

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY
COMMISSION

MINUTES
March 15, 2021

A regular meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held via Zoom from the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers, Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Linda Unsicker, Chair.

A. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Unsicker Judith Shiffler
 James Lounsbury Benjamin Roth
 Jason Witt Mark Oldmixon
 Margaret Keiper Andrew Culley

MEMBERS ABSENT (note if excused):

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Bork, Parks and Recreation Director
 Alexis Fackeldey, Recording Clerk
 Donnie Hayes, Parks and Recreation Employee
 John Haas, Parks and Recreation Employee
 Steve Taylor, Parks and Recreation Employee
 Robyn Dick, Parks and Recreation Employee

B. MESSAGES

1. Communications to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission – None.
2. Citizen’s Comments – None.
3. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest – None.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda and consent agenda made by Commissioner Witt and seconded by Commissioner Roth. Carried without objection or roll call vote.

D. MINUTES

Minutes from February 24, 2020 were approved.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers (Chair & Vice Chair)

Motion to unanimously elect Commissioner Oldmixon as the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission made by **Commissioner Shiffler** and seconded by **Commissioner Witt**. Carried without objection or roll call vote.

Motion to unanimously elect Commissioner Witt as the Vice-Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission made by **Commissioner Oldmixon** and seconded by **Chair Unsicker**. Carried without objection or roll call vote.

2. Carlson Center Management Plan

Director Bork and Donnie Hayes provided a comprehensive overview of the new Carlson Center Management Plan.

Commissioner Oldmixon questioned whether there would be accommodations for baseball players and Director Bork answered that there were not as of this time.

Commissioner Oldmixon asked about the ice at the Carlson Center and Director Bork stated that the compressor would build the ice and Public Works would monitor and maintain the ice system.

Commissioner Oldmixon was concerned about the quality of ice and Director Bork explained that extra time would be taken to build quality ice. Director Bork is confident that the compressor will continue working well but agreed there was no guarantee.

Commissioner Roth asked if there were still plans to move forward on the scope and design of the North Star Complex. Director Bork stated that it was still in the plan and is moving forward.

Commissioner Roth asked about concession contracts and Director Bork stated that it was still in the works and he could not answer that question, but he would attempt to work with non-profits and businesses.

Commissioner Oldmixon asked if the Director thought the budget plan would be approved by the assembly. Director Bork stated that it would be more affordable to manage the Carlson Center publicly and that it would be worth the additional subsidy. Director Bork said there was outside support for the budget, and he believed that the narrative and budget will speak well for the plan.

Commissioner Oldmixon stated that there were groups in the community willing to partner with the Borough on fundraising efforts. Director Bork agreed.

3. Smoking & Vaping Park Restrictions

Motion to recommend Parks and Recreation designated areas and facilities, current and future, indoor and outdoor should be smoke free as defined by Ordinance 2019-31 to include all tobacco products made by **Commissioner Oldmixon** and seconded by **Chair Unsicker**.

Roll Call Vote:

Five (5) in Favor: **Unsicker, Shiffler, Roth, Oldmixon, Keiper**

Two (2) Opposed: **Lounsbury, Culley**

MOTION FAILED

4. Reports

a. Staff Reports

1. Parks & Recreation Division Manager Updates

Steve Taylor gave an update on the Recreation Division including the aquatics section, Big Dipper Ice Arena, Birch Hill Recreation Area, and recreation programs. The Alyeska games will also be canceled for 2021.

John Haas provided a update summary on the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Division.

Commissioner Shiffler asked where the skate park improvement would be located. John Haas and the Director stated it would likely be in the same location.

Donnie Hayes provided an update on Pioneer Park and the Centennial Center. A video showing the concepts for the Pioneer Park update was played.

Commissioner Shiffler asked to be reminded where it was in the realization plan. Donnie Hayes answered the project was still two years out.

Commissioner Shiffler asked about the locations of restrooms and the warm-up shack in Pioneer Park. These locations were pointed out by Director Bork and Donnie Hayes.

Commissioner Unsicker asked about the life expectancy of the Centennial Arts building. Donnie Hayes stated the building would be re-evaluated in three to five years.

2. FY 2021/22 Budget

Director Bork stated that he was directed to build a flat budget.

Commissioner Shiffler wanted to congratulate the person creating the "FLiP."

3. Monthly Operations Report – None.

4. Additional Comments from the Director – None.

F. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

The absences of **Commissioner Culley** and **Commissioner Lounsbury** are excused for the April 6, 2021 meeting.

G. COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS – None.

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.