rec will work the next coming weeks on an MOU. \$15K to Operator.

Installation of playground at Alpine Woods Playground at 10 mile nearly complete.

Robe River playground installed by end of July. Cemetery expansion is underway. Should be completed by this fall.

Commissioner Gressel inquires about Shooting Range. Director Farline will bring an update to the next Commission meeting. Director Farline willing to talk offline with Commissioner Gressel.

2. [Feasibility Study Contract Update](#)

Director Farline explains contract has been provided for review. Money has already been approved. No action needed.

3. [Valdez Comprehensive Plan Update](#)

Director Farline encourages Commission to review scope of work, etc. The Comprehensive Plan public comment has ended. Director Farline states to please follow up with Ms. Kate Huber, City of Valdez Planning Director. The plan speaks a lot to Recreation to make Valdez as livable as possible. Director Farline encourages commission to take a look at some of the future zoning. Some pieces of property are being identified for conservation, which will impact our department. Robe Lake is one location where the city is reevaluating land use. Commissioners may request a hard copy of the Comprehensive Plan from the Planning department, which is located in City Hall.

VII. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commissioner Britt commented on the success of ice rink discussion and thanked Director Farline for his efforts.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jorgenson-Owen adjourned the meeting at 9:21 PM