



Agenda

If you want to participate, give information, or comments at the meeting please call 907-581-1297 or email rblakeley@ci.unalaska.ak.us or attend in person.

SPECIAL MEETING

**City of Unalaska | Department of Parks, Culture and Recreation
Advisory Committee Meeting | Art Room
March 28, 2022, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Call to Order

Roll Call

Thomas Roufos, Chair
Jim Morris
Greg Peters
Andy Dietrick
Cameron Dean
Ben Knowles
Roger Blakeley, PCR Director

Recognition of Visitors:

New Business

Communication with City Council

Next Meeting April 18, 2022

Adjournment

From: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

To: Vince Tutiakoff, Mayor, City of Unalaska

Dear Mayor,

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is appointed by the Mayor to assimilate community input and provide information to the Parks and Rec Director, Manager, and the City Council. The Parks Department in conjunction with the Advisory Board has devised a recommended set of projects for the next 10 years of the CMMP. However, there is no plan to guide the development and deployment of these projects. The Advisory Board, Parks Department, and City Administration see a clear need to move the Parks and Recreation Master Plan forward to this year.

At the March 21st Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, the Board determined that it was necessary to have a 10-year master plan as soon as this coming year. At the March 22nd meeting, the Chair of the Advisory Board recommended to the City Council that the Master Plan project be moved forward to FY 23. This low-cost project has the potential to provide a decade's worth of value, while simultaneously providing guidance that can be used as evidence to support the solicitation of grant funding.

The City Council often laments the impression of this town to outsiders being that of a work camp. This is not likely to change without support and investment into the Parks Department and a plan for its sustained future. The continual loss of recreation and entertainment opportunities as time passes only continue. The residents of this City no-longer have a bowling alley, movies, the target range was temporarily shuttered, there have been limitations on bonfires, and poor maintenance has all but ended softball for 3 years. The residents of this city rely on the generosity of the Ounalashka Corporation to allow recreational access to their lands, but that should not be taken for granted. Now more than ever, it is apparent that the Community is dependent on the City to help provide recreation opportunities.

Despite dwindling external opportunities, our Parks Division has only seen investment when play structures such as that of the pirate ship at Sitka Spruce Park were literally rotting under kids' feet. In a shining example of successful future planning, other renovations and replacements such as that at Town Park, Tanaadakuchax Park, and the High School Playground were packaged together, saving the City a considerable amount of money. Without proper planning, this could have easily cost the city several hundred thousand more, and several additional years to complete these several projects.

A Parks Plan is just as important to the growth and success of the community as a utilities department plan. For that reason the Advisory Board is asking for the bare minimum investment, a sustainable plan, sooner rather than later. This is our opportunity to guide the next 10 years of CMMP projects with open and focused eyes. Placing complimentary projects in order, guiding the build-out of projects such as the multi-purpose facility that is also an emergency shelter, and guiding the tie-in of these projects with other city investment such as the geothermal project. Without a written plan, the PCR will likely not be as successful in applying for grant funding for future project. A small investment for a maximum impact. Without continued investment in our Parks and Recreation Department this town will continue to lose families; will continue to lose younger generations post-education; will continue to only attract those

who wish to work here and send money out of town. This will become the "work camp" that the Council fears.

Thank you for your time.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board