

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION 2010-\_\_\_

The Northeast Community Council having determined that:

\*WHEREAS in 2009 the Northeast Community Council (NECC) repeatedly opposed both the Plans promoted by the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Parks and Recreation Department (P&R) for Russian Jack Springs Park (RJSP) and the planning process, and

\* WHEREAS the last MASTER PLAN for RJSP was adopted by the MOA in 1979 and a site plan was allegedly adopted in 1997 by the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&ZC) though the planning process for the latter specifically excluded NECC from notice contrary to the provisions of MOA ordinance, and

\* WHEREAS the community at large during hours of public testimony before the Parks Commission made it clear that it wished to see a systemic plan addressing RJSP before any further planning or development was undertaken, and

\* WHEREAS various members of the Parks Commission have indicated that the Master Plan is "dated" and the Commission's most recent resolution on RJSP called for additional planning and review before any further development or construction, and

\* WHEREAS the NECC is informed and believes that P&R is considering the expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars that may have been initially intended for developments at RJSP that were broadly opposed by the community, and

\* WHEREAS the RJSP MASTER PLAN as well as the 1997 site plan appear to call for completion of the adopted trail plan including the creation of a second tunnel under RJSP and the completion of trail lighting, including the lighting of the paved trail in North RJSP, and

\* WHEREAS NECC supports the creation of a Muldoon Park Strip and the conversion to park land of the balance of the Muldoon Estates property now held by the Heritage Land Bank, as well as efforts to provide youth with recreational opportunities proximate to the Muldoon Town Center, and

\* WHEREAS a new Director of P&R has been appointed by the Mayor of the MOA,

NOW THEREFORE THE NECC HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

NECC would like to congratulate and welcome John Rodda, the new P&R Director to his new post and extend an invitation to Mr. Rodda to appear before the NECC to discuss resolution of the outstanding issues with respect to planning documents addressing RJSP,

NECC feels that pending adoption of a new Master Plan for RJSP no development should be undertaken with respect to RJSP. Should P&R insist on moving forward with development in RJSP over the objections of the community, that such development should be limited to those projects over which there has been no apparent dispute, which would limit development to matters set out in the 1997 site plan to the extent such matters are not inconsistent with the 1979 Master Plan, and that in as

much as the 1997 site plan was adopted without notice to the NECC, that this apparent breach of MOA ordinance would have to be acknowledged and remediated,

The NECC notes that to the extent that P&R has funds for which it seeks NECC's advisements as to projects upon which such funds should be expended, that the most critical project demanding P&R funding is the compilation of a new RJSP Master Plan, and the NECC strongly urges P&R to secure funds promptly to address same. Additionally, the NECC has repeatedly noted that North East District Parks are inadequately maintained, so again, to the extent possible any funding available should be directed at maintaining existing infrastructure as opposed to constructing or developing additional resources to be allowed to deteriorate for lack of adequate maintenance,

NECC has maintained a CIP list over the years which list does include park projects. While NECC is aware that CIP funding is often NOT tied to a particular project (i.e. funds initially target for one project, even if obtained from bonds, can be employed in other projects) should P&R have funds initially intended for RJSP which P&R would rather see spent on RJSP, NECC recommends that such funds be employed to complete the most long standing approved developments for which no apparent objections have been raised, and these would include the creation of the second tunnel under Boniface and the lighting of existing paved trails. The NECC notes that the multi-use trail connecting RJSP to Cheney Lake is unlit between the current "lighted loop" and Nunaka Elementary and that bridges in the Park need repair or replacement.

NECC is aware that a number of Assembly persons have opined about the need for greater recreational opportunities for youth and to that end the NECC has proposed the creation of a park strip to encompass the balance of the Muldoon Estates property now held by the Heritage Land Bank and is interested in the creation of a skate board park somewhere within the confines of the Muldoon Town Center where youth can be engaged at a location which affords amenities such as proximity to school, food, transport as well as ease of observation, integrating such youth activity into the center of the local neighborhood's focus. If a portion of such a facility could be covered it might also offer additional winter recreational options to local youth.

NECC is aware that Centennial Park has a reputation for being the best sledding venue in the North East and as access to sledding venues is typically via automobile, the NECC may be interested in plans P&R have to promote such a venue, especially to the degree that such planning might alleviate safety concerns at other locations that may not be appropriate venues for sledding.

NECC presently does not see the need for additional playgrounds in the North East District and is concerned that as most playground usage seems to be via motor vehicle that what the District needs is better public appreciation of the existing facilities as well as comprehensive user data concerning how playgrounds are used (time of day, day of week, season of year, age of users, how park accessed, etc.) together with an understanding of the degree to which school playgrounds serve the same purpose before any consideration is given to the construction of additional playgrounds.