

NECC

Northeast Community Council

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Municipal Charter Art. VIII, Sec 8.01 establishes Community Councils as representatives for neighborhoods in planning and development; and

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Municipal Code Chap 25.10.080 B establishes MOA Parks; and

WHEREAS, Community Councils are intended to reflect actual neighborhoods and provide guidance advice on management of park-lands within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, in June 2015, Police said they're having trouble keeping people who flout the law out of Anchorage parks. If a person is caught drinking alcohol or dealing drugs by a park ranger a police officer can write a ticket or make an arrest; and

WHEREAS, annually authorities gear up to clear out dozens if not hundreds of homeless people from what police call illegal camping spots in Anchorage woods, parks and greenbelts. Some of the camps have been there for years. Some say they don't intend to leave; and

WHEREAS the Centennial Park campground is the only legal campground in Anchorage and also generates profit for the city through campground fees, but is negatively impacted by illegal campers; and

WHEREAS park rangers could discourage the use of these illegal camps before the camps become large, thus saving the city money as it is expensive to clean these camps out after they've already become established; and

WHEREAS the use of park rangers could be complimented by APD School Resource Officers in the summer when the officers are not in schools; and

WHEREAS, the MOA would benefit if tourists and residents felt safer utilizing our parks if park rangers could provide information pertaining to our parks and city; and

WHEREAS, the presence of park rangers alone will help to eliminate and/or minimize dangerous and undesirable situations if the criminals/potential criminals know that proper authorities will be alerted, should the need arise; and

WHEREAS some Anchorage parks have been the site of drug deals, rape, murder, and other crimes, thus perpetuating the unfortunate sense that parks are unsafe to be in; and

WHEREAS Anchorage's parks represent the best of urban outdoor educational and recreational opportunities, urban social gathering opportunities where Anchorage's many ethnic groups can mix, and are invaluable public assets worth protecting;


THEREFORE, be it resolved that the NECC requests that the MOA establish *Park Rangers*, if not on a *full-time* basis then on a *part time* basis, to monitor our parks and trail systems surrounding them.


Yes Votes: 8

No Votes: 2

Abstentions: 3

Date: 3-16-17


Rick Irwin
President


Kevin Smestad
Secretary