

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Chairperson – James Jones – At Large 1
Vice Chair – Ruth Wood - District 7
Pat Owens – District 1
Susannah McDuffie – At Large 2

Kimberly Waychoff - District 3
Roy Wahl – District 4
Michael Rovito – District 2
Harry Hillman – At Large 4

Jill Martinson - District 5
Vacant – District 6
Kenni Linden – At Large 3

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING Lower Level Conference Room

June 24, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER
Meeting called to order by Mr. Jones at 6:02 pm.
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
Members Present: Mr. Jones, Ms. Waychoff, Mr. Rovito, Mr. Hillman, Ms. Martinson, Ms. Linden (teams), Mr. Wahl (teams), Ms. Wood (teams), Ms. Owens (teams).
Members Absent: none
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Mr. Hillman moved to accept the agenda as amended, Mr. Rovito, 2nd. All in favor.
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Mr. Jones led the pledge of allegiance.
- V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
A. APRIL 22, 2024
- VI. Motion: Mr. Rovito moved to accept the minutes as written, Ms. Waychoff, 2nd. All in favor
- VII. BOROUGH STAFF REPORT
A. Hugh Leslie, Recreation & Library Services Manager
Mr. Leslie introduced Sarah Thomas, new admin. Transactions at kiosks recap, how it's favorable and time saving, they pay for themselves every 2 weeks. Pink Wild Rose trail updates, new supervisor, half to a full week behind but restarted work today. Last assembly meeting, playground equipment at Jay Nolfi Park was approved and will be installed in this summer. There will be a ribbon cutting, everyone is invited. Jim Creek numbers are up this year, Sunday night report from Michelle says compliance rates are at least 80% some 90%. QR codes on the trailhead signs for people to send in comments or concerns. Quickly got the reroute done on Crevasse Moraine, completed a couple weeks ago. Foliage is a bit overgrown due to the weather; they're working on getting the trees cut back starting next week. Mr. Rovito asked about if the compliance is going up using the kiosk, Mr. Leslie confirmed that is true. Mr. Hillman asked about the total cost of the units, \$12,000 per unit, and how it sent the payment to the Borough. Confirmed it's satellite driven and auto deposits. Pat asked about the Alaska Long trail, Assembly is in support of the trail, but they

didn't want it to be part of the National Scenic Trails Designation because that limits motorized vehicles. Some of the area is already motor allowed but that would not allow motorized vehicles. Mr. Rovito asked about Mat-Su River Park trees being cut down. City of Palmer has agreed to only cut the tops of the trees that interfere with the glide path of approaching airplanes. Only if they can identify a singular problem tree then it'll be addressed.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person

None.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Matanuska Valley Moose Range at Jonesville PUA – no updates about that plan, meeting happened with DNR and Borough Staff. Compared to Jim Creek and how the Borough took responsibility with public use enforcement.
- B. Code of Ordinances for Parks and Recreation – no updates, code is still in Law Review.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Jim Creek campground site limits – complainant got troopers involved with trying to overturn that rule. Complainant was thought to have been present at this meeting but is absent. Reasonable accommodations were set a few years ago, the exchange between the camper and the ticketing officer. Pat asked what a “site limit” was, was explained by Mr. Leslie.
- B. Drainage Easement on Big Lake Library property – Mr. Jones asked when Land Mgmt was given the notice, was it May 30. They do not have any objection to this proposal, doesn't really affect operations or parks.

XI. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

None. Mr. Leslie explained what a volunteer nomination is, someone who goes above and beyond a normal user i.e. Donating to the parks, someone who volunteers a lot of hours picking up trash etc.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Jones – District 6 has a vacant position open, if anyone knows anyone to apply, please suggest it to them. Also, an At Large position. Mentioned the RC Car community using the East side of the Butte as a rock-climbing course.

Ms. Wood – No Comment

Ms. Owens – Thanks for the packet of the trails updates. Kudos for all the work being done. Trailhead signs, replacing kiosks for the old ones and signs all over.

Mr. Wahl – Thanks for the update on Pink Wild Rose

Ms. Waychoff – no comment

Mr. Rovito – Noticing a bit more trash, maybe put up a sign about pack it in, pack it out. Noticing a lot of tourists in the Borough.

Mr. Hillman – Mr. Hillman would like to ask if there's a consideration to put a plate on the trailhead that has GPS coordinates listed on it. Meaning to assist mapping skills and geocaching. Orienteering course. Annual Emergency Management expo is there anything we want to put in the swag bag pertaining to the Parks & Trails.

Ms. Martinson – Have been making it out to new trails, keeps getting lost. Hoping for trail area signs that indicate where the trails actually are. Problem with Settler's Bay map.


Ms. Linden – Thank you to Hugh and Sarah and welcome to new members. She had the same problem with the map at Settler's Bay trail. Any emphasis on campfire safety due to the fire problem this summer.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

JULY 22, 2024

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Mr. Hillman moved to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Rovito 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm

X 
James Jones - Chair

Date: 26 Aug 2024

Attest:


Sarah Thomas - Staff Support

Date Approved: 8/26/24