



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ANCHORAGE PARKS & RECREATION



Memorandum PRC 08-68

DATE: November 4, 2008
TO: Parks & Recreation Commission
FROM: Tom Korosei, Park Planner
SUBJECT: Request to Name Park Parcel as "Bear Tracks Park"

Proposal

The Parks and Recreation Commission is requested to consider and comment on a proposal to name certain park property "Bear Tracks Park." The property is a parcel approximately one acre in area located at the corner of Nickleen Street and Francesca Drive in the Southeast Park District.*

Background

The subject property was a tax-foreclosed property retained for public purposes in 2004. It was noted at that time that "open space and recreational land enhances values and the quality of life for municipal residents and the surrounding properties." Management authority for the parcel was designated to Parks and Recreation in February 2008.

The Bear Valley Community Council adopted a resolution to support formal naming of the property in May 2008. The Community Council has been active in improving the park for neighborhood use, with support from the Anchorage Park Foundation through the Foundation's Challenge Grant program.

The Community Council submitted the naming request to the Municipal Assembly through the Mayor's Office in accordance with AMC 3.97.030. The Mayor and Assembly have established a panel to make a recommendation to the Assembly based on the policy and criteria identified in the Code, which reads in part as follows:

When considering the naming or renaming of municipal buildings, other fixed facilities, and public places, the preferred practice shall be to give public property historical, cultural or geographical significance considering location, function and natural features. (AMC 3.97.020)

Naming of a public place will:

1. Demonstrate that the policy objectives under Section 3.97.020 have been considered and will specify findings for an exception;
.....

8. Support the preferred practice of honoring individual citizens through naming of internal areas, fixtures, and features integral to public spaces. Naming a public building, facility, or park for a living person is not favored.
.....

[For parks, the following shall also be considered:]

* Legal description: Lot 8A Block 3V, Plat of Rabbit Creek View and Rabbit Creek Heights Subdivision Replat; parcel ID no. 020-541-32-00010

1. *Names of persons who, through exemplary and substantial effort, have made a significant contribution to the community or the parks and recreation department or who have made a substantial donation to acquisition or development of the property.*
2. *Organizations that have made a substantial donation to the acquisition or development of the property;*
3. *Incorporating the geographic, natural or geological feature as part of the name to assist the public in recognizing the location.*

AMC Chapter 3.97 and an aerial photograph of the property are attached for reference.

Discussion and Staff Recommendation

Parks and Recreation staff believes the proposed park name is appropriate for the subject property. The name conveys the relationship of the surrounding area to the native wildlife, and therefore meets the appropriate criteria relating to historical, cultural, or geographical significance, and considering location, function, and natural features.

Parks and Recreation staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission concur with the proposal to name the subject parcel "Bear Tracks Park" and that the Commission adopt a resolution such as the following:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parks and Recreation Commission concurs with the intent to name the subject unnamed parcel of park land "Bear Tracks Park" in accordance with the procedure set forth in AMC 3.97.030.

Cc: Michael Johnson, Office of the Mayor
Cheri Lipps, Bear Valley Community Council
Shawna Popovici, Central/Southeast Park District Manager