



TO: Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
FROM: George Schaaf, Parks & Recreation Director
DATE: March 28, 2025
RE: April 1, 2025 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 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Trespass Policy

The Department is working on a draft policy to provide guidance to staff when trespassing individuals from parks and other facilities managed by the Department. This policy is in early stages of development and will likely require development of a Code of Conduct for these locations. We are introducing it to you today to provide the Committee and the public with an early opportunity to review the proposed policy and provide feedback to staff as it is developed.

Requested Action

Provide feedback and comments to the Department, either individually or as a Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Adair-Kennedy Memorial Park

Voters approved a \$6.6 million general obligation bond for park and trail improvements in 2022, including \$5 million for improvements at Adair-Kennedy Memorial Park. The initial scope of this project included installation of an artificial turf baseball/softball field and rehabilitation of the track. With the artificial turf field coming in under budget, additional items were added, including new LED lighting, new fencing, and new dugouts. Approximately \$1.4 million in bond funds remain available for the project.

Project consultants discovered that the 40-year-old track is in such poor condition that it cannot be repaired due to the degraded asphalt under the rubber surface, which itself has many bubbles, rips and

tears. A complete replacement is estimated to cost up to \$4 million. Given the recent closure of Floyd Dryden Middle School and the consolidation of Thunder Mountain High School and Juneau-Douglas High School, the Juneau School District has indicated that the track at Thunder Mountain Middle School is sufficient to meet the needs of high school sports.

At the March 4, 2025 meeting, the Committee requested that staff consult with user groups to identify their priorities for improvements. Based on the feedback we received, the updated priorities are as follows (cost estimates are approximate):

1. \$800,000 Replace field lighting at Football Field
2. \$150,000 Replace press box at Football Field
3. \$500,000 Construct additional storage buildings for user groups
4. \$650,000 Replace washroom/concession building
5. \$50,000 Assess track and develop options for repair/replacement
6. \$250,000 Renovate central plaza

Suggested Motion:

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that the Department use remaining general obligation bond funds to proceed with improvements at Adair-Kennedy Memorial Park, as presented.

STAFF REPORTS

Staff Transition

As you all know, I have accepted a new position as Parks & Recreation Director in Tacoma, Washington. Donna Pierce will serve as Interim Director of Parks & Recreation until a permanent director is selected. Ms. Pierce previously served as the Director of Libraries and Deputy City Manager for the City & Borough of Juneau. The position of Parks & Recreation Director was advertised on March 24 and will be open for 30 days. Ms. Pierce has offered to serve in this role as long as necessary.

Marine Park Vending

We received five applications for three vending locations in Marine Park this summer. This was the first time the Department received more applications than space available. Since 2022, we have used a Request for Information (RFI) process to solicit vending opportunities in Marine Park. The RFI includes a process to allocate permits if interest exceeds the space available. Following this process, I appointed a staff committee consisting of representatives from Parks & Recreation, Docks & Harbors, and the Manager's Office. The committee scored proposals based on criteria set forth in the RFI. The top three proposals were selected to receive permits: Bernadette's, Carillo's, and El Taco Azteca. Unsuccessful applicants have until April 4 to appeal the Department's decision to the City Manager.