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# Delaney Park Strip Sports Facility Public/Private Partnership Proposal

435 W. 10th Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Proposal Prepared by:

**Mr. Edwin Blair**

President | Anchorage Skate Club  
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South Addition Resident

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VP | Anchorage Hockey Association  
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## Who We Are

Led by Mr. Edwin Blair, a lifelong Anchorage resident, our group is comprised of a variety of interested user groups who want to see the healthy, active, and well-maintained parks and recreation facilities throughout Anchorage. Our goal is to ensure we improve the user experience while not draining taxpayer resources or burdening neighborhoods with rundown facilities that turn into urban blight. Our core members include the Anchorage Skate Club and the Anchorage Hockey Association – with the hope of also incorporating the skiing, tennis, pickle ball and street hockey community into our group and plans for improvement moving forward.

Anchorage Skate Club (ASC), an active 501c3 non-profit corporation, has the stated mission to promote outdoor ice acting skills and activities for all children in the Municipality of Anchorage. Anchorage Skate Club offers an obligation-free, easy access opportunity for children to experience and learn ice skating in its natural, outdoor settings with a focus on having fun!

# A Proven Track Record

DON'T GO THROUGH LIFE  
WITHOUT GOALS.

Mr. Edwin Blair has shown a long-standing track record of success through the previous and current cooperative use agreements he shares with the Municipality of Anchorage to manage the twin outdoor hockey rink facility in Chester Creek Sports Complex (CCSC). Under this management along with efforts in fundraising, facility improvements, security, and operations at these two rinks this facility shines as a beacon of success showing how our proposed scenario on the Delaney Park Strip could improve MoA facilities over the long term for the betterment of healthy activity in our city. At ground zero for homelessness and transiency for many years, this facility could have been left for dead and would most certainly be a hazard and liability. Instead, on behalf of the commitment to stand up for this asset, there is new bustling activity year-round at this facility to include pickle ball and bike polo in the summer and of course hockey and skating activities in the winter. Inspired by public/private partnership here, collaborative efforts of the Anchorage Park Foundation, ASC, AHA, Scotty Gomez Foundation, Anchorage Pickleball Club, MOA and many local volunteers/contributors have provided the facility nearly \$1 million in non-taxpayer funded restoration and renovations over the past decade. New rink foundations, hockey boards, benches, scoreboards, chalet resurrection, LED lighting upgrades and other improvements have transformed a dying corner of the CCSC into a secure and attractive park element that has become significantly more heavily utilized and relied on by many in our recreation community in these recent years.

# What Are We Looking For? | *An Opportunity*

Our request is simple. We want to work with the Municipality of Anchorage to develop a long-term agreement for our group to operate, maintain and bring life back to the building located at 435 W. 10th Avenue as indicated above. Our plan will include the year-round operations that will breathe life and healthy activity back to this area of the park strip.

## What does the Municipality gain from this partnership?



Return this public facility to it's original, historic, and best use while reinvigorating the Park Strip



Improve the amenities and use of this facility to best suit year round recreation



Maintenance and upkeep will be kept in check by the active and attentive use of our members

# The Facility

This facility is now in imperfect condition and is mostly vacant after years of underutilization and lack of active attention. Our first aim will be to allow for enough space for a warming and dressing room for winter utilization of the skating community. Akin to what has been done at the CCSC rinks with the warming structure/chalet but will allow for more comprehensive operating hours at this location.

Another priority, would be to incorporate a vendor to operate a juice bar/coffee shop to bring more healthy commerce to the park strip year-round, and potentially bringing the restrooms facilities into the mix to support tennis camps and events such as the Fourth of July parade, Mayors Marathon, Fur Rondy activities, hockey tournaments and other near park users. This will help to provide facilities that are secure and cared for in an area that is completely absent of that resource at this time. The

Anchorage Skate Club would be a resident/manager of the facility, with the Anchorage Hockey Association and the Alaska Tennis Association, the United States Tennis Association Pacific Northwest Section and potentially the Anchorage Ski Club, Anchorage Tennis Association and Anchorage Pickleball, roller hockey and bike polo as possible other members with access and office space in the building to create a recreation hub with a priority for youth programs all under one roof.

# Facility History | *Back to its Roots*

This facility was originally constructed in the late 1960's as a recreational clubhouse (teen center) for the youth of Anchorage to allow for a more enjoyable experience while participating in skating and other activities in downtown Anchorage. Interior spaces were dedicated to changing and warming for skaters in the winter, and a staffed year-round game room with vending machines and restrooms was a safe attraction for kids as well as a resource point for recreation programs and camps in the area. The construction of the facility was initially paid for with grants that stipulated the purpose of the facility which of course today, has been lost. We aim to bring that history and benefit back to this great location and to return this asset to our community.

# Improvements

Under this park management partnership, our group pledges to champion several capital improvement projects to upgrade the deteriorating features involved: Building, Boards and Surfaces. It is our understanding that the building has current maintenance needs, specifically a new roof, which would be hopefully covered under MOA facilities maintenance budgeting but could be enveloped in a larger capital budget appropriation with rink / tennis court renovations. The boards surrounding the hockey rink at 10th and E are beyond the end of their life expectancy and need to be replaced. Our group would work to get commitments from charitable and private groups to accomplish this goal and would also improve the summer surface during that process. This would include new foundations, repaving, sealcoating and marking the surface to allow for a variety of summer uses including basketball, street hockey and pickleball (up to six courts) to be played throughout the summer months--Pickle ball has exploded at Mr. Blairs other facility with both rinks being filled at times with dozens of pickle ballers. We expect this to also be a sport that takes advantage of a renovated and repurposed rink facility on the park strip. We do not expect the city to fund any portion of these improvements and are more than capable and willing to make this happen. This would be the only facility of its kind in the State of Alaska and would bring a great deal of healthy activity to this park.

# Ongoing Maintenance | *A True Partnership*

This ice rink has been maintained and prepared for use in the winter by the staff of the MoA Parks and Rec department at a very high level, regularly, for years. We do not propose or ask for any responsibility for this process and hope to see the Parks Dept. continue their regular maintenance rink service long into the future at this rink.

Our group is eager to begin the necessary process of revitalizing this precious asset in the heart of downtown Anchorage in partnership with the Assembly and the Parks Department. We look forward to working with all of you in developing a plan and agreement that brings this building back to life and returns it to its highest and best use as an active and healthy center of activity for the Anchorage community for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mr. Allen F. Clendaniel  
**Alaska Tennis Association**

Mr. Edwin R. Blair  
**Anchorage Skate Club**

Mr. Robyn T. Forbes  
**Anchorage Hockey Assoc.**