

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

**REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, May 6, 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 Bennett at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present and constituting a quorum were Board Members:

Marilyn Bennett, Chair	Shannon Connelly, Vice Chair
Lisa Albert-Konecky	Penny Mosher
Joseph Parreira	Ryan Richard

Absence(s): Jo Ehmann (Unexcused)

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 Richard.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Main Motion: For approval of the Agenda as amended, correcting E.1 Regular Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2021 (~~not 02Feb21~~).

Moved by:	Richard
Seconded by:	Connelly
Vote:	Unanimous (Absent: Ehmann)
Action:	Motion Carried.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Main Motion: For approval of the Minutes of the February 4, 2021 Regular Meeting as presented.

Moved by:	Richard
Seconded by:	Albert-Konecky
Vote:	Unanimous (Absent: Ehmann)
Action:	Motion Carried.

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None.

G. APPEARANCES REQUEST:

1. Palmer Little League – Busby Ballfield project continuation.

David Sutton, Palmer Little League Board Member:

- provided background information regarding the League and its longtime history in Palmer, working to promote baseball and softball for boys and girls for 68 years; currently they have 13 active board

members and 9 ball fields in Palmer; this year, 625 kids have signed up to play ball; there are not enough ball fields but it's the League's intent to make it work.

- Spoke in appreciation of the City of Palmer's dedication in helping to maintain the fields and promote youth sports in partnership with Palmer Little League;
- Described the reconstruction project at the Harley Busby Memorial Softball Field.
- Asked PRAB to consider supporting the need for signage for the ball fields consistent with the beautiful signage at the Busby field.
- Fielded board member questions. Director Nall informed that Public Works and the Administration did the signs and will continue to do so.
- Spoke in appreciation of this Board's hard work for the community.

2. Wasilla Sunrise Rotary & Palmer Rotary – Tennis Court Resurface Project.

Rick Allen, President, Palmer Rotary Club:

- Explained the two Clubs' proposal to upgrade three tennis courts in Palmer using Rotary grants and other grant sources;
- The goal is to completely renovate these tennis courts which would be of great benefit to Palmer and it is their hope the City will partner with them in terms of funding.

Matt Ketchum, President, Wasilla Sunrise Rotary Club:

- Explained Wasilla Sunrise Club has named Palmer Tennis Courts as their project, noting they have many members from Palmer;
- Discussed the scope of work with the two Clubs working together; expects the resurfacing could begin in about a year (May, 2022);
- They need the City of Palmer to be the champion of this project;
- Mr. Allen and Mr. Ketchum fielded Board member questions regarding funding;
- Director Nall explained the process moving forward if the Board wishes to support;

Following further discussion:

Main Motion: To instruct staff to create a Resolution in support of the Tennis Court Resurface Project and if approved, move forward to the City Council with a recommendation for adoption.

Moved by:	Bennett
Seconded by:	Mosher
Vote:	Unanimous (Absent: Ehmann)
Action:	Motion Carried.

3. Park Program Initiatives.

Mariah Johnson, a character artist:

- Recently started a donation-based not-for-profit organization called *Art for Kids* and is looking to provide art supplies and art education statewide for children in Alaska pre-school through grade 12;
- She is appearing before the Board for its support in starting a summer camp sponsored by *Art for Kids* hoping to use the parks in Palmer; this year, she would like to do one weekend at the A-Moosement Park to get started; envisions this camp to be an annual event.
- She is doing this on her own and is not asking for funding, just permission to use the parks.
- Fielded Board member questions; it was suggested she contact the Palmer Museum for a starting place.

H. REPORTS:

Director Nall reported regarding:

1. Hagen Park update (UWMS):

- Reported as to status of the United Way of Matsu short term grant for park equipment for Hagen Park; the purchase was approved by the City Council and the equipment is currently stored at Public Works to be installed as soon as the ground has sufficiently thawed for safe installation.

2. Adopt-A-Park:

- Reported everyone on the list from last year reapplied for this year; noted there are many parks that need to be adopted and he will bring a list of what is still open for adoption; briefly explained the application process.

Tennis Court Resurface Project:

- As a result of the Rotary request for support tonight, Director Nall inquired if the Board wanted this project back on the Work Plan; further discussion ensued regarding the Work Plan.

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Electrical Utility Box potential project discussion:

- Director Nall explained the history and status of this project for the benefit of new Board members;

Following further discussion:

Main Motion: To remove the Electrical Utility Box project from the Work Plan.

Moved by:	Parreira
Seconded by:	Richard
Vote:	Unanimous (Absent: Ehmann)
Action:	Motion Carried.

J. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Trails Discussion:

- Upon inquiry by Chair Bennett, Director Nall reported on the current status of the bike trail in conjunction with the Glenn Highway Project has extended down to Inner Springer on the west side, noting the plan is to continue past Kepler Lakes in Phase 2.
- The Board had no further discussion regarding Trails.

K. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Board Member Richard:

- Commented he is glad to be back;
- Informed he would like to re-engage with the Director of the Pioneer Home to get moving on the First Responder Walk and hopefully at next meeting he will have a status report and plan for moving forward.

Board Member Parreira:

- Had no comments.

Board Member Albert-Konecky:

- Commented she enjoyed the meeting, learned a lot, and looks forward to learning more.

Board Member Mosher:

- Spoke in appreciation of the Board and especially being able to hear from members of our community tonight.

Vice Chair Connelly:

- Commented in appreciation of this new Board and in appreciation of Chair Bennett doing a great job for her first meeting.

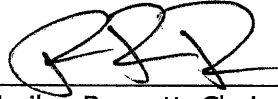
Chair Bennett:

- Updated the Board on the Art Trail, explaining the United Way Grant to put up monuments and art murals throughout the community. Instead of trails, they will be putting up art murals on the buildings.
- Expressed appreciation for working with the Board thanked everyone for being here.

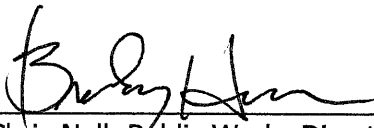
K. ADJOURNMENT:

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 August, 2021.



Marilyn Bennett, Chair



Chris Nall, Public Works Director

for