PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA
December 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
This meeting will be held at or hosted from the
Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers
Juanita Helms Administration Center
907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, AK

This meeting will be conducted in-person and by zoom or zoom-only with consideration given to the Borough Operational Status and if the Juanita Helms Administration Center is otherwise open to the public. Please visit https://www.fnsb.gov/406/Boards-Commissions or contact the Borough Clerk’s Office (907) 459-1401.

A. CALL TO ORDER
B. ROLL CALL
C. MESSAGES
   C.1. Citizens’ Comments - limited to three (3) minutes
       C.1.a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing
       C.1.b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda
   C.2. Disclosure and Statement of Conflict of Interest
D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA
   Approval of consent agenda passes all routine items indicated by asterisk (*) on agenda. Consent agenda items are not considered separately unless any Commission member or citizen so requests. In the event of such request, the item is returned to the general agenda.
E. MINUTES
   E.1. *Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting minutes from November 15, 2021
        Documents:
        11_15_2021_PRC_Draft Meeting Minutes.pdf
F. REPORTS

F.1. Donnie Hayes, Parks and Recreation Director, Report.

G. NEW BUSINESS

G.1. A request by the Natural Resources Development Division to make findings of consistency with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and make a recommendation on the proposed amendment to the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Master Plan

Documents:

Draft Resolution.pdf
Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Presentation.pdf

H. EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

I. COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

J. ADJOURNMENT
A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Monday, November 15, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

**ROLL CALL**

There were present appearing telephonically and in person:

- James Lounsbury
- Linda Unsicker
- David Mongold
- Judith Shiffler
- Ben Roth
- Kenneth Barrick
- Andrew Culley
- Mark Oldmixon, Chair

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

- Adena Benn, CMC, Deputy Clerk
- Donnie Hayes, Parks and Recreation Director
- James Beget, Farthest North Pickleball Club Representative

Absent and Unexcused

- Jason Witt, Vice-Chair

**MESSAGES**

1.a. Citizen’s Comments on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing.

   NONE

1.b. Citizen’s Comments on items other than those appearing on the agenda.

   NONE

2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

Commissioner Barrick disclosed he sits on the board of the Farthest North Pickleball Club and has a potential conflict with the letter of support for the Pickleball Complex Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project nomination. Chair Oldmixon ruled a conflict did exist.
APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

SHIFFLER, Seconded by BARRICK moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda as read.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

Yeses: Lounsbury, Unsicker, Barrick, Culley, Mongold, Shiffler, Roth, Oldmixon
Noes: None
MOTION CARRIED 8 Yeses, 0 Noes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES


Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

REPORTS

1. Director’s Report by Donnie Hayes, Parks and Recreation.

Donnie Hayes, Parks and Recreation Director, provided information on the recent Holiday Marketplace and upcoming hockey game at the Carlson Center, the Big Dipper Spooky Skate, Fright Walk at Tanana Lakes, and the Halloween Trick or Treat Town fundraising event at Pioneer Park, where $25,000 was raised benefitting Access Alaska and the Pioneer Park playground. Mr. Hayes provided an update on the successful opening of the Play Zone at the Carlson Center, stated staff will start prep for new programming and the upcoming budget, and introduced the Parks and Recreation Department’s new Riverside Superintendent, Lee Williams.

The Commission questioned and discussed with Mr. Hayes the following:

- The Play Zone occupancy limit, revenue and online attendee registration.
- Training and protection for staff working with children.
- Commission’s ability to provide input during the hiring process for the Parks and Recreation Supervisor.
- Availability of season passes for Carlson Center events.
REPORTS – continued

2. Overview of the FNSB Parks and Recreation budget process with Donnie Hayes, Parks and Recreation Director.

Donnie Hayes, Parks and Recreation Director, provided an overview on the department’s primary budgetary goals to purchase a new van for programming and event support, stronger temporary staff recruitment due to trending staffing issues and strengthening their marketing presence. Mr. Hayes also provided a timeline of the budget process from preparation and submission to adoption and implementation.

The Commission questioned and discussed with Mr. Hayes the following:

- Those involved in drafting the budget.
- The current fiscal year budget and where to find this on the Borough’s website.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible letter of support for a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project nomination from the Farthest North Pickleball Club for the proposed FNSB Pickleball Complex, presented by Commissioner Barrick.

Clerk’s Note: Commissioner Barrick was excused from the dais due to his conflict of interest.

James Beget, Farthest North Pickleball Club representative, provided a presentation requesting support for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) nomination for a Pickleball Complex. Mr. Beget expressed the increased interest in the sport, poor conditions and safety concerns with existing courts, the need for a dedicated facility with courts that can be used year-round by residents, tourists and organizations like the Senior Olympics, and possible locations for the proposed facility.

The Commission and staff questioned and discussed with Mr. Beget the following:

- Current availability and locations of indoor courts for the sport.
- Court size and net comparison to tennis courts and outdoor court orientation to the sun.
- Playing surface, and if pickleball courts can be transitioned to tennis courts.
- The Big Dipper Court #2 paving improvement project.
- Consideration given to the North Pole Ice Skating Rink as a pickleball location.
- Whether discussions were had with the Fairbanks Youth Soccer Association for the purchase of a multi-sport court at the Carlson Center.
- Prioritization of support for other CIP project nominations.
NEW BUSINESS – continued

UNSICKER, Seconded by CULLEY
moved to approve a letter of support for Farthest North Pickleball Club’s Proposed FNSB Pickleball Complex to the FNSB Mayor.

Chair Oldmixon echoed concerns of building a new facility when other borough buildings could be utilized for the sport.

Chair Oldmixon expressed his support for the project.

Commissioner Roth expressed his overall support for the project and the sport but finds it challenging to justify supporting this project by itself when there are other projects that need support.

Commissioner Shiffler questioned how beneficial it is for the Commission to write multiple letters of support for different projects but shared her support for pickleball.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR FARDEST NORTH PICKLEBALL CLUB’S PROPOSED FNSB PICKLEBALL COMPLEX TO THE FNSB MAYOR.

Yeses: Culley, Lounsbury, Roth, Unsicker, Shiffler, Oldmixon

Noes: Mongold

MOTION CARRIED 6 Yeses, 1 Noes

Clerk’s Note: Commissioner Barrick returned to the dais.

EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

Chair Oldmixon will be traveling and may be unavailable to attend the next meeting.

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Barrick stated he attended a recent Trails Advisory Commission meeting and was happy to see the public turnout.

Commissioner Shiffler stated she also attended the Trails Advisory Commission meeting and thought it was well done and important.
COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS – continued

Commissioner Lounsbury stated the President just passed an infrastructure bill and inquired if that could be tied into local projects.

Chair Oldmixon encouraged groups like the Farthest North Pickleball Club to utilize resources available to them now.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.
FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2022 –

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE TANANA LAKES RECREATION AREA MASTER PLAN TO EXPAND THE BOUNDARY OF THE DESIGNATED OFFROAD VEHICLE (ORV) PARK AND TO REMOVE DESIGNATION OF A FORMER MATERIAL SITE AS A RETRIEVER POND

WHEREAS, In May 2007, the Fairbanks North Star Borough (Borough) Assembly approved Resolution No. 2007-16, accepting the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area (TLRA) Master Plan with implementation contingent upon leasing the land from the State; and

WHEREAS, In September 2007, the Borough executed a zero-cost, 55-year term lease agreement with the State (ADL No. 416010, recorded as Instrument No. 2007-021553-0) for 286.64 acres of land conditioned on use and development consistent with the TLRA Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, In November 2015, the Borough Assembly approved Resolution No. 2015-34, authorizing the Mayor to add approximately 210 acres to the TLRA – known as the East Addition – to further the Borough’s goal of providing an off-road vehicle (ORV) park within the TLRA; and

WHEREAS, In March 2016, the State agreed to allow lease of the East Addition to the Borough and in March 2017, the State granted “entry authorization” (equating to management authority) for use and development of the East Addition consistent with the TLRA Master Plan; and
WHEREAS, In November 2017, the Borough Assembly adopted Resolution No. 2017-50 amending the TLRA Master Plan to add the East Addition as the location for an ORV Park, though the specific boundary of the Park was unclear; and

WHEREAS, The TLRA Master Plan First Amendment updated page “5-17” and Figure 6 of the Plan to include the additional acreage and state the intended use of the East Addition to include, but not be limited to, development of an ORV Park and a Retriever Pond; and

WHEREAS, Design and construction of the ORV Park was to be user-group driven, a role that was taken on by the non-profit Fairbanks Offroad Lions (FORL) who are now working to secure a sublease with the Borough; and

WHEREAS, While the ORV Park has been developed with an active user group partner, the retriever pond has not had similar interest or request for approval and development of plans since the 2017 designation; and

WHEREAS, As the ORV Park user group, FORL has requested control over access to the pond to ensure feasibility of the safety and security requirements of their sublease, especially during event use; and

WHEREAS, Changing the boundary of the ORV Park and the use of the pond from a retriever pond to a use consistent with development of the ORV Park both require that the TLRA Master Plan be amended; and

WHEREAS, The TLRA Master Plan Second Amendment removes the reference to the retriever pond originally added by the TLRA Master Plan First Amendment summary page (incorporated by reference into Resolution No. 2017-50) and expands the
ORV Park boundary by approximately 24 acres from that shown in 2017 on Figure A-3; and

WHEREAS, The new ORV Park boundary will also be consistent with the Alaska State Land Survey required by the State in order to add the East Addition to the 55-year lease agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough amends the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Master Plan to expand the boundary of the designated offroad vehicle (ORV) park by approximately 24 acres to encompass the entire approximately 210-acre East Addition, and to remove designation of a former material site as a retriever pond.

ADOPTED THE ___ DAY OF______________, 2022.

________________________________
Mindy O’Neal
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:

______________________________
April Trickey, CMC
Borough Clerk

______________________________
Jill S. Dolan
Borough Attorney

Fairbanks North Star Borough, Alaska
Resolution No. 202x-xx: Amending the Tanana Lakes Rec. Area Master Plan to expand the boundary of the designated ORV Park and to remove designation of a former material site as a retriever pond

Bryan Sehmel
Division of Natural Resources Development
December 20, 2021
S. Cushman St. Ext. south of Borough Rifle Range

- Approximately 210 acres
Tanana Lakes East Addition

- 2007 – Tanana Lakes Master Plan
- 2007 – 55-year lease from State
- 2015 – East Addition added to TLRA
- 2016 – East Addition added to State lease
- 2017 – Entry authorization
- 2017 – Master Plan Amendment #1
Amendment #1

Added East Addition to Master Plan

- Updated pg. 5-17 and Figure 6
Amendment #1

Added East Addition to Master Plan
- Updated pg. 5-17 and Figure 6

Added intended use as retriever pond
- ORV Park
- Retriever Pond
**Amendment #1**

**Added East Addition to Master Plan**
- Updated pg. 5-17 and Figure 6

**Added intended use as retriever pond**
- ORV Park
- Retriever Pond

**Discrepancy**
- Written vs. figures

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**Summary of Plan Amendment #1**

This amendment adds approximately 196 acres of lands to the 2007 Tanana Lakes Master Plan, referred to hereafter as the Tanana Lakes East Addition (Figure A-3). In 2014, the Fairbanks North Star Borough requested these lands be added to the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area Lease from the State of Alaska. In 2016, the State of Alaska agreed to allow the Lease of the East Addition to the Borough pursuant to a survey of these lands. In 2017, the State issued an Entry Authorization to the Borough to allow survey and use of the East Addition in accordance with the Master Plan. The 2007 Master Plan did not include detailed plans for the 196 acres as these lands were not part of the original Tanana Lakes Recreation Area.

This amendment updates page 5-17 and Figure 6 of the 2017 Master Plan to include the approximately 196 acre. The intended use of the East Addition includes, but is not limited to, development of an Off-road Vehicle Park and a Retriever Pond (Figures A-1, A-2).
Amendment #2

Removes reference to Retriever Pond

- Shown on 2017 summary page
  (Resolution No. 2017-50)
Amendment #2

Removes reference to Retriever Pond
- Shown on 2017 summary page
  (Resolution No. 2017-50)

Expands ORV Park boundaries
- Shown on 2017 Figure A-3
- Approx. 24 acres of 210-acre total
Amendment #2

Removes reference to Retriever Pond
- Shown on 2017 summary page (Resolution No. 2017-50)

Expands ORV Park boundaries
- Shown on 2017 Figure A-3
- Approx. 24 acres of 210-acre total

Matches survey boundary
- Matches sublease boundary
Thank you

The Division thanks you for your consideration and respectfully requests your support of the amendment.