



TO: Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
FROM: George Schaaf, Parks & Recreation Director
DATE: January 31, 2024
RE: February 6, 2024 Meeting

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Please find enclosed the information supporting your agenda topics for this meeting. The meeting is anticipated to last 60 minutes and will take place in person at City Hall and virtually via **Zoom Webinar**. To join the Zoom Webinar, go to <https://juneau.zoom.us/j/94184441385> or call 1-253-205-0468.
Webinar ID: 87003674124.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Abandoned & Junk Vehicles

Abandoned and junk vehicles are showing up with increasing frequency in CBJ parks and other facilities managed by the Parks & Recreation Department. Managing this growing issue has been difficult due to restrictions in CBJ code, ongoing vacancies at the Juneau Police Department, and limited space at JPD's impound yard. At one point last summer, nearly 20 abandoned or junk vehicles were present in parks or parking lots managed by the Department.

In 2023, the Assembly changed CBJ code to allow departments other than JPD or Docks & Harbors to impound and dispose of vehicles in place, without towing them to another location. The policy and procedure included in tonight's packet describes the process that park rangers and other authorized CBJ employees will use to deal with abandoned and junk vehicles promptly. This process requires the Department to give the registered owner of the vehicle an opportunity to move it before it is sold at auction or recycled.

Recommended Motion:

I move that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that the Director adopt Policy No. 100-005 (Impound-in-Place Policy).

2. Riverside Rotary Park Weed Removal

The Glacier Valley Rotary Club has offered to purchase a robotic weed harvester to remove aquatic weeds from the pond at Riverside Rotary Park. In recent years, the pond has become overgrown by aquatic plants, including a variety of milfoil that is native to Alaska. The Parks & Recreation Department previously considered using an aquatic herbicide to reduce the volume of plant material in the pond, but we determined that this would be inconsistent with practice of only using herbicides as a last resort to control invasive weeds that pose other ecological threats. Mechanical removal (i.e. by hand) is not practical due to the amount of labor involved. The aquatic weed harvester proposed by Glacier Valley Rotary Club offers an innovative solution to a longstanding nuisance in this popular park. It is possible that reducing the amount of aquatic plants could impact waterfowl; however, an area could be left undisturbed to accommodate this concern.

Recommended Motion:

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that the Director accept the donation of an aquatic weed harvester from the Glacier Valley Rotary Club, and work with the club to clear aquatic weeds from the Riverside Rotary Park pond.

I. STAFF REPORTS

1. Treadwell Ice Arena Update

Treadwell Arena Manager Lauren Anderson will provide an update on programs and operations at Treadwell Ice Arena.

2. 2024 Project Preview

Parks & Recreation Director George Schaaf will present an overview of park, trail, and facility improvements planned for the 2024 construction season, including:

- Sigoowu Ye Playground replacement
- Si'Tuan Playground replacement
- Eagle's Edge Playground replacement
- Riverside Rotary Park lighting replacement & upgrades
- 35-Mile ORV Park Phase 1
- Adair-Kennedy Memorial Park Artificial Turf Field
- Adair-Kennedy Memorial Park LED lighting upgrades
- Hank Harmon Public Range Safety Improvements
- Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei / Montana Creek Bridge Replacement
- Cope Park – Christopher Trail bridge & trail upgrades