

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
July 19, 2021  
5:03 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Monday, July 19, 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:

Andrew Culley	Linda Unsicker
David Mongold	Judith Shiffler
Ben Roth	Jason Witt, Vice-Chairperson
Mark Oldmixon, Chairperson	

Comprising a quorum of the Board/Commission, and

April Trickey, CMC, Borough Clerk  
Steve Taylor, Acting Parks and Recreation Director  
John Hass, Parks Superintendent  
Robyn Dick, Administrative Assistant IV

Absent & Excused

James Lounsbury

**MESSAGES**

C.1. Communications to the Parks and Recreation Commission

NONE

C.2. Citizen's Comments

C.2.a. Agenda items not scheduled for public hearing

Randy Zarnke of Slater Drive, Fairbanks, Chairperson of the Carlson Center Advisory Commission commented he has attended meetings, been a commission member and the Chairperson of the Carlson Center Advisory Commission for many years which mainly

consisted of reviewing policy, past and future events, and analyzed finances and ways to save money. He further explained the Carlson Center Advisory Commission is advisory to the Mayor's Office and the Assembly. He noted the biggest difference between the Carlson Center Advisory Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission is the Carlson Center Advisory Commission focuses on the financial aspect of the operation of the Carlson Center and is quite different than the responsibilities and focus of the Parks and Recreation Commission. He did not feel it was a good idea to combine the two commissions.

Questions and discussion ensued.

C.2.b. Items other than those appearing on the agenda

Smokey Don Duncan of Alvin Street, Fairbanks addressed his concerns of the lack of attention given to motorized recreationalists in the borough and lack of trails available for motorized users. He suggested the borough construct a boat ramp behind the Carlson Center, place a port-o-potty at the Tanana Lakes Recreational ice fishing area during the winter, help DNR make the Circle-Fairbanks trails world-class trails for snowmobiles and ATV's, build and maintain snowmobile trails and an ice racing track at Tanana Lakes for the motorized users close to town.

Questions and discussion ensued.

C. 3. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

NONE

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

Yeses: Unsicker, Roth, Witt, Culley, Mongold,  
Shiffler, Oldmixon

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 7 Yeses, 0 Noes

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. Parks and Recreation Commission minutes of May 5, 2021.

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

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **F.1. Discussion and possible action on Letter of Support and recommendation to the FNSB Assembly regarding combining two FNSB Commissions; the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Carlson Center Advisory Commission**

Discussion ensued on the origin of combining the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Carlson Center Advisory Commission.

Clerk's Note: Chair Oldmixon reopened Citizen's Comments A to allow the Chair of the Carlson Center Advisory Commission, Randy Zarnke to speak on the item.

The Commission agreed not to move forward with drafting a letter of support or pursuing the recommendation of combining the Parks and Recreation Commission with the Carlson Center Advisory Commission.

### **F.2. Consideration of a request to recommend to the Mayor to allow open serve of beer and wine at the Fairbanks Soccer Club home games at the fields located at 1901 Wilbur Street, Fairbanks.**

Kyle Renner of North Pole, Captain of the Men's Fairbanks Soccer Club, a local development of a national league, The United Premiere Soccer League presented their request. Mr. Renner explained there is a variety of age ranges on the men's' and women's' teams. The focus within the club is on the continued development of players in the 14 to 24-year age group who are looking to challenge themselves beyond what is offered on a comp team, club or high school season. Home games take place at the borough facility on Davis Turf Field Complex which include DJ's, food trucks, kids' games, and live singing of the National Anthem. The Fairbanks Soccer Club is aiming to provide another entertainment opportunity that is locally developed for sports similar to Goldpanners baseball or Ice Dawgs hockey and they are hoping to have regulated use of sales of beer or cocktails among the sponsors.

Nathaniel Deloria of Fairbanks, Vice-president and one of the Directors of Operations for the Fairbanks Soccer Club, spoke of their first home game where they hosted teams from

Anchorage with over 200 people in attendance of the games. They are looking to bring the community further together while bringing high quality entertainment locally and an option for players to compete at a higher-level soccer league. The Fairbanks Soccer Club is offering semi-pro soccer, part of a nationally recognized premier soccer league which has not been offered in the area before. Fairbanks is known for its microbreweries and many of them are sponsoring or partnering with the league. The Fairbanks Soccer Club is entirely dependent on the Fairbanks North Star Borough to host home games. The Fairbanks Soccer Club requested the Davis Turf Fields be considered for designation to allow permitted use in isolated areas for beer and wine sales similar to the designated controlled areas at the Ice Dawgs hockey or Goldpanners' baseball games.

Questions and discussion ensued.

Steve Taylor, Acting Parks and Recreation Director recapped the request and noted the permit request does not include alcohol being sold on the field, it is proposed to be sold in a restricted area such as the Ice Dawgs hockey or Goldpanners' baseball games. To have a licensed premises the Fairbanks Soccer Club would be required to have event permits which require the vendor to have specific areas that are defined in their permit. Mr. Taylor expressed the proposal has potential to work at the facility as most of the game requests from Fairbanks Soccer League have been occurring on Saturdays which does not conflict with youth events at the facility.

Discussion ensued.

ROTH, moved to lay item F.2 on the table.  
Seconded by MONGOLD

VOTE ON MOTION TO LAY ITEM F.2. ON THE TABLE.

Yeses: Witt, Shiffler, Unsicker, Culley, Mongold, Roth, Oldmixon

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 7 Yeses, 0 Noes

### **F.3. Review and approval of an updated non-alcohol FNSB parks list.**

Steve Taylor, Acting Parks and Recreation Director reviewed the responsibilities of the Parks and Recreation Commission which was updated in code within the last year under FNSBC section 9.04.030 The Parks and Recreation policy states the Parks and Recreation Commission will determine in consultation with the Parks and Recreation department which parks are designated for non-alcoholic beverages and further states the list should be reviewed and updated annually by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Mr. Taylor further explained the Parks and Recreation policy lists four criteria upon which a designation may be considered: 1. youth orientated facilities, 2. youth orientated play areas such as a playground, 3. parks located in the Downtown area, or 4. parks facilities where instance of possession and consumption have hampered youth enjoyment. The Commission may specify certain areas within a park and are not required to choose or rule out an entire park.

John Haas, Parks Superintendent, added the FNSB legal department advised the Parks and Recreation Commission they cannot designate all parks as non-alcohol as a whole. Each park will have to be designated as an individual site. The City of Fairbanks has designated the downtown core as non-alcohol and has requested Parks and Recreation to have signage up at those parks noting the rules of the park to aide with police efforts in dealing with inebriated individuals.

Questions and discussion ensued.

CULLEY,  
Seconded by ROTH

moved to remove the Artificial Turf Complex Fields located at 1966 Davis Road off the recommended list.

Discussion ensued.

**VOTE ON MOTION TO REMOVE THE ARTIFICAL TURF COMPLEX FIELDS LOCATED AT 1966 DAVID ROAD OFF THE RECOMMENDED LIST.**

Yeses: Culley, Mongold, Roth, Shiffler, Unsicker, Witt, Oldmixon

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 7 Yeses, 0 Noes

ROTH,  
Seconded by WITT

moved to approve the recommended list with removal of the Artificial Turf Complex Fields located at 1966 Davis Road.

Discussion ensued.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED NON-ALCOHOLIC FNSB PARKS LIST WITH REMOVAL OF THE ARTIFICIAL TURF COMPLEX FIELDS LOCATED AT 1966 DAVIS.

Yeses: Shiffler, Witt, Mongold, Roth, Culley, Unsicker, Oldmixon

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 7 Yeses, 0 Noes

**F. 2. Discussion – Continued**

CULLEY,  
Seconded by MONGOLD

moved to take from the table item F. 2.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE ITEM F.2.

Yeses: Mongold, Unsicker, Witt, Shiffler, Culley, Roth, Oldmixon

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 7 Yeses, 0 Noes

CULLEY,  
Seconded by MONGOLD

moved to recommend to Mayor Bryce Ward to allow open service of alcohol at the Fairbanks Soccer Club home games at the fields located at 1966 Davis Road.

Discussion ensued.

VOTE ON MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO MAYOR BRYCE WARD TO ALLOW OPEN SERVICE OF ALCOHOL AT THE FAIRBANKS SOCCER CLUB HOME GAMES AT THE FIELDS LOCATED AT 1966 DAVIS ROAD.

Yeses:	Unsicker, Roth, Culley, Mongold, Shiffler, Oldmixon
Noes:	Witt
MOTION CARRIED	6 Yeses, 1 Noes

**EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES**

Commissioner Unsicker was uncertain of her attendance at the August 16, 2021 meeting.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Witt inquired if the City has any type of tracking mechanism for trail uses.

Commissioner Roth commented on trail uses and a future discussion on trail uses.

Chair Oldmixon welcomed Commissioner Mongold to the Commission.

Commissioner Roth inquired who Mr. Duncan should speak to regarding establishing a boat launch at the Carlson Center.

Staff noted Mr. Duncan should contact the State of Alaska and the Army Corp. of Engineers.

Chair Oldmixon shared a friend was run over by a motorbike while on a bike path and police presence stated there were no injuries or recourse; he was curious to observe the e-bike debate unfold. He added the meeting was helpful and was previously reminded by Mayor Ward the Commission has the authority to make recommendations to the Mayor's Office through a memorandum.

Commissioner Roth requested a list of the rules and powers of the Park and Recreation Commission along with several other Commissions; Carlson Center Advisory Commission, Senior Citizen Advisory Commission and the Trail Advisory Commission. He also commented on looking for ways to help reduce costs through revenue generation.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.