

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Parks and Recreation Commission
November 15, 2021
5:02 p.m.

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

1. *Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2021.

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 FARTHEST 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.