

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

| | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Chairperson – James Jones – At Large 1 | Kimberly Waychoff – District 3 | Jill Martinson – District 5 |
| Vice Chair – Ruth Wood – District 7 | Vacant – District 4 | Maksim Revutskiy – District 6 |
| Ky Friedman – District 1 | Michael Rovito – District 2 | Kenni Psenak – At Large 3 |
| Steve Menard – At Large 2 | Harry Hillman – At Large 4 | |



AGENDA

Lower-Level Conference Room and Teams

Meeting ID: 235 322 904 252 Passcode: Gg7dK2qm
350 EAST DAHLIA AVE, PALMER

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

JULY 28, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. June 23, 2025

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (3 Minutes Per Person)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Meadow Lakes Community Council Trail Project

B. Matanuska Valley Moose Range at Jonesville PUA

1. No report

C. Code of Ordinances for Parks and Recreation

1. No report

D. Wolf Lake Community Council Park

1. Review Draft Resolution

E. Water Body Set Back Advisory Board Ordinance

1. Discuss Draft Resolution

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

XI. CORRESPONDANCE

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

XIII. NEXT MEETING

A. August 25,2025

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

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MEETING MINUTES

Lower-Level Conference Room and Teams

Meeting ID: 235 322 904 252 Passcode: Gg7dK2qm
350 EAST DAHLIA AVE, PALMER

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

JUNE 23, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Called to order at 6:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL

- A. Present: James Jones, Ruth Wood, Ky Friedman, Steve Menard, Michael Rovito, Harry Hillman, Maksim Revutskiy, Kenni Psenak.
- B. Absent: Kimberly Waychoff, Jill Martinson

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Mr. Hillman moved to approve the agenda, unanimous consent

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Pledge of Allegiance was conducted

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. May 19, 2025 – Mr. Hillman moved to approve the minutes, unanimous consent

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie – Recreation & Library Services Manager – Mr. Leslie let the board know we are fully staffed for summer positions and are accepting the Big Lake Lions Club Recreation Facility on July 1 and, after some remodeling, will re-open to the public on September 12 with an open house event. Sunshine Creek Campground is open for use and is staffed with a camp host. Both campgrounds are fully booked on

the weekends and trailhead fee compliance rates are up to 80% vs. 30% just a few years ago.

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – (3 Minutes Per Person)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Meadow Lakes Community Council Trail Project

1. No updates

B. Matanuska Valley Moose Range at Jonesville PUA

1. No report

C. Code of Ordinances for Parks and Recreation

1. No report

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Wolf Lake Community Council Park

1. Rod Hanson – North Lakes Community Council President – Mr. Hanson presented the Community Council’s proposal for the State-owned parcel at Wolf Lake that currently is a public access area. The proposal includes deeding the lower east parcel to the Borough and a park be built there for the community.
2. The board unanimously approved a resolution of support for that parcel to remain available for public access. Staff will draft a resolution for the next meeting.

B. Water Body Set Back Advisory Board Ordinance presentation – possible resolution

1. Alex Strawn – Planning Director – Mr. Strawn presented the current Ordinance being presented to the Assembly regarding Waterbody Setback ordinances. The request is for the Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board to submit a Resolution of support.
2. The board unanimously approved to have this brought forward again at the next meeting after having more time to review the Resolution and suggest possible amendments.

X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

- ### A. None

XI. CORRESPONDANCE

- ### A. None

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

- ### A. James Jones – Mr. Jones thanked everyone for coming and should be back in person for July’s meeting. Encouraged the other members to respect others’ opinions in the matters brought forth to the board.

- B. Ruth Wood – Ms. Wood commended the staff up in the Talkeenta area for their work on the trails.
- C. Steve Menard – Mr. Menard commented on both of the resolution requests presented at the meeting. Mentioned that public parks sometimes bring unwanted activity in the area.
- D. Michael Rovito – Mr. Rovito thanked the other board members and commented on the Water Body Setback issue and to consider the boards purview and whether that is within it.
- E. Harry Hillman – Mr. Hillman commented his opinion on the Water Body Setback ordinance, and he doesn't feel comfortable "rubber stamping" a resolution of support. He does support the Wolf Lake resolution of support.
- F. Maksim Revutskiy – Mr. Revutskiy thanked the other board members, and agrees that some thought needs to be put in for the Water Body Setback ordinance.
- G. Kenni Psenak – Ms. Psenak commented on both of the resolution requests and agrees that some thought needs to be put into both of them. She was hiking out near

XIII. NEXT MEETING

- A. July 28, 2025

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Adjourned at 8:00 pm

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 25-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD IN SUPPORT OF WOLF LAKE PARCEL P-08B REMAINING AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE.

WHEREAS, Parcel P-08B, commonly referred to as the Wolf Lake Parcel, has long served the public as a valued recreation and access point under the stewardship of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Wolf Lake area has experienced significant residential growth, now comprising more than 2,000 homes, resulting in a marked increase in demand for accessible, high-quality public recreation spaces; and

WHEREAS, Parcel P-08B is the only existing lake-access site in the region that is available for general public use, and the loss of this parcel would eliminate the sole opportunity for lake-based recreation for area residents; and

WHEREAS, the North Lakes Community Council conducted a comprehensive survey of local property owners, with an overwhelming 93% of respondents expressing support for preserving the parcel as a designated community park, thereby demonstrating substantial public consensus and community will; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is actively considering the sale of publicly owned parcels in this area for private development, a course of action that would permanently preclude future public use

and recreation on this critical site; and

WHEREAS, preserving Parcel P-08B aligns with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Comprehensive Plan goals to ensure equitable access to outdoor recreation, promote quality of life, and support the health and wellness of its growing population;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board strongly urges the continued protection and designation of Parcel P-08B at Wolf Lake for permanent public use and recommends that all relevant agencies take the necessary actions to retain this parcel in public ownership for the benefit of current and future residents.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board this - day of -, 2025.

James Jones, Chair

ATTEST:

Sarah Thomas - Staff Support

YES:

NO:

By: Alex Strawn
Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 25-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MSB 17.02 - MANDATORY LAND USE PERMITS, MSB 17.55 - SETBACK AND SCREENING EASEMENTS, MSB 17.65 - VARIANCES, AND MSB 17.125 - DEFINITIONS.

WHEREAS, the 75-foot waterbody setback was originally established in 1973 by assembly ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the setback was temporarily reduced to 45 feet in 1986 but reinstated to 75 feet by voter initiative in 1987; and

WHEREAS, over time, enforcement of the 75-foot setback has been limited, resulting in widespread noncompliance, environmental impacts, and real estate complications; and

WHEREAS, between 1987 and present, over 700 shoreline structures have been built in violation of the 75-foot setback ordinance, many of which went undetected due to limited permitting requirements and enforcement options; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 25-073 offers a pragmatic solution by allowing structures to be built within 75 feet of a waterbody, provided they are designed and built in accordance with plans

developed by a qualified professional that ensure water quality is protected; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) continues to experience sustained residential, commercial, and recreational development near its lakes, rivers, and wetlands, increasing the need for clear land use regulations to manage growth while protecting environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, waterbodies in the MSB provide significant public benefits, including clean drinking water, fisheries, recreation, scenic values, and ecological services that can be negatively impacted by unmanaged development, impervious surfaces along waterbodies, and pollutant discharges; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 25-073 requires land use review and permitting procedures for mechanized development within 75 feet of a waterbody, providing the MSB the opportunity to evaluate drainage and infiltration in order to protect water quality; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance develops several new general standards for development within 75-feet of a waterbody to ensure pollution is minimized.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board hereby recommends Assembly adoption of Ordinance 25-073.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation
and Trails Advisory Board this 23rd day of June, 2025.

James Jones, Chair

ATTEST

Sarah Thomas, Staff Support

YES:

NO:

DRAFT