
City of Bethel, Alaska

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

October 9, 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 6:01 pm.

II. ROLL CALL:

Comprising a quorum of the committee, the following were present: Michelle DeWitt, Kathy Hanson, Barbara Mosier, Beverly Hoffman, Brian Lefferts, and Fred Watson.

Excused absent: Judy Wasierski, Kathryn Baldwin, and Justin Wintersteen.

Also Present:

Committee Recorder, Grant Kemp and Pauline Boratko
YKFC Director, Stacey Reardon

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

Megan Newport- supported the Kasayuli Park project, commented on the project's beneficial qualities for both her family and the Kasayuli community.

Terrence Haas- also supported the project and expressed mild concern for issues of public safety.

Ben Eisen- concerned about the idea of a large scale park, and reluctant to entertain an increase in potential vagrancy and unruly children. Stated that his neighborhood is important to him as well as the solitude of his home's proximity to vacant land.

Shelly Andrew- showed support for the McCann Treatment Center location and not the Isaac Hawk residential area, support given to the Committee via email.

Beth Tressler- showed support for the McCann Treatment Center location and not the Isaac Hawk residential area, support given to the Committee via email.

Victoria Hardwick- showed support for the McCann Treatment Center location and not the Isaac Hawk residential area.

Richard Aday- showed support for the McCann Treatment Center location and not the Isaac Hawk residential area.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOVED BY:	Beverly Hoffman	Motion to move item E to Special Order of Business and approve the agenda
SECONDED BY:	Barbara Mosier	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.	

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOVED BY:	Kathy Hanson	Motion to approve minutes for September 11, 2017 meeting.
SECONDED BY:	Brian Lefferts	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.	

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- E.** Kasayuli Park Development- discussion of community concerns and emails from the public. These followed a community debriefing in Kasayuli Park on 09/25/2017 in which potential park development sites were discussed. Committee members found attendees to be positive about park development, however, also concerned about noise and vandalism when a site tour was conducted. Committee members shared photos of the meeting at this time. Compared the two possible locations for the park. The location near the McCann Treatment Center was stated to bear the risk of speeding vehicles with the Isaac Hawk residential area is more central, however, there is a petition being passed around by the Kasayuli residents that oppose this location.

MOVED BY:	Brian Lefferts	Motion to recommend an Action Memorandum to the City Council to re-state that Tracts D and H are designated as recreation space.
SECONDED BY:	Kathy Hanson	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.	

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A.** Introduction to Grant Kemp from Public Works Administration, new Committee Recorder.
- B.** Michelle DeWitt volunteered to provide report to the October 10, 2017 City Council meeting.
- C.** No new updates concerning unresolved recommendations and Action Memorandums.
- D.** Beverly and Kathy met with various people in City Administration to discuss privatization of recreational services. They obtained budgets that historically track funds from Parks and Recreation being redirected to Public Works. Kathy and Beverly shared that transferring funds back out of Public Works for

a private contract for recreational services was complicated and much of this was outside of the City's control. The reason for this: it relates to unions, and to state requirements on PERS payments for dormant positions, and the scope of work developed by the committee has some overlap with a former position at the City that is dormant but still exists on the books. Further discussion was made about the recently-passed 3% additional alcohol sales tax going to social services on a grant basis; perhaps there would be an opportunity for a nonprofit to apply for some of those funds for recreational activities. The next step will be for Beverly and Kathy to meet with Pete Williams and discuss this further.

- F. No new updates concerning Pinky's Park.
- G. Pete Williams sent email saying that an \$83,000.00 settlement will be used for rehabilitative maintenance on Owl Park.

MOVED BY:	Beverly Hoffman	Motion for Recommendation to use all funds from settlement toward Owl Park rehabilitative maintenance.
SECONDED BY:	Kathy Hanson	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.	

VIII. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- A. On the dedicated pool fund, The Committee questioned how much YKFC has collected in sales tax and expressed a desire to know what money has been put in and how much Parks and Recreation is contributing to its own fund.
- B. No new updates concerning Sub-Committee reports.
- C. The Arts Committee met and has chosen material to be displayed, although no contracts were made with artists. Pieces should be up within a year.
- D. Maintenance at YKFC has been doing a good job prioritizing and with equipment as well.
- E. No new updates concerning the Repair and Replacement Fund Development for YKFC.
- F. Encouraging use of email by providing the newsletter, the YKFC PFD sale is in progress.
- G. The pool needs maintenance equipment to address overhead lighting issues.

MOVED BY:	Barbara Mosier	Motion to approve Action Memorandum, ask City Council to research small cherry-picker for pool maintenance.
SECONDED BY:	Kathy Hanson	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote.	

IX. YKFC FACILITY DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Stacey Reardon was able to move several part-time employees into full-time positions. Reported that David Easton will leave the Customer Service Manager position and that she is looking for suitable candidates.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

XI. MEMBER COMMENTS:

M. DeWitt- No comment.

K. Hanson- No comment.

B. Mosier- Would like to see swings at Slough Park.

B. Hoffman- Thanked Pauline Boratko for her service and welcomed Grant Kemp

B. Lefferts- Thanked Pauline Boratko and Fred Watson for their service.

F. Watson- Unsure of what Council Representative assignments will be in light of the recent elections, enjoyed his time with the Committee.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED BY:	Kathy Hanson	Motion to adjourn.
SECONDED BY:	Beverly Hoffman	
VOTE ON MOTION	Motion carried by unanimous vote	

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm

APPROVED THIS 13 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2017.



Grant Rodgers Kemp
Recorder of Minutes



Michelle DeWitt
Chair