

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA**

**REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2021
7:00 P.M. - COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The Regular Meeting of the City of Palmer Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chair Connelly at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present and constituting a quorum were Board Members:

Shannon Connelly, Chair
Marilyn Bennett
Lisa Albert-Konecky (via teleconference)
Penny Mosher (via teleconference)
Joseph Parreira

Absent and excused without objection:

Jo Ehmann
Ryan Richard

Also present were:

Chris Nall, Public Works Director
Pam Whitehead, Recording Secretary (via teleconference)

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge was led by Board Member Bennett.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Main Motion: For approval of the agenda as presented.

Moved by:	Bennett
Seconded by:	Mosher
Vote:	5 Yes / 0 No - Parreira, Mosher, Albert-Konecky, Connelly, Bennett; <i>Absent:</i> Ehmann, Richard
Action:	Motion Carried by roll call vote.

E. WELCOME OF NEW MEMBERS:

Chair Connelly along with current board members welcomed new Board Members Albert-Konecky, Mosher, and Parreira, who each told a little bit about themselves and their backgrounds.

F. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR:

For the benefit of new members, Chair Connelly described the duties of the Chair and Director Nall introduced himself and explained his role as staff to the Board.

Following nominations and acceptance for the offices of Chair and Vice Chair:

Board Member **Marilyn Bennett** was duly elected to serve as Chair for the ensuing term. There were no objections.

Board Member **Shannon Connelly** was duly elected to serve as Vice Chair for the ensuing term. There were no objections.

Board member Connelly agreed to Chair the balance of this meeting.

G. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Main Motion: For approval of the Minutes of the November 5, 2020 Regular Meeting as amended, to reflect there were *no* objections to Board Member Allen serving as in-person Chair of the meeting (p. 1) and correcting Board Member Kelley's comment that she "enjoyed being *on* this board." (p.3)

Moved by:	Albert-Konecky
Seconded by:	Bennett
Vote:	5 Yes / 0 No – Parreira, Mosher, Albert-Konecky, Connelly, Bennett; <i>Absent:</i> Richard, Ehmann
Action:	Motion Carried by roll call vote.

H. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None.

I. REPORTS:

Director Nall:

- Provided an update to the 2020 Annual Work Plan regarding the Cedar Hills subdivision playground;
- Reported the City is currently in discussion with a developer who is looking to develop a new subdivision north of Cedar Hills to be named Cedar Park subdivision.
- Following discussion, Director Nall will work on drafting a resolution for the next meeting to recommend to the City Council that this may be an opportunity to work with the developer of this new subdivision to resolve the issue of a long-wanted neighborhood playground/park in the Cedar Hills area.

1. UWMS grant funds for Tennis Courts - Director Nall:

- Updated status of grant funds from United Way Mat-Su reporting the funds (\$8,000-\$10,000) are being offered towards resurfacing of the tennis courts (hoping the City could pay the rest); when it was determined the cost would be \$100,000+ to redo the tennis courts, he didn't see it was something that he could recommend being presented to the Council at this time.

J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. UWMS Art Trail Update – Board Member Bennett:

- Explained the scope of the project, noting UWMS Arts Advisory Board has received a \$5,000 grant and is soliciting submissions from local artists (\$1,000 each artist) whose work reflects the Valley's rich culture and history for placement of four or five statues/sculptures at historical locations around Palmer. (See packet for solicitation, details, and requirements.);
- Reported that so far no artists have come forward to do it and the solicitation has been out since last November.
- Director Nall instructed as to the process of how projects of this nature get approved by the City

Council, emphasizing the time element involved.

- Open discussion ensued and Board Member Bennett and Director Nall responded to questions, primarily concerning the timeline which has been extended to September 2021. It was pointed out that UWMS has yet to officially present the project to this Board.
- Director Nall addressed the list of the proposed site locations for the sculptures (see packet) and explained some of the issues and approval processes involved for each of the 12 proposed locations.
- Although the Board in general thinks this project is a good idea, following further discussion, there was consensus to postpone because of the time restraint for the City and need for further research.
- Board Member Bennett will report back to the UWMS.

2. Electrical Utility Box potential project discussion:

- Director Nall reported as to status and explained the project and process for the benefit of the new board members; the project has stalled because of lack of interest of someone to champion the project;
- Board Member Mosher expressed interest in heading the project but would like time to further consider what is involved.
- Following brief discussion, there was consensus to table the matter for further consideration at the next meeting.

K. NEW BUSINESS: None.

L. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

There was discussion deciding the date of the next meeting – May 6, 2021.

Chair Bennett:

- Commented she would like to continue meeting with the UWMS Arts Group because she considers it a fun group and their project is a good idea.
- Updated concerning the articles she is writing on all the parks; hopes that it will encourage people to Adopt-A-Park; noted she would like to see Adopt-A-Park as a big focus for this Board going forward.
- Spoke in appreciation of this group and welcomed the new board members; looks forward to the next meeting when everyone attend in person.

Board Member Parreira:

- Commented it is nice to be on the Board and looks forward to working with everyone.

Board Member Albert-Konecky:

- Spoke in appreciation of the explanations of all the projects and appreciates the work that has been done already; looks forward to the next meeting and plans to be attending in person.

Board Member Mosher:

- Thanked Mayor DeVries for appointing her to this Board and thanked Chair Bennett for her good work on the Art Trail Update; and thank you Director Nall for his knowledge and the information he brings to this Board; looks forward to working with everyone.


Vice Chair Connelly:

- Thanked Board Member Bennett for stepping up to be Chair in order to give her a bit of a break and she will help and looks forward to working with her;
- Spoke in appreciation for all the new members.

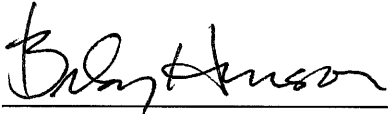
K. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned without objection at 8:47 p.m.

APPROVED BY the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board this 6th day of May, 2021.



Shannon Connelly, Chair



for Chris Nall, Public Works Director