CITY of BETHEL

P. O. Box 388 • Bethel, Alaska 99559
543-2297 — Area Code 907

Minutes

Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

December 5, 1979

City Hall 7:30 pm

Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. Committee members present: Alder, Hoffman, Moses, Parker, Twitchell.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Parker to approve minutes of October 24th meeting. Seconded by Hoffman. Approved.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved as presented.

Chairperson's Report

None.

Communications

None.

Director's Report

Parks and Recreation Director Alder reported that Fall recreation programs are winding down and the Winter Parks and Recreation Schedule will be coming out in early January.

Plans for the 1980 Yukon-Kuskokwim State Fair have begun. The fair is sceduled for Feb. 3 - 10. The State Fair is looking for new board members, anyone interested should contact John Alder or Pat Barker.

Senior Citizen's Program is going strong. Thirty seniors attended the Thanksgiving lucheon at the Senior Center. The seniors will be holding an Arts and Crafts Sale on December 15 in conjunction with Bethel Council on the Arts Christmas Sale.

Alder reported that the Parks and Recreation staff is limited, 2 Recreation Leaders resigned to accept better paying jobs in town.

Parks and Recreation Director Alder reported that he brought back somes tapes from the recent National Recreation and Park Association Conference in New Orleans.

Alder reported that Council approved the Parks and Recreation Committee recommendation for Phase 2 of the Bicycle Path at its November 26 meeting. At the some meeting Carolyn Moses was officially appointed by the Mayor as the 5th member of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Old Business

Item A: Discussion of Future Indoor Facility Development for Parks and Recreation (Joint Discussion with Social-Economic Committee)

A one hpur public discussion was held regarding the use of the present Day Care Center facility when it is vacated in February. Testimony was presented regarding its use as a Teen Center facility run by the Parks and Recreation Department.

(See attached sheet for summary of points made.)

Two motions came out of the discussion and both were unanimously approved.

Motion 1: Motion was made by Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman Ron Parker that the City Council turn the present Day Care Facility over to the Parks and Recreation Dept. for use as a Teen Center when it is vacated in February.

Seconded by Beverly Hoffman. Passed unanimously.

Motion 2. Committee Chairperson Ron Parker moved that City Council approach Bethel Social Services with regard to keeping the red building attached to the Day Care center for use as a part of the recreation center or have it donated to the City as a part of the Main Day Care structure.

Seconded by Carolyn Moses. Passed unanimously.

Item B: Discussion of Bowling Revenue

Parks and Recreation Director Alder, stated that he is presently working on as analysis of bowling revenue and expenditures for the 1st five months of operation at Bethel Lanes. He commended that a percentage of any profit shown be put back into Recreational Programs in the form of staff salaries. Alder reported on the status of his staff positions and some of the drawbacks of CETA personnel as compared to general revenue funded personnel.

Parks and Recreation Committee voiced support for Alder's proposal

that a percentage of Bowling revenue profits be earmarked for staff salaries and future parks and recreation equipment and facility use.

New Business

Item A. Selection of a Committee Chairperson

Parks and Recreation Director outlined the duties and responsibilities of a committee chairperson.

Nominations were opened. Ron Parker and Bev Hoffman were nominated. Vote was taken. Ron Parker was elected Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Parks & Recreation Committee Joint Recommendation in Regard to Use of the Present Day Care Facility

At a joint meeting of the City of Bethel Parks & Recreation Committee and the Social Economic Committee on Wednesday, December 5, 1979, a motion was made by Parks & Recreation Committee chairman Ron Parker that the present Day Care Center Facility, when it is vacated in February by Bethel Social Services, be turned over to the City Parks & Recreation Department for use as a Teen Center. The motion was seconded by committee member Beverly Hoffman and passed unanimously.

The approved motion came after a one-hour public discussion session attended by 9 concerned community members and both the Parks & Recreation Committee and Social Economic Committee. Testimony was heard from community members in attendance and the below stated reasons document the need for a Teen Center facility in Bethel.

1) The area in which the present Day Care Center is located was designated by City Council as Parks & Recreation land in 1974. Since that time all but one building on the designated Recreation land has been leased or sold to other agencies or organizations for use other than recreation.

2) Converting the Present Day Care facility into a Teen Center will provide Bethel teenagers with a facility that they can identify as belonging to them. The need for such a facility can be readily seen by looking at what is provided for all other age groups in town and comparing that with what is available to Bethel teenagers. A facility set up to address the special needs of teenagers is a must.

3) The location of a facility is ideal in several respects:

   a) it is centrally located in the down town section of Bethel where teens presently hang out.

   b) It would serve to draw teenagers away from "undesirable" locations such as the "Wild Goose" and "Disco"

4) Present statistics show that there are more than 600 teenagers within the City of Bethel. This includes 385 High School and 153 Junior high school students as well as those teenagers identified as drifters who are not attending school.

5) The therapeutic value of a Teen Center facility is also unquestionable. A recreation facility for teenagers would provide an outlet or alternative to the boredom which exists among some teenagers causing them to engage in "undesirable and destructive" forms of activities in the community. (Statistics are available on the number of Bethel teenagers on probation or requiring Social Services' assistance.)

6) By involving the teenagers in the planning stages of establishing a Teen Center and having them actively involved under proper supervision will provide an environment conducive to good mental health.

7) The teens have been informally polled and have voiced tremendous support for the idea of having a facility of their own.

8) Due to new activities and program expansion the one present Recreation building is overused and inadequate to accommodate the many recreational needs of Bethel residents, particularly the teenage population.

Considering all of the above facts, it is the strong recommendation of our committees that the Bethel City Council turn the present Day Care Facility over to the Parks & Recreation Department for use as a Teen Center when it is vacated by Bethel Social Services. The benefits of a Teen Center are unquestionable. The need is great and the time is now. . .