
City of Bethel, Alaska

Parks, Recreation, Aquatic, Health & Safety Center Committee Minutes

November 18, 2017

Regular Meeting

Bethel, Alaska

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A regular Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting was held on October 9, 2017 in the City Hall council chambers in, Bethel, Alaska. Michelle DeWitt called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

II. ROLL CALL:

Comprising a quorum of the committee, the following were present: Michelle DeWitt, Judy Wasierski via teleconference, Barbara Mosier, Beverly Hoffman, Justin Wintersteen, and Luis Lemus.

Excused absent: Kathy Hanson, Brian Lefferts, Kathryn Baldwin, Mitchell Forbes.

Also Present:

Committee Recorder, Grant Kemp
YKFC Director, Stacey Reardon

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

Thomas Kalistook – related the integral role basketball played in his youth and continued to play into his adulthood. Conveyed that it is important to him to have a place in the community where basketball is available to him and to others in Bethel. Provided the Committee with multiple personal accounts supporting the claim that both adults and children in Bethel take an active interest in basketball, and expressed concern about gym time during the winter. Hoped that the possibility of a community basketball court could become an accessible feature within Bethel.

Zachary Kalistook – expressed hopes for a community basketball court and mentioned his concern for the high cost of renting gym space.

Beth Tressler – Kasayuli resident concerned about the construction of a park in the location near Isaac Hawk. Presented the Committee with a petition of 17 Kasayuli resident signatures. Inquired as to the size of the park and the impact of the park on the surrounding space. Inquired about efficient ways to get updates on new developments with the project and expressed interest in a second meeting between the Kasayuli community and the Committee.

Kevin Tressler – Kasayuli resident concerned about the construction of a park in the location near Isaac Hawk. Claimed to have bought their property for the green space outside of it and did not appear to support the potential impacts that a park may have on that space which is already used recreationally.

Jerry White – Kasayuli resident concerned about the construction of a park in location near Isaac Hawk. Stated his home had a view of the proposed park space, and that he was not supportive of the idea that more trash would potentially litter this space. Concerned with children’s ad hoc use of objects that might contribute to litter in the space and claimed there would be an increase in this without an increase in policing of the issue.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOVED BY:	Beverly Hoffman	Motion to approve the agenda.
SECONDED BY:	Barbara Mosier	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.	

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED BY:	Barbara Mosier	Motion to approve minutes for October 9, 2017 meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Justin Wintersteen	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.	

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

No special orders of business discussed at this meeting.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A.** Discussion of the park’s development. The Committee showed interest in a second meeting with the Kasayuli community, especially after hearing from some of the residents. It was determined that an evening-time meeting at City Hall sometime after the holiday season would be most appropriate.
- B.** Council is not meeting on November 14, 2017 as planned, rather, Beverly Hoffman will provide report to City Council at the November 28 meeting.
- C.** The unresolved Recommendations and Action Memorandums mentioned included restating Tracts D and H as recreation space, the use of settlement money for Owl Park maintenance and repair, and the research on a cherry picker that can fit inside of the pool area to be used for maintenance. The latter has been seen on the Council’s agenda, but the other two have not. The repair and replacement fund for the YK Fitness Center needs to be investigated along with the Youth Center/Log Cabin’s place in the budget. Administration was previously encouraged to write a grant for wood chips to be distributed between Pinky’s Park, Tundra Ridge Park, Wally’s Park, and Teen Center.
- D.** Kathy Hanson has had trouble meeting with the City Manager due to his recent decline in availability, there is nothing new to report on this topic.
- E.** A new field is being put in near the Fitness Center, this was supposed to be hydro-seeded this last summer. Additionally, there is a collaboration between Yuut Elitnaurviat and the Committee to create a wall around the water for an ice rink to block the sand, Beverly Hoffman will continue to be in

communication with Yuut Elitnaurviat on this matter. Luis Lemus has agreed to look into the role of the Public Works Department in removing the debris found in Pinky's Park, which presents a health and/or safety hazard as it was scheduled to be removed last summer.

- F. Maintenance goal time for Owl Park has been set for January. Luis Lemus will inquire about the \$83,000.00 settlement from AVCP to be used for maintenance and repairs.

VIII. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- A. Luis Lemus spent time introducing himself to the Committee and explaining his time with Parks and Recreation before moving to Bethel. He shared how he hopes this experience can be used and some goals he has for getting involved in the greater Bethel community.
- B. Contracts have been given to the artists involved and pieces are expected to be on display by next October. The community residency portion still needs to be resolved, members from the Committee will meet with members from the Arts Committee to talk about what community based residency might look like and where.
- C. Michelle DeWitt has sent a note to the City Manager and the Director of Finance requesting a report on the dedicated pool fund. The Director of Finance responded that, while this report has not been compiled yet, the \$4,900,000.00 estimate is a good one to use, and that the statement should be available after the next week. Beverly Hoffman provided a report from FY11 showing what was collected in tax for the pool fund at that time.
- D. No discussion on this topic.

IX. YKFC FACILITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Kenneth Wallace has been hired as the new Customer Service Manager at the YK Fitness Center. The PFD sales numbers have not yet been assessed, but are to be included in the October report to be given to the Committee. YKFC has moved to collaborate with several organizations having limited success, most of them requesting discounts, but not offering any fiscal support themselves. The Fitness Center has, however, made a trade contract with the KYUK radio station offering memberships to their staff members in exchange for public service announcements. Halloween sales were good, but the numbers have not been finalized yet. There is a persistent hygiene issue in the women's locker room that warrants a half hour closure daily to assess, this will be done at the most convenient possible time. Luis Lemus will look into an electric pressure washer that may be used to help in this case. Children from the Gladys Jung school came to the YK Fitness Center for a project on pools, and the director was able to share how their work allows them to keep the pool as clean as possible. Maintenance suggestions include the functionality of the showers, the efficacy of the toilets, and the material composing the drains in the pool.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Beverly Hoffman is looking forward to the Fitness Center including a pool, gym, and weight room. Naim Shabani contacted Beverly about a multi-use facility. Beverly supported using \$1,000,000.00 of the \$4,900,000.00 dedicated pool fund for planning and design of this new gym facility, and hoped that the community would continue to be present with the project and voice their support for it.

XI. MEMBER COMMENTS:

- M. DeWitt – Hopes to improve outcomes of Kasayuli park project.
- J. Wasierski – Likes the radio advertisement for the YK Fitness Center and the activities happening on Sundays.
- B. Mosier – Thanks for a good meeting, hope to say more on the Kasayuli project soon.
- B. Hoffman – Thinks that Kasayuli will be a successful project and is excited about Phase II of the YKFC project.
- J. Wintersteen – No comment
- L. Lemus – Thank you for welcoming.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED BY:	Justin Wintersteen	Motion to adjourn.
SECONDED BY:	Barbara Mosier	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote	

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm

APPROVED THIS 8th DAY OF January, 2018.


 Ashley Dade
 Recorder of Minutes


 Michelle DeWitt
 Chair