MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

James Jones - Chair – At Large 1
Ruth Wood – Vice Chair – District 7
Ky Friedman – District 1
Steve Menard – At Large 2
Vacant – District 3
Vacant – District 4
Michael Rovito – District 2
Harry Hillman – At Large 4
Vacant – District 5
Maksim Revutskiy – District 6
Cachet Garrett – At Large 3

AGENDA

Lower-Level Conference Room and Teams
Meeting ID:258 440 394 545 55 Passcode: eb3AH9aG
350 EAST DAHLIA AVE, PALMER

REGULAR MEETING **6:00 PM** **March 23, 2026**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
A. February 23, 2026

VI. STAFF REPORTS
A. Hugh Leslie – Operational Branch Manager – Outdoor Recreation
B. Adam Madson – Operational Branch Manager – Recreation Facilities

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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
A. Electric Motorbikes
B. Commercial Permits for Talkeetna Lakes Park (Wood)

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Possible letter of support for Denali Nordic Ski Club for proposed G-Loop Nordic ski trail at Talkeetna Lakes Park.

X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

XIII. NEXT MEETING

A. April 27, 2026

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Chairperson – James Jones – At Large 1	Vacant – District 3	Vacant – District 5
Vice Chair – Ruth Wood – District 7	Vacant – District 4	Maksim Revutskiy – District 6
Ky Friedman – District 1	Michael Rovito – District 2	Cachet Garrett – At Large 3
Steve Menard – At Large 2	Harry Hillman – At Large 4	

MEETING MINUTES

Lower-Level Conference Room and Teams
Meeting ID:258 440 394 545 55 Passcode: eb3AH9aG
350 EAST DAHLIA AVE, PALMER

REGULAR MEETING **6:00 PM** **February 23, 2026**

I. CALL TO ORDER
A. Called to order at 6:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL
A. Present: James Jones, Ky Friedman, Steve Mendard, Michael Rovito, Harry Hillman, Maksim Revutskiy, Cachet Garrett.
B. Absent: Ruth Wood.

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. November 24, 2025 – Mr. Hillman moved to approve the minutes, unanimous consent.

VI. STAFF REPORTS
A. Hugh Leslie – Operational Branch Manager – Outdoor Recreation
1. Mr. Leslie was not in attendance. Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director gave updates about projects and initiatives within the department.
B. Adam Madson – Operational Branch Manager – Recreation Facilities
1. Mr. Madson gave updates on the recreation facilities and usage increases.

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

A. Roy Wahl – spoke about ADA signage at Wild Pink Rose trail at GPRA.
B. Lee Brian – spoke about electric bikes.
C. Dewey Bitler – spoke about Visnaw Little Susitna trail.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Matanuska Valley Moose Range at Jonesville PUA
    1. Joe Metzger, Land and Resource Management Division Manager, gave updates on the range.
B. Code of Ordinances for Parks and Recreation
    1. In legal review
C. Electric Motorbikes
    1. Discussion ensued. Mr. Jones moved to table for the next meeting, unanimous consent.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Rabideaux creek crossing (Menard)
    1. Mr. Menard presented the materials, discussion ensued. Staff suggested nominating for CIP next year.
B. NLCC Cottonwood Lake (Hanson/Hillman)
    1. Mr. Hanson presented the materials, discussion ensued. Staff suggested nominating for CIP next year.
        - Mr. Jones moved to extend the meeting until 8:30 pm, unanimous consent.
C. Commercial Permits for Talkeetna Lakes Park (Wood)
    1. Tabled for next meeting in Ms. Wood's absence.
D. GPRA Draft Management Plan (Metzger)
    1. Mr. Metzger gave an update on the progress of the GPRA Management Plan, a draft should be available in few weeks.

X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

A. None

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. All correspondence was presented

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

A. James Jones – Thanked the everyone for attending the meeting.
B. Harry Hillman – Thanked everyone for their comments and thanked staff.
C. Maksim Revutskiy – Great to see everyone, good meeting.
D. Cachet Garrett – Introduced to the board, excited to be on the board.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

A. March 23, 2026

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjourned at 8:10 pm

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MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 26-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD, RESTRICTING THE USE OF SPECIFIED ELECTRIC MOTORBIKES ON BOROUGH OWNED AND MAINTAINED TRAILS.

WHEREAS, the Matanuska Susitna Borough has an extensive trail system that supports hiking, biking, skiing and other forms or outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska Susitna Borough's Parks Recreation and Trails Advisory Board is charged with monitoring new recreational trends and recommending new expanded use of our recreation facilities and trails; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board discussed the Electric motorbike usage during their regular meetings and sought public input;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board recommends restricting electric bikes that are pedal assist only "class 1 and 2 electric bicycles," or "low-speed pedal-assisted electric bicycle". A class 1 bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour. Electric motorbikes that would be prohibited would include a bike that is a two-wheeled

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vehicle equipped with an electric motor capable of propelling the vehicle without human power, typically operated via a throttle, and designed for speeds exceeding 20 mph. This includes electric dirt bikes, electric motorcycles, and similar motorized devices. Further, signs and information be produced and installed at trail heads indicating rules and etiquette for the use of electric bikes and motorbikes on Borough trails.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board this - day of -, 2026.

_____
James Jones, Chairperson

ATTEST:

_____
Sarah Thomas, Staff Support

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Hugh and Sarah,

I would like to request that commercial permits in MSB parks be put on our Parks & Rec Board agenda for January. A permit for commercial use in Talkeetna Lakes Park and on the Ridge Trail in Talkeetna is being considered (and may be close to being issued) by Land Management. I have many concerns as does our community as evidenced at the Talkeetna Community Council Last night (12/1/2025.)

1. Land Management contacted he Talkeetna Parks Advisory Committee (TPAC) about the permit. TPAC meets only bi-monthly and is a committee of the Talkeetna Community Council (TCCI.) TCCI was not notified of the Talkeetna Gear Shop's application for a commercial use permit for both the Ridge Trail and Talkeetna Lakes Park.

2. I do not understand why Land Management rather than Parks and Recreation would be dealing with a permit for Talkeetna Lakes Park. The Ridge Trail is not in a Park, so Land Management would deal with that application. Evidently there is one application that is for commercial use of both the park and the ridge trail.

3. I do not understand why the proposed application was not shared with the Parks & Rec board nor with me as the District 7 representative.

4. Land Management indicated to TCCI Chair in a follow-up email that a public notice was soon to be issued but if it has been, our board did not receive a notice.

5. The application, as shared with the Council for last night's meeting, is vague and fails to address important operational issues:

"We propose to offer small-group guided tours, seasonally adjusted for the following activities:

- Summer (May–September): Biking tours (mountain and e-bike) & Paddle Board tours
- Winter (November–March): Snowshoe tours, Nordic Ski Tours and Fat Bike Tours"

The trails in Talkeetna Lakes Park are very different from the Ridge Trail, and are not suitable for tour groups with e-bikes. Plus the Talkeetna Lakes Park Management Plan, on page 21, specifically notes: "Bicycles…Commercial and winter use would remain prohibited."

What does 'small' mean? There are additional sections of the Talkeetna Lakes Park Management Plan that are relevant to this permit, and there are additional issues concerning the application (e.g., there is already a commercial operator offering kyayk and paddle board rentals operating out of the Talkeetna Lakes parking lot at Comsat. The parking lot is often full. So where would this operation be located?) How will the commercial operator contribute to maintenance and grooming of the trails?

6. The application does not address the type of e-bikes they plan to use (pedal assist, e-bikes equiped with a throttle assist, or electric motored, and only indicate 'small' as the tour group sizes. This is relevant to the e-bike issue our board already plans to have on the January agenda.

7. Although it is late in the process, I am wondering if the proposed Parks & Rec Ordinance needs to address how commercial permit applications in our parks will be handled, and if it should include more information defining e-bikes and restrictions on their use. Should permit fees include repair, maintenance, and grooming?

8. The errors in dealing with this permit were not just the borough's. TPAC does not meet monthly; there was a lack of a quorum for one TPAC meeting; and the chair being out of town

for the next led to it not being on the agenda. TPAC, however, is a committee that can only recommend to the Council that does meet monthly.

Thanks,
Ruth Wood