

Spit Parks & Recreation Committee  
Minutes November 3, 2011

Meeting called to order 6:01 P.M.

Members present: Robert Archibald and Tricia Lillibridge

Staff: Mike Illg, Recreation Specialist & Community Schools

Agenda Approval:

Agenda was approved by consensus of the committee.

Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the August 26, 2011 were approved by consensus.

Public Comments upon Matters Already on the Agenda:

There was no public present.

Reconsideration:

There were no items for reconsideration.

Visitors:

Mike Illg, Recreation Specialist and Community Schools Coordinator.

Ms. Lillibridge stated for the record why Mr. Illg was invited to speak as a visitor at this meeting. She felt that with his knowledge and expertise he could give a few pointers on organizing the Meet the Trucks Event scheduled tentatively for Spring 2012 at Mariner Park.

Mr. Illg recommended establishing a date for the event was the foremost item on the agenda. He recommended starting in house and asking the various departments if they could volunteer to have a representative vehicle or equipment and the staff to participate at the event with information and guidance. He stated that they could then look for volunteers from the community which may have some neat equipment that would be interesting to young and old alike. He then stated that they would have to consider the liability and approval from the City Manager for permission too. Once these items were cleared and support and approval from all parties involved he believed the event would be a great thing for young people.

Ms. Lillibridge inquired about the group that comes to Homer each summer as part of the number of groups that schedule events for kids at risk. She thought it could be tied into any of these other events if they have something planned. He said that once approval and a date has been set then maybe they could approach members or boards of the different groups in the community. He further commented that he knows that they should not have to spend money on a free event for advertising and getting this done.

Mr. Illg in response to a question from the Committee was to recommend or support having the commission address community recreation assessment. Getting hard numbers on what they have and what the community would like to see. Mr. Illg believes that gathering the hard data would show sufficient evidence on the value to the residence.

He will be out of town for November, December will be catch up, he noted that January 19, 2011 he will be involved with the Telluride Film festival. It is a city sponsored event and he encouraged the commission to send a representative to speak on the benefits of recreation.

There was a brief discussion on Mr. Illg's schedule and conducting a survey for the needs assessment, he will look into any available grants on conducting a needs assessment and if it should just focus on responses of city residents or can include all possible users.

Ms. Lillibridge thanked Mr. Illg for coming tonight and appealed to him that if he knew anyone who may have interest in joining the committee or commission they do have vacancies. Mr. Illg stated that he has been trying to encourage a student member for the commission. He further commented that he believes advocacy is a good thing.

Ms. Lillibridge will make sure the commission is aware of his comments.

Mr. Illg will speak with the City Manager on the event and he will speak with the city insurance representative on the event too.

Ms. Lillibridge commented that the event that she attended was opened to public recreational opportunities being offered. This featured more from non-profits and did not have vendors selling items, etc. She commented that the advertisements were hand written signs, food vendors were groups such as girl scouts selling cookies, a group selling cotton candy, etc.

She did acknowledge that the weekend they tentatively selected was May 19, 2012 but that was the weekend before the build week of the new playground. She did not want to hold the event too early or interrupt camping either.

Mr. Archibald inquired if Mr. Illg felt that the assessment could be performed in-house. Mr. Illg responded in a positive manner and that it is something that could be accomplished. He commented that he is learning about creative funding options. He noted further that the Nikiski area has a Parks and Recreation with a \$2,000,000 budget. He further noted that community recreation is not in essence under the commission. He stated that recreation is local tourism and if not taken care of then they will lose those residents and families.

He will plan to make a presentation at the February 16, 2012 commission meeting.

#### Staff & Council /Committee Reports/Commission Reports:

There were no reports for review or discussion.

#### Pending Business:

- A. Developing a Strategic Plan – Discussion and Purpose

Chair Lillibridge introduced the item and determined that they should address a mission statement.

Spit Parks and Recreation Committee mission is to develop, enhance and support the four Spit parks and their recreational opportunities and educate the public on their merits.

The committee discussed whether this was a long standing committee and reviewed the other recreational parks and areas on the spit and whether they really required any attention. It was determined that there were only two

1. Committee is established to inform the commission on issues related to the Spit parks.
2. To support Public Works to improve the parks facilities.
3. To raise awareness of the recreational opportunities on the spit for residents and visitors.

#### Strategic Goals

1. To gather public input on park use.
2. Identify issues with the parks on the spit.
3. Develop needs assessments for the parks.
4. Raise awareness of special events and programs associated with the spit parks.

#### Objective

1. To promote safe use by all user groups.
2. Recruit additional community members and interface with commercial entities on the Spit.
  - a. Chamber of Commerce
  - b. Burning Basket
  - c. Kite Festival
  - d. Harbor Office

There was no further discussion.

- B. Discussion and Review of Completed Surveys on Mariner Park
  1. What to do with the Information Received

Ms. Lillibridge reported her survey results for the record. She reported that the Clerk has not received any additional surveys electronically. She recommended that this should be included in a final needs assessment but also recommended conducting another survey next season. She agreed with Mr. Illgs recommendation also.

Mr. Archibald stated that the most comments was the lack of restroom facilities, the gazebo needs to be relocated, and access from and to the bike trail.

Ms. Lillibridge noted that the responses and comments can be stated at the council meeting to support the Public Works budget request for the vaulted toilets. The next comments were the lack of doggie bags which staff has agreed to relocate to a more visible area.

Mr. Archibald reported on the comments he received from visitors and campers on changing the entrance location in response to the complaints on the hazardous exit and entrance into Mariner Park. He stated that it was also a very hazardous crossing from the bike trail because of a number of issues.

The committee listed the following safety issues: line of sight, speed limits, egress for larger vehicles and those with trailers.

It was recommended to include this park under the newly established Adopt A Park program. Additional recommendations were to relocate the facility to a location within the park that can be designated as a day use area. It was reported that currently the focus is mainly on the campers but there are a lot of residents who visit the area short term. Further comments were made on better control of the dog feces.

- C. Discussion and Recommendation to Relocate the Entrance to Mariner Park
  1. Feasibility – Is this possible? Who is involved?
  2. Associated Costs
  3. Funding Avenues

A recommendation was forwarded to the commission.

#### New Business:

- A. Discussion and Planning Meet the Trucks Event
  1. A date has been Set – May 19, 2011 Saturday
  2. What else is going to be scheduled?
  3. Where to find funding?

The committee discussed dates to establish the event, and determined that the best time would be May 5, 2011. The committee discussed other groups or activities that could be held to complement the event.

There was no further discussion.

B. Discussion and Setting the Next Meeting Dates

The committee determined that the next meeting would be tentatively set for November 23, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Informational Materials:

There were no informational items.

Comments from the Audience:

There were no comments from the audience.

Comments from the Committee:

There were no comments of the committee.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The next meeting is November 23, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.