

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

**REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015
7:00 P.M. - COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the City of Palmer Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Advisory Board was called to order by Acting Chair Stephanie Allen at 7:00 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Present and constituting a quorum were Board Members:

Jan Newman, Vice Chair (via teleconference)
Stephanie Allen
Jo Ehmann
Dot Helm
Meggie Aube-Trammell
Edward Kessler

Excused absence(s):

Helene Antel, Chair

Also present were:

Sandra Garley, Community Development Director
Pam Whitehead, Recording Secretary

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: led by Board Member Ehmann.

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as presented.

E. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the November 5, 2015 Regular Meeting were approved as amended, correcting an error in Board Member Helm's comment (p. 4 of 4) to state ARCGIS (not RGS).

F. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

There was no one in the audience wishing to speak on a topic not on the agenda.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of memorial policy and donated bench and table specifications.

Ms. Garley directed attention to an updated draft Parks, Recreation & Outdoor Facilities Memorial and Donation Policy in the packet (p. 11) for the Board's review/further revision. Changes requested from last meeting are highlighted in yellow; included with the draft are examples of Common Fonts used on Cast Plaques, Bronze Plaque Background Colors, Textures, Color Options, and examples of dedication signs.

Board member Aube-Trammell moved, seconded by **Board Member Helm**, to enter Committee of the Whole for open discussion on further revisions to the Memorial/Donation Policy. There were no objections.

[The Board entered Committee of the Whole at 7:09 p.m.; exited at 7:31 p.m.]

Trees were briefly discussed while in committee of the whole, but it was determined additional information was needed; this section will be addressed at the next meeting.

Upon exiting Committee of the Whole:

Board Member Aube-Trammell moved, seconded by **Board Member Helm**, to accept the changes as discussed. Consensus was reached as follows:

- Bench Specifications: untreated wood (do not restrict to pine);
- Plaque Fonts: Palatino or Cheltenham Light;
- Plaque Background: Travertine;
- Plaque Color: Dark Oxide Stain;
- Tree installation (Policy p. 3): Donation plaques to be installed on a post or stone next to the base of the tree, but not mounted on the tree itself.

VOTE ON MOTION: Carried Unanimously.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Develop concepts for Bicycle Rack Competition.

Ms. Garley directed attention to p. 29-30 of the packet for a first draft City of Palmer Bicycle Rack Design Competition flyer containing specifics on the Concept, Dimensions & Materials, Installation & Fabrication, Submission, and Prizes, which was presented to begin discussion should the Board wish to pursue a competition and how it should be presented to the public.

Following discussion and review, there was consensus as to the concept presented being a good start in order to approach the community to determine the level of interest; that the blanks could be filled in later when that is known.

Board Member Helm moved, seconded by **Board Member Ehmann**, to accept the concept as presented in the packet for a Bicycle Rack Design Competition and to begin soliciting support from the community.

VOTE ON MOTION: Carried Unanimously.

2. Discuss recreational facilities and trails mapping and signs.

Ms. Garley explained that one of the things that will be important as the Board moves forward is a good mapping program, not just related to parks, but also recreation which includes the trails for hiking, biking, and walking. Noting that Board Member Helm, because of her position on the MSB Trails group, is very knowledgeable and deferred to her to give a briefing on some of the projects that people are working on with regard to trails and at the next meeting perhaps present a more visual presentation.

Board Member Helm passed her I-pad among board members showing a conceptual map of trails. She noted that a lot of information is available through the Borough; what is needed is a free RGIS online account. Links to various information concerning the Trails Plan and maps can be established. She will send the links to Board Members to view the information.

Further discussion and questions ensued.

3. Partnerships for Forum on Economic Impacts of Recreational Facilities and Trails.

Ms. Garley provided in the packet (pp. 31-40) an Executive Summary of an interesting study that was done by the National Recreation and Park Association on the Economic Impact of Local Parks. What she found interesting is that aside from health and quality of life impacts of parks and recreation and trails, there is a direct economic benefit to communities as well. She thought perhaps this Board might want to bring the two groups together (health/quality of life vs. economic benefit) in a forum to have a discussion about why it makes good economic sense for such development, especially in times of tight money to do these things. She pointed out that the study indicated for Alaska there was \$265 million plus in economic benefits, which did not include, nor did they even try to measure, visitor spending. She introduced this item simply as an idea if the Board should want to pursue.

Further discussion followed with suggestions of which groups to solicit partnering in such a forum.

I. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Board Member Ehmman commented in appreciation for this Board as it appears to be moving forward and keeps her better informed; she is proud of the fact that there is an Arboretum in Palmer, that she would like to see a sign indicating where it is and the types of trees that are there so people can go see.

Board Member Helm commented in appreciation for the speed at which things appear to be happening on this Board.

J. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. The next regular meeting will be January 7, 2016.

Stephanie Allen, Acting Chairman

Sandra Garley, Community Development Director