

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
August 16, 2021  
5:01 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Monday, August 16, 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:

Andrew Culley (arrived 5:06 p.m.)	Linda Unsicker
David Mongold	Judith Shiffler
Ben Roth	Jason Witt, Vice-Chairperson
Mark Oldmixon, Chairperson	

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Sharon Wittenkeller, Administrative Assistant III, Clerk  
John Haas, Acting Parks and Recreation Director  
Brian Charlton, Parks and Recreation Project Coordinator

Excused

James Lounsbury

**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

NONE

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

SHIFFLER,  
Seconded by WITT

moved to approve the agenda and consent  
agenda as read.

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

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

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 6 Yeses, 0 Noes

*Clerk's Note: Mr. Culley joined immediately after the motion was approved.*

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. \*Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2021.

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

## **REPORTS**

1. John Haas, Parks and Recreation Acting Director, Report.

John Haas, Parks and Recreation Acting Director, gave a report on the preparation the Carlson Center conducted for upcoming events and provided an overview of the preparation required for hosting events using the ice. Mr. Haas also stated that the department is understaffed with several vacancies and the interviews to fill the position of Parks and Recreation Director were completed.

Commissioner Witt inquired about the extent of the Parks and Recreation Department's duties regarding the grass on the medians. Mr. Haas explained the maintenance of the medians.

Commissioner Unsicker inquired about the response from the community and the number of attendees for the Foo Fighters concert. Mr. Haas noted the requirements for the concerts and events are decided by those running the concert or event. Mr. Haas stated said the upcoming Foo Fighter concert should be very well attended.

Chair Oldmixon asked about the panelists that interviewed candidates for the director position. Mr. Haas provided an answer based on what he knew about the process.

## **REPORTS – continued**

Mr. Haas stated that the ice plant is being tested and will be used as makeshift air conditioning during future events.

2. Update on Current Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Parks and Recreation Projects.

Brian Charlton, Parks and Recreation Project Coordinator, provided a video presentation on the Capital Improvement Projects which were created by the current administration two years ago. Mr. Haas provided an overview of the process and went over a spreadsheet that was included in the agenda packet for this meeting. He provided status updates on projects which are currently part of the CIP program. Mr. Charlton provided information about projects as well.

Commissioner Roth inquired whether the Parks and Recreation Department could help Weller Elementary School with resources to install their new playground equipment. Mr. Haas suggested he reach out to the Parks and Recreation Department for advice on who would be the best partner for the school.

Upgrades in Growden Park were discussed by Mr. Haas. Other parks' upgrades, such as at Chena Lakes, were also discussed by Mr. Haas.

Mr. Haas stated some projects would need to be re-nominated.

Commissioner Roth asked a question about the fund codes. Mr. Charlton provided where the list was located for the commission.

Commissioner Roth further inquired if it was sponsorship money that what was being solicited from local businesses. Mr. Haas believed that they were selling components to be dedicated large donors. The process of fundraising from the community was discussed.

Chair Oldmixon asked about the North Star Athletic Complex meeting that was held a year and a half ago. Mr. Charlton said they were working with the Public Works Department on a community study.

The Capital Improvement Program was further discussed including the funds that are potentially available. Mr. Haas felt that the Commission's role should be to help prioritize projects and provide a voice of support for said projects. Ultimately, however, Mr. Haas stated that the Commission would have to decide on how much of a role it would take in future Capital Improvement Projects.

Commissioner Roth expressed starting six to eight months before would be a good time to start the discussion of projects to consider for nomination. Further timelines including the creation of a wish list were discussed.

Mr. Haas provided more information on the Capital Improvement Project process.

Commissioner Roth asked where the North Star Athletic Complex should be on the list. Mr. Haas was unsure and suggested it might be prudent to put it back on the list.

Mr. Charlton spoke further on funding for the Parks and Recreation Department's projects.

Chair Oldmixon asked what PPK meant and Mr. Haas clarified it stands Pioneer Park.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Review and make possible recommendations on the list of Park and Recreation Facilities being considered by the Parks and Recreation department for nominations as Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) during the current nomination period of August 1, 2021 through September 17, 2021.

Commissioner Roth asked for updates on the Carlson Center Ice Plant and the North Star Athletic Complex scope and design. Mr. Haas stated he would get an update to Commissioner Roth.

Mr. Charlton clarified that projects funded in the first four years will not lose their funding.

Commissioner Unsicker asked where the proposed indoor playground would be located. Mr. Haas replied it was conceptual and he has no solid plans, but it has a great deal of public support. Commissioner Roth thought that it might be considered as part of the North Star Athletic Complex.

Vice-Chair Witt explained his personal process and expressed concern that the projects would lose steam without a scoring system. Vice-Chair Witt also stated he might have trouble being impartial on what projects would be priority.

Commissioner Roth agreed that the voice of the community should be heard.

Mr. Haas stated the list was organized by fiscal year.

Chair Oldmixon asked if there were indoor basketball courts available throughout the borough and asked if they could be factored in for future projects. Mr. Haas stated it has not been a priority or been asked for by the community at large.

Chair Oldmixon also asked if motorized recreation areas were being considered.

Mr. Mongold asked if the original CIP proposals would have taken public opinion into account. Mr. Charlton stated the scoring was done internally and the public involvement was done through the Assembly.

Commissioner Mongold clarified he was more interested in the scoring rubric.

Commissioner Roth listed some projects which had representation in the chambers. Commissioner Roth was not sure how it affected the projects' weight in the scoring. Mr. Haas stated that public support is heavily weighed.

MONGOLD, Seconded by UNSICKER	moved to approve the Capital Improvement Plan 2022 nomination list with the addition of the North Star Athletic Complex.
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The North Star Athletic Complex was further discussed by the Commission.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2022 NOMINATION LIST WITH THE ADDITION OF THE NORTH STAR ATHLETIC COMPLEX.

Yeses:	Culley, Mongold, Roth, Shiffler, Unsicker, Witt, Oldmixon
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Noes:	None
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MOTION CARRIED	7 Yeses, 0 Noes
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UNSICKER, Seconded by ROTH	moved to provide a letter of support to approve the Capital Improvement 2022 nomination list with the addition of the North Star Athletic Complex.
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VOTE ON MOTION TO PROVIDE A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO APPROVE THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT 2022 NOMINATION LIST WITH THE ADDITION OF THE NORTH STAR ATHLETIC COMPLEX.

Yeses:	Shiffler, Witt, Mongold, Roth, Culley, Unsicker, Oldmixon
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Noes:	None
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MOTION CARRIED	7 Yeses, 0 Noes
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## **EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES**

NONE

## **COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair Oldmixon stated Commissioner recruitment efforts should continue and there are currently three vacant seats on the Commission.

Commissioner Witt asked about the Carlson Center and its use as a indoor recreational area for soccer and other indoor activities. Commissioner Witt also mentioned the netting and if reservations are currently available at the Carlson Center. Mr. Haas stated there is not enough staff for that to be possible now.

Commissioner Roth asked if Commissioner Witt would be able to operate on the basketball court if that was brought in. Commissioner Witt replied that the only requirement for the baseball clinics was that there is a large space and nets to catch the balls.

Physical logistics were discussed for the Carlson Center so that it may be used for multiple activities.

Commissioner Shiffler attended the Pioneer Project Presentation and was thrilled with it. Commissioner Shiffler expressed a job well done on the presentation by Donnie Hayes.

Chair Oldmixon had a question about ice rentals fee schedule and how it was decided on. Mr. Haas stated he was uncertain Chair Oldmixon asked if the playgrounds in the area are inspected and when. Mr. Haas stated they were inspected once a year per departmental procedure.

A future meeting in January to discuss the CIP list was discussed, but no specific plans were made.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.