



City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686

Meeting Minutes - Final

Parks and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Regular Meeting

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Present 9 - Commission Member Brian Teale
Chair Pro Tempore Rich Loftin
Commission Member Amy Goold
Secretary Gary Pauly
Commission Member Michael Britt
Commission Member Paul Nylund
Senior Administrative Assistant Krystal Moulton
PRCS Director Darryl Verfaillie
Recreation Supervisor Wendy Clubb

Excused 2 - Park Maintenance Supervisor Marcie Robertson
Events Coordinator Rachel Sensabaugh

Absent 1 - Chair Matt Smelcer

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [Approval of regular meeting minutes from May 19, 2017.](#)

MOTION: Commission Member Nylund moved, seconded by Secretary Pauly, to approve the regular meeting minutes from May 19, 2017 as written. The motion carried by the following vote.

The regular meeting minutes from May 19, 2017 were approved as written.

Yays: 5 - Commission Member Teale, Chair Pro Tempore Loftin, Commission Member Goold, Secretary Pauly, and Commission Member Nylund

Absent: 2 - Chair Smelcer, and Commission Member Britt

V. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no public business from the floor.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. [Discussion Item: Master Plan Updating/Editing Strategy](#)

Commission Member Goold started the conversation by expressing her feelings in regards to how the most recent work session went. Goold stated that the Master Plan needed to get done and that she felt it to be an ongoing process. Commission Member Teale emphasized the tediousness of Commission work and that he felt it was good to have everyone's opinions in the editing process due to there being a lot of items to discuss.

Chair Pro Tempore Loftin suggested setting a deadline in order to have the document completed by the end of 2017. He also suggested scheduling a two hour work session in the near future. Commission Member Nylund agreed with setting a deadline, however he was against hosting additional work sessions during the Summer months.

After further discussion, it was decided that additional work sessions be scheduled after September 20th, and that the Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistant would inquire about which dates were available.

IX. REPORTS

1. [Park Maintenance Supervisor Report](#)

Commission Member Goold made positive comments on the Skate Park improvements. Goold also inquired about the status of the Shoup Playground. Director Verfaillie updated the Commission and stated the project build was underway.

Chair Pro Tempore Loftin commented regarding the "good buzz" from the Skate Park improvements as well as the number of activities which had recently taken place. Loftin inquired about whether or not the Park Maintenance crew was fully staffed. Verfaillie informed the Commission that many of the staff were hired early in the season and that the Park Maintenance Department was fully staffed for summer.

Commission Member Teale discussed the status of trail brushing. Teale also informed the Commission of his observations of the Mineral Creek Canyon ski-only area improvements, and emphasized the positive impact on trail conditions after the culvert installation took place. Teale suggested a fall brush cutting effort so that the early snow could be flattened out easily. Chair Pro Tempore Loftin clarified that any volunteer efforts would need to be coordinated directly through Marcie Robertson, the Park Maintenance Supervisor.

2. [Recreation Supervisor Report](#)

The Commission reviewed the Recreation Supervisor's report. Commission Member Teale made comment on the recent Bird Ridge bear attack which had taken place in Anchorage. He asked whether or not the Valdez Parks & Recreation Department had ever had problems during races and whether or not there was a safety plan in effect for local events. Wendy Clubb, Recreation Supervisor, approached the Commission and informed them that yes, they had experienced bears on race routes in the past. Clubb went into detail about the safety measures which are taken prior to any race which included; incorporating safety checkpoints along the route, driving the route in advance to make sure the path is clear, and having the Valdez Police Department and Community Safety Officer informed of the event, so that they may respond in a timely manner if any incident were to occur.

Additional discussion took place about the 4th of July Festival. Commission Member, Amy Goold, inquired about whether or not the typical 4th of July fireworks took place. Clubb informed the commission that it was decided to cut the 4th of July fireworks show due to low visibility. Parks & Recreation, instead, handed out sparklers and goody bags for the kids. Clubb also stated that the money saved from the 4th of July fireworks would be put towards the New Years Eve display.

Chair Pro Tempore Loftin reminded the Commission that the Alaska Recreation and Park Association (A.R.P.A.) Conference was coming up. Commission Member Nylund inquired about whether or not there would be a need for volunteers, at which time there was no definitive answer. Director Verfaillie informed the Commission that the 2017 A.R.P.A. Conference guest speaker was Iditarod musher, DeeDee Jonrowe.

Commission Member Teale discussed the Rock Wall and the recent Rock and Flow Festival. Chair Pro Tempore Loftin inquired about the status of the Rock Wall opening and whether or not Summer closures would happen annually. Recreation Supervisor, Wendy Clubb, approached the Commission and informed them that in the past, the Rock Wall experienced low attendance numbers during Summer months. Clubb also stressed the difficulties in maintaining staff during the summer to operate the facility. Loftin felt that with the Rock Wall being closed, it would help promote outdoor recreation opportunities.

3. [Director Report](#)

Director Verfaillie verbally presented his report. Verfaillie discussed the 4th of July Festival, Fireweed 400, Pink Salmon Festival, Shoup Playground build, Summer Art Contest and Silent Auction (which the proceeds benefited the Valdez Avalanche Center), and Rodeo Alaska - which was coming to Valdez on July 28, 29 and 30. Verfaillie went into detail about the Rodeo kids' events which were taking place on Friday, July 28th.

Verfaillie also mentioned, for the 2018 budget, that the Parks & Recreation Department was working with Ryan McCune to bring an international wood carving contest to Valdez.

Commission Member Nylund inquired about Parks & Recreation's sound system. Further discussion went into the available sound systems for events and that the Kelsey Dock was in need of sound system as well. The Commission was reminded that the John Kelsey Plaza was not a Parks & Recreation facility. Verfaillie suggested that those who expressed desire in seeing a sound system purchased for the facility attend a Capital Improvement Projects meeting and put that in as a recommendation.

X. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Commission Member Nylund brought up the status of Disc Golf Course development. Verfaillie informed the Commission that Parks Maintenance had some equipment, but they were lacking an appropriate location. Verfaillie stated that he would email the Commission on the status as things progressed, and suggested the Commission assist in brainstorming feasible locations that would not impede snow removal. Chair Pro Tempore Loftin asked that a discussion item be added to the next meeting to go over the status of equipment and locations.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Due to no further business, Chair Pro Tempore Loftin adjourned the meeting at 7:47PM.