PARKS & RECREATION DRAFT MINUTES

April 04, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

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A. CALL TO ORDER

a. Deputy Chairman Josh Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:32pm

B. ROLL CALL

a. Board Members present: Christopher Mertl, Josh Anderson, Makayla Chappel, Brandie Hofmeister, and Danika Swanson

Board Members absent: Taylor Murph, Will Muldoon, Christina Mounce

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Parks and Recreation Director; Michele Elfers, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director; Eric Moots, Parks and Recreation Staff Liaison; Greg Smith, Assembly Liaison

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. Ms. Chappel motioned to unanimously approve the agenda for the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

D. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Director's Report - *presented by G. Schaaf*

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Mertl motioned to unanimously accept the minutes from March 1, 2022; June 6, 2022; and March 7, 2023. Ms. Chappel motioned to unanimously accept the minutes from August 2 2022. Both motions passed unanimously.

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public participation on non-agenda items.

G. AGENDA TOPICS

H. NEW BUSINESS

6. Sled Hill Lighting at Savikko Park – *Presented by G. Schaaf*

Mr. Schaaf explained that the Parks and Recreation Department received a letter from Suzanne and Sandy Williams addressed to the PRAC asking for lighting to be installed at the Sledding Hill in Savikko Park. Mr. Schaaf stated that, for such a minor project, the department would not typically bring it in front of the committee, but lighting in this area has been the subject of discussion in the past.

Mr. Mertl asked if the lighting at this hill would be similar to the lighting recently installed at Twin Lakes. Ms. Elfers confirmed it would be. Mr. Mertl then asked what height it would be set at. Ms. Elfers confirmed it would be around 12-15 feet, as dictated by AEL&P's light modeling. Mr. Mertl asked if there had been any complaints by residents near the Twin Lakes park about the new lights. Mr. Schaaf responded that the department had received one complaint about the lights from a citizen who lives nearby Twin Lakes, though the complaint was more about the general light pollution Juneau has experienced. Ms. Elfers followed up that the complaint was received before the lighting was installed, and the only comments about the lights after installation were praising them. Mr. Anderson stated that as an electrical contractor, he believed there were various solutions to direct where the light would be going and to mitigate the lighting pollution this light would have.

Carol Coyle, who lives adjacent to the Sledding Hill, is strongly against the addition of another light at Savikko Park. She maintains that there is already enough lighting in the park. Ms. Coyle also presented photos of views from her house overlooking the Sledding Hill.

Suzanne Williams, a resident in the area, is in favor of the addition of the light at Savikko Park. She stated that, as in her letter, she believes the light on the path to the sledding hill would prevent bullying. Ms. Williams believes that a light would stop children from bullying as it would make them more weary if they know they are likely to be seen.

Mr. Mertl asked if the department could work with AEL&P to install a light during the summer and then adjust the light until a happy compromise is reached. Ms. Elfers discussed that, though it is not a simple process of continually adjusting the light, the department could work with AEL&P to try a few configurations until there is a minimal impact on light pollution.

Ms. Coyle requested that if lighting is going to be put in, that the light be a warm white light as opposed to the blue lights currently installed in the parking lot below sledding hill.

The PRAC motions to support the department installing a new light fixture at the top of the Savikko Park Sledding Hill and that the department work with the neighbors and AEL&P to come up with a solution to install a new light but minimize impacts in the surrounding neighborhood. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Hofmeister abstained on the grounds that she has never been to the Sledding Hill.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

J. STAFF REPORTS

7. 35-Mile ORV Park Management - *Presented by M. Elfers*

Ms. Elfers stated that the project is proceeding with permitting and design and hopes to move into construction during the construction season this summer.

Mr. Anderson asked if there were any provisions for other ORV sites in town. He expressed concern that there would still be other motorized vehicle contingencies in town that would be looking for recreational sites even with the ORV Park at 35-mile. Ms. Elfers stated that the funding for this project is all going towards the 35-mile ORV park, and, when funding and land becomes available for a motocross park, that the department will approach it with the same gusto they are approaching 35-mile park with. Mr. Anderson stated that the motocross community is fully behind the current plan with the 35-mile ORV Park, but wanted to note that this park would not serve all the recreational motorized vehicle communities. Mr. Mertl agreed with Mr. Anderson that he had concerns that 35-mile ORV Park would not fulfill all of the communities of recreational motorized vehicle users. Ms. Elfers stated that the department has enough funding for 35-mile park and will work in the future to find funding for the other motorized vehicle communities.

K. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

8. Chair Report - presented by C. Mertl

Mr. Mertl thanked all the members of PRAC for their time and efforts during their service on PRAC. He also commended the department for their efforts to fill the new PRAC that will be instated next month. Mr. Mertl encouraged all members currently on PRAC to apply for the new PRAC.

9. Liaison to the Assembly Report - presented by G. Smith

Mr. Smith informed the committee that there were currently six applicants for the new PRAC, and the plan was to discuss all applicants at the April 17 meeting of the Human Resources Committee meeting. Following that meeting, they will appoint on May 8, and then be seated at the June Meeting of PRAC.

Mr. Smith discussed two motions that were made at the previous evening's assembly meeting. The first was to introduce appropriation ordinance to fund the completion of the Juneau Trails Plan and the second was to initiate a robust public process regarding commercial use permits, stemming from the iRide e-bikes use of Pioneer road.

10. Board Member Liaison Reports

Mr. Anderson reported that the Youth Activities Board met and had distributed the grant applications they have received for this year's round of funding.

L. NEXT MEETING DATE: June 6, 2023

M. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Anderson as 6:25pm

Submitted respectfully by Eric Moots 4/26/2023