

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Parks and Recreation Commission
October 19, 2021
5:01 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Monday, October 19, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

ROLL CALL

There were present appearing telephonically and in person:

James Lounsbury	Linda Unsicker
David Mongold	Judith Shiffler
Ben Roth	Kenneth Barrick (Joined at 5:12 p.m.)
Mark Oldmixon, Chair	

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Sharon Wittenkeller, Administrative Assistant III, Clerk
Donnie Hayes, Parks and Recreation Director
Bryant Wright, Parks and Recreation, Trails Coordinator

Excused

Andrew Culley
Jason Witt, Vice-Chair

MESSAGES

- 1.a. Citizen's Comments on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing.
NONE
- 1.b. Citizen's Comments on items other than those appearing on the agenda.
NONE
2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest
NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

MONDGOLD,
Seconded by ROTH

moved to approve the agenda and consent
agenda as read.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

Yeses:

Lounsbury, Unsicker, Roth, Mongold,
Shiffler, Oldmixon

Noes:

None

MOTION CARRIED

6 Yeses, 0 Noes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. *Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes of September 20, 2021.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

REPORTS

1. Director’s Report by Donnie Hayes, Parks and Recreation.

Donnie Hayes, Parks and Recreation Director, informed the Commission of the Halloween Trick or Treat Town fundraising event at Pioneer Park, proceeds will go to Access Alaska and the Pioneer Park playground. Mr. Hayes also mentioned the winter lights walk and the go winter expo at the Carlson Center. Mr. Hayes provided status updates on restoration projects at Pioneer Park, including, the Pioneer Park Church, which is over one hundred years old, and the train trestles. Further status updates included Blue Bell Park, Chena Lake ice huts, Parks and Recreation staffing issues, reduced hours and vacant positions.

The Commission questioned and discussed with Mr. Hayes the following:

- Where to purchase tickets for Halloween Town.
- Carlson Center events calendar.
- Vacancies and staffing changes.

2. FNSB Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan Update by Bryant Wright, Parks and Recreation Trails Coordinator.

Bryant Wright, Parks and Recreation, Trails Coordinator, provided a presentation on the FNSB Comprehensive Recreational Trails Plan Update. Mr. Wright explained the context and history of the trails and the trails plan, the borough's role and the reasons for the update. Mr. Wright explained the overall process of updating the plan, current progress and the goals and vision.

The Commission questioned and discussed with Mr. Wright the following:

- Comparability of motorized trails and non-motorized trails.
- Nature interpretation of the trails on a guided hike.
- Public comment on personal safety on trails.
- Resources to enforce rules or regulations to protect the use designation of the trails; preventing ATV use on trails where the use is not allowed; the FNSB does not have a ranger or police authority to enforce rules or regulations.
- Trail maintenance.
- Realignment of trails on private property.
- Whether the FNSB has eminent domain of trails; FNSB does not exercise eminent domain for trails in the trail plan.
- Future trail corridor identification public meetings on October 25th and November 22nd, 2021.
- ATV's on public roads.
- The location of the division of east and west trails; generally, the Steese Highway is where the divide is located.
- Whether the Trails Advisory Commission intends to address e-bike questions, comments or policies.
- Classification of e-bikes.
- Collaboration efforts with school trails and the University of Fairbanks trails.
- Care of schools and university trails, partnership and coordination of the care of the trails.

Further discussion ensued on the future trail corridor identification public meetings, identification of trails on maps and web address to locate additional information at fairbankstrailsplan.com.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and Discussion of FNSB Code 4.04.070 Vacancies.

The Commission reviewed and discussed FNSB Code 4.04.070 with a focus on meeting attendance and quorum. The Commission also discussed expiring commission seats and commission vacancies.

EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

NONE

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Shiffler noted the success of the Halloween festival at Pioneer Park and congratulated Mr. Hayes on the success of ice hockey at the Carlson Center.

Commissioner Lounsbury noted Kurk McDonald would be a good candidate for the commission and he will reach out to him.

Commissioner Roth thanked Mr. Hayes for the work on the Carlson Center. He liked the concept of the work on the trails and uses the trails regularly.

Commissioner Barrick noted his delight in joining the Commission and he looked forward to meeting and getting to know fellow commissioners. He apologized for arriving late as he bumped into the Mayor and discussed a project he is working on.

Further discussion ensued on an inquiry of scheduled activities at the Carlson Center, notably the option for Pickleball.

Mr. Hayes mentioned there will be discussion and an option for public comment at the October 28th Assembly meeting about the CIP projects, and he thanked the commission for their letter of support for their many projects.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

APPROVED: November 15, 2021