

## WHITTIER PARKS & REC

### REGULAR MEETING

May 22, 2025 7 pm

### MINUTES

**Assign recorder: Jamie Loan**

**Attendance: Aubrey Jurgerson, Jamie Loan, Victor Shen, Lisa Agnew on phone: Rachel Swain**

**Meeting Begins: 7:18pm**

#### **New Business**

- **Parks**

- **Meeting with city manager on park planning:** Victor met with Jackie and they drove around town. They spoke about park planning and the city partnering with the school. In Whittier we have 3 park areas: Well field area, the school, and the waterfall park area. We need to be strategic and not overlap/have redundancy in each place. A lot of residents have a lot of different desires, so we need to try to include as much diversity as possible. They also talked about our plan for “mini parks.” They can make a big impact for very low cost. Something like a trash can and picnic table can turn areas into inviting locations for visitors and residents alike. They also spoke about our goal of putting a kayak launch and ramp at the passenger dock. They talked about the campground at the Head of the Bay and the new city ordinance that fires must be in a fire ring. The city is going to purchase more rings for around town. Much of this is included in the capital improvement plan. Victor also showed her Aubrey’s Lu Young Park design. Aubrey is going to outline it in sharpie so it’s more legible.
- **Concrete planters** – USFS rep reached out to Jamie about the invasive plants in the concrete planters. We have hit our limit with available volunteer hours so Jamie will connect her with Jackie.

- **Recreation**

- **Solstice:** One month away! We will need volunteers to man the grill and keep stuff organized. Jamie is still hunting for a band. We have some cardboard but not as much as last year. The rest of us will try to go to Anchorage to collect more. Aubrey and Jamie will go around and get teams to sign up and start the PR campaign. Ben is working on the graphic and will get it to Jamie soon so she can order stickers.
- **Winter rec recap:** a low snow year! We were unable to have our cleared sledding event, but Ana & Victor did prep the area. The ice rink was a huge hit, and so was the igloo. People really loved the tree hunt and the bright beaches. We will keep all of these things going and continue to try to think of new ideas for next year.

- **Trails**

- **Winter trail recap** – grooming was minimal this year because there was so little snow. The City closed snow machine access Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

- **National Trails Day:** June 7th. We do a trail work day with Alaska Trails, and then we will continue to do our regular cookout. We're expecting the average 15-20 people. We got some new trail tools. Victor consolidated our tool cache.
- **KMTA trail days:** They're doing their first trail day at Spencer Glacier and an overnight.
- **American Hiking Society:** the leader, Amber needs someone to pick her up from the airport and take her food shopping. Victor is going to swing it. Jamie spoke with Kris and she suggested someone from the city go down to the campground the day of and pay for the tent sites directly with Gwen. This is also happening during the Coastal Connections Camp.
- **Other**
  - **Cleanup week and HOB cleanup recap:** lots of volunteers showed up! The school and some individuals cleaned up around town. Next year, we are going to ask that businesses participate, as it's a huge part of the Tourism Best Management Practices agreement. Volunteers filled a 6 yard dumpster and partially filled a second. About 25 people came and someone with a boat even came and cleaned up on the other side of Learnard Creek. Charla brought down snacks and food—it was a really great atmosphere.
  - **PWS Natural History Symposium:** Jamie did a powerpoint presentation on all of our projects and upcoming goals, it went really well! It's recorded on the PWSSF website.
  - **Slug out:** the slugs are out! Jamie will contact Charla to organize the slug out.
  - **Snow Machiners:** Lisa said that she was looking into grants and that they have utilized a lot of RTP grants for their organization. She also mentioned that we could try to apply for a snowcat grooming grant. DOT funds it out of snow machine registration.
  - **Community Garden:** Stephanie will email us an update

#### **Follow up of tasks/to do:**

- Dave & Ben will go to Lu Young Park to get ideas for a conceptual plan - in progress
- Story board signs and trail signage, as well as a Seafarer Memorial (Corvus Design): Jamie – In progress
- Send photos of Lu Young Park to Shelby & Victor: All
- Walk to Whittier sub committee: Jamie, Ben, Aubrey
- Put kayak rack together and organize tools the first week of May - All
- Research how to collect payment for the kayak storage rack
- Schedule a meeting for Lu Young Park design - done
- Talk to Ports & Harbor/Harbormaster about small single launch kayak infrastructure – in progress

- Confirm with FD and Jackie that camping spots can be reserved and paid for AHS – Jamie - done
- Contact Alaska Trails to see if they'll send a paid crew down for Horsetail Falls – Victor - done
- Talk to Adison (Assistant CM) about an RTP grant for the mountain bike pump track – Victor & Jamie – need to do
- Ask Stephanie about purchasing fencing for community garden – Aubrey
- Contact Hannah Thompson about invasive plant project, and see if Cam & Scott can help source soil – Jamie in progress
- Sourcing Cardboard – All
- Solstice alert to harbor, city, WFD, band, and Media coverage – Jamie in progress
- Email Jackie about Shakespeare Beach infrastructure – Jamie
- We will all keep collecting cardboard and working on stuff for Solstice
- We will all brainstorm a list of community members to help with volunteer cookouts
- Double check with Harbor that there will be a dumpster (that allows scrap metal) for the HOB clean-up - done

#### **New Tasks/to do:**

- Jamie will connect the USFS worker with Jackie**
- Aubrey & Jamie will spread the word and get sign ups for Wishwash**
- Ben is making the design and Jamie will order the stickers**
- Jamie will go to local businesses and get raffle items**
- Jamie will get with Charla about the Slug Out**
- Victor willll contact AHS**
- Victor and Aubrey will resubmit the Lu Young Park design**
- Pop up event to put together the kayak rack at Smitty's Cove**

**Next meeting date: June 16<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm**

**Adjournment: 8:41pm**