

**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

April 27, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. March 23, 2026

VI. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Andy Mergens – Parks, Recreation & Libraries Division Manager
- B. Hugh Leslie – Operational Branch Manager – Outdoor Recreation
- C. 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. Possible letter of support for Denali Nordic Ski Club for proposed G-Loop Nordic ski trail at Talkeetna Lakes Park.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

XIII. NEXT MEETING

A. May 18, 2026

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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Cachet Garrett – At Large 3



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

March 23, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Called to order at 6:04 pm

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

A. Ms. Garret moved to approve the agenda, unanimous consent.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

A. February 23, 2026 – Ms. Garrett moved to approve the minutes, unanimous consent.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

A. Hugh Leslie – Operational Branch Manager – Outdoor Recreation
1. Mr. Leslie introduced Andy Mergens, the new Parks, Recreation & Libraries Division Manager. Gave updates about events and projects for outdoor recreation.

B. Adam Madson – Operational Branch Manager – Recreation Facilities

1. Mr. Madson gave updates about pool & ice rink usage and the coming events planned for Big Lake Lions Rec Center.

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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Electric Motorbikes

1. Discussion ensued, a new draft will be presented in April.

B. Commercial Permits for Talkeetna Lakes Park (Wood)

1. Land Management staff addressed questions regarding commercial permits. The board requested notification of commercial permit applications going forward.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

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

1. Mr. Jones moved to postpone until April meeting, unanimous consent.

X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

A. None

XI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. All correspondence was presented

XII. MEMBER COMMENTS

A. James Jones – Mr. Jones commented on the spring weather and encouraged members to report anything that needs attention on the trails to staff.

B. Ruth Wood – Ms. Wood commented on the weather and conditions in Talkeetna.

C. Maksim Revutskiy – Mr. Revutskiy commented on the icy conditions of the roads.

D. Cachet Garrett – Ms. Garrett mentioned that it's officially plating season.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

A. April 27, 2026

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A. Adjourned at 6:39 pm

Fw: Support for Trail Development in Talkeetna Lakes Park

From: Jonathan Korta <korta@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 12:38 PM
To: Jillian Morrissey <Jillian.Morrissey@matsugov.us>
Subject: Support for Trail Development in Talkeetna Lakes Park

[EXTERNAL EMAIL - CAUTION: Do not open unexpected attachments or links.]

Hello Jillian,

On behalf of the Denali Nordic Ski Club (DNSC), I am writing to request a letter of support for the proposed G-Loop Nordic Ski Trail at Talkeetna Lakes Park. (G-Loop is one of the trail options laid out by Bill Spencer in the Master Trail Plan commissioned by the Denali Nordic Ski Club in 2010)

The G-Loop is a thoughtfully designed ~6 km Nordic ski-only trail that would expand the park's groomed trail network to approximately 15 kilometers. Designed to provide a more challenging skiing experience, the loop features sustained climbs, flowing descents, and scenic viewpoints that complement the existing trail system. Importantly, it fulfills the long-standing vision in both the Talkeetna Comprehensive Plan and the Talkeetna Lakes Park Management Plan, which identify the park as the appropriate location for dedicated Nordic ski trails that protect winter recreation from incompatible uses.

DNSC has deep roots in the Talkeetna community. With roughly 100 dues-paying members, a Junior Nordic program serving more than 50 local children, and annual beginner ski instruction, the club plays an active role in fostering healthy outdoor recreation. DNSC also hosts and supports numerous community events, including the popular Oosik Classic Ski Race, which draws nearly 1,000 participants each year and provides meaningful economic benefits to local businesses.

The G-Loop represents an investment in Talkeetna's recreation economy. Expanded Nordic skiing opportunities attract visitors during the shoulder and winter seasons, and strengthen Talkeetna's reputation as a four-season recreation destination. Just as importantly, the trail provides residents with accessible, safe, and dedicated winter & summer recreation opportunities.

The G-Loop project will be introduced at the March 16th TPAC meeting. A letter of support from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough would demonstrate the Borough's recognition of the G-Loop's economic and community value and strengthen efforts to secure funding and approvals for this project.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work supporting Talkeetna's recreation future. I am happy to provide additional information or answer any questions. Thanks,

Jon
(907) 203-2532