

Special Joint Parks, Recreation, & Cultural
Resources Advisory Board Meeting
July 11, 2017

A. CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Joint Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Advisory Board and the Palmer City Council was held on July 11, 2017, at 6:00 pm in the council chambers, Palmer, Alaska.

Mayor DeVries called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Comprising a quorum of the Council, the following were present:

Edna DeVries, Mayor	Linda Combs, Deputy Mayor
Richard Best	Steve Carrington
David Fuller	Brad Hanson

Council Member LaFrance was absent and excused.

Comprising a quorum of the Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources Advisory Board, the following were present:

Meggie Aube-Trammel – Chair	Jan Newman – Vice Chair
Stephanie Allen	Shannon Connelly
Jo Ehmann	Dot Helm

Board Member Fran Seager-Boss was absent and unexcused.

Also in attendance were the following:

Nathan Wallace, City Manager	Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk
Michael Gatti, City Attorney	Bernadette Packa, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources Advisory Board Chair Meggie Aube-Trammel.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Main Motion: To Approve the Agenda

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller Hanson
Opposed:	None

Main Motion: To Approve the Agenda

Moved by:	Newman
Seconded by:	Allen
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Allen, Aube-Trammel, Connelly, Ehmann, Helm, Newman
Opposed:	None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

F. NEW BUSINESS

Item 1 – Committee of the Whole (note: action may be taken by the council following the committee of the whole)

- a. Connecting Trails and Walkability
- b. Projects that Enhance Palmer’s History
- c. Arts and Cultural Projects
- d. Parks

Main Motion: To Enter into a Committee of the Whole to Discuss Connecting Trails and Walkability, Projects that Enhance Palmer’s History, Arts and Cultural Projects, and Parks

Moved by:	Combs
Seconded by:	Fuller
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Best, Carrington, Combs, DeVries, Fuller Hanson
Opposed:	None

Main Motion: To Enter into a Committee of the Whole to Discuss Connecting Trails and Walkability, Projects that Enhance Palmer’s History, Arts and Cultural Projects, and Parks

Moved by:	Newman
Seconded by:	Connelly
Action:	Motion carried unanimously by all members present
In favor:	Allen, Aube-Trammel, Connelly, Ehmann, Helm, Newman
Opposed:	None

Topics of discussion and ideas presented included:

- Completing recommendations made following the Bike Study completed by Peter LaFrance;
- Improving bikeability, including more bike racks in the downtown area;
- Installing crosswalks throughout the city, and connecting sidewalks in order to improve walkability;
- Combining art and culture in parks and trails;
- Establishing awareness of existing trails, assets, and resources;
- Increasing awareness of existing parks;
- Maintenance and improvements to existing parks;
- Completing the Safe Routes to School paths and trails;
- Incorporating Palmer’s agricultural element into its trails;
- Promotion of Historic Farms in the area;
- Promoting enhancement of the Arboretum;
- Applying for a National Historic Landmark Designation;

Recommendations included:

- Reviewing the Urban Revitalization Trails Plan for improving connectability;

- Improving the Quad area by compensating AARC to remove the chain link fence;
- Completing a survey of existing parks listing repairs needed, upgrades, additional equipment, and the estimated cost for each;
- Using the existing parks survey to identify the areas of greatest need; and
- Identifying areas of town requesting or in need of a park and research funding opportunities.

The Council entered into a Committee of the Whole at 6:05 and exited at 6:44.

G. RECORD OF ITEMS PLACED ON THE TABLE

H. COUNCIL AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board Member Ehmann:

- Thanked the Council for listening to what the Board had to say.

Board Member Newman:

- Thanked the Council for direction; and
- Requested clarification on process for getting recommendations processed through the Council.

Mayor Devries provided an overview of the process

Council Member Carrington:

- Expressed interest in a short list of where the City is at in regard to parks, what needs repair, and where development is needed.

Council Member Best:

- Looked forward to the next joint meeting and hearing the Board's recommendations.

Board Member Helm:

- Spoke to an interactive map provided by the Matanuska Borough of City of Palmer parks.

Board Member Allen:

- Thanked the Council for its time; and
- Looked forward to continuing to work together.

Board Member Connelly:

- Expressed appreciation to the Council for providing direction.

Deputy Mayor Combs:

- Expressed appreciation to everyone for attending and sharing their ideas; and
- Thanked the Board Members for being willing to serve.

Council Member Fuller:

- Thanked the Board for coming to the meeting.

Council Member Hanson:

- Addressed the process for following through with recommendations and noted budget time was an excellent time to make requests known;
- Applauded the Board on their number one priority of connectivity of trails and walkability; and
- Spoke to preservation of the quad area.

Board Member Aube-Trammell:

- Thanked everyone for meeting;
- Appreciated feed-back and input from the Council; and
- Looked forward to more dialogue in the future.

Mayor DeVries:

- Thanked the Board and everyone for attending.

I. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Approved by the City Council on this 25th day of July, 2017.

Norma I. Alley, MMC, City Clerk

Edna B. DeVries, Mayor

Approved by the Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Resources Advisory Board this 5th day of October, 2017.

Chris Nall, Public Works Director

Meggie Aube-Trammell, Chair