

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Chairperson – Ed Strabel – District 6
Vice Chair – Roy Wahl – District 4
Pat Owens – District 1
Chris Wilson – District 2

Jessica Kelsch – At Large 2
John Harris - District 3
Kenni Linden – At Large 3
Nickel LaFleur– At Large 1

David Palmer – At Large 4
Cindy Bettine - District 5
Thomas Phillips - District 7

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING
Lower Level Conference Room

October 26th, 2020
6:00 P.M.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING
 - A. September 28th, 2020
- VI. BOROUGH STAFF REPORT
 - A. Hugh Leslie, Recreation & Library Services Manager
- VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Avigation Easement Report
 - B. Crevasse Moraine Trail Discussion
 - C. Resolution 20-01, Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan
 - D. Alaska Trails Initiative – Statewide Trails Investment Strategy
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Public Notices
 - B. Agency/Organization Report
- X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS
- XI. CORRESPONDENCE
- XII. MEMBER COMMENTS
- XIII. NEXT MEETING
 - November 23rd, 2020
- XIV. ADJOURNMENT

1 **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**
2 **PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD**
3

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4
5 **AGENDA**
6

7 **REGULAR MEETING**

September 28th, 2020

8 **Matanuska Susitna Borough Gym**

6:00 P.M.
9

10 I. **CALL TO ORDER**

11 Meeting called to order by Mr. Strabel at 6:03 pm.

12 II. **ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

13 Members Present: Mr. Strabel, Mr. Wahl, Mr. Wilson, Ms. Kelsch, Ms. Linden, Ms.
14 LaFleur, Mr. Palmer

15 Members Attending Virtually: Mr. Harris and Ms. Owens

16 Members Absent: Mr. Phillips

17 III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

18 Motion: Mr. Palmer moved to accept the agenda as written, Mr. Wahl, 2nd. All in favor.

19 IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

20 Mr. Strabel led the pledge of allegiance.

21 V. **MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

22 A. **August 24, 2020**

23 Ms. Linden requested that her member comment be changed from Mat-Su Greenbelt
24 Trails to Jonesville Public Use Area.

25 Motion: Mr. Palmer moved to accept the minutes as amended, Mr. Wahl, 2nd. All in
26 favor.

27 VI. **BOROUGH STAFF REPORT**

28 A. **Hugh Leslie, Recreation & Library Services Manager**

29 Mr. Leslie stated that Mat-River Park has closed for the season. Campers remain at
30 Jim Creek.

31 Mr. Leslie stated that the trail crew would continue working thru mid-part of October.

32 Mr. Leslie spoke about the completion of Fish Creek Park viewing platform.

33 Mr. Leslie stated that Wasilla Pool locker rooms would be closed for remodeling
34 starting October 6th 2020.

35 VII. **PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – 3 minutes per person**

36 None.

37 VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

38 A. Avigation Easement Report

39 Mr. Leslie stated that he has not met with the City of Palmer to discuss further plans

40 since the last meeting.

41 B. Crevasse Moraine Trail Discussion

42 i. Letter of Support

43 Ms. LaFleur requested to change the following: closing from “Thank

44 You” to “Sincerely”, and correct 1st sentence in 2nd paragraph to “The

45 Thirty-three miles of trails within the Greenbelt are heavily used by the

46 community for recreation, exercise and bird-watching, and as a respite for

47 peace and quiet from today’s world.

48 Ms. Owens requested to change the following: “Matanuska Experimental

49 Farm” to Matanuska Experiment Farm”

50 Motion: Mr. Strabel moved to approve the letter as amended, Ms. LaFleur

51 2nd. All in favor.

52 IX. NEW BUSINESS

53 A. Public Notices

54 None.

55 B. Agency/Organization Report

56 None.

57 C. Alaska Trails Initiative – Statewide Trails Investment Strategy

58 George Hoden spoke to the Board about the statewide trails investment strategy and

59 goals to strengthen the Alaska economy. Mr. Hoden stated that the Alaska Trails

60 Initiative would improve the trails and developing projects. Mr. Hoden asked the

61 Board to pass the resolution to support the initiative.

62 Ms. Linden moved for a motion to support the concept, Mr. Wilson, 2nd. All in favor

63 Motion: Mr. Wilson moved to support the concept, Mr. Palmer, 2nd. All in favor

64 D. Resolution 20-01 A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA

65 BOROUGH PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

66 SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF THE JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA

67 MANAGEMENT PLAN.

68 Mr. Kruger presented Resolution 20-01 to the Board.

69 Motion: Mr. Whal moved to adopt the resolution, Ms. Linden, 2nd. All in Favor.

70 Ms. Bettine requested to add the following as paragraph 10 “Whereas, the

71 Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board requests

72 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly add a request to the State of Alaska for

73 funding to develop and implement a management plan for the Jonesville Public Use

74 Area.”

75
76 Motion: Mr. Palmer moved to vote to amend Resolution 20-01, Mr. Wahl, 2nd. All in
77 favor.
78 X. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS
79 None.
80 XI. CORRESPONDENCE
81 None.
82 XII. MEMBER COMMENTS
83 Mr. Wilson – Thanked board members for attend and their time.
84 Ms. Kelsch – Inquired about future meetings and expressed desire to attend virtually.
85 Ms. Linden – Thanked board members and excited to see things moving.
86 Mr. Strabel – Thanked everyone for joining and to those helping restore the trails. Ski
87 Club has been marking trails up at Independence.
88 Ms. Owens – Thanks for meeting on Teams and thanked Mr. Hoden and Mr. Kruger for
89 attending.
90 Mr. Harris – Thanked Mr. Leslie and staff for setting up Teams meeting
91 Ms. Bettine – Stated that she was able to attend the Blueberry Ball at the new chair lift. It
92 was a success and parking lot was packed.
93 XIII. NEXT MEETING
94 • October 28th, 2020
95 XIV. ADJOURNMENT
96 XV. Motion: Mr. Palmer moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Linden 2nd. Meeting adjourned at
97 7:11 pm
98 XVI.
99 XVII.
100 XVIII.

Ed Strabel, Chairperson
101 XIX.
102 XX. ATTEST:
103 XXI.
104 XXII.
105 XXIII.
106 XXIV.

Alyssia Jones, Recreation and Library Services Administrative Specialist
107

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 20-01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF THE JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, the Jonesville Public Use Area, near Sutton, has been plagued by excessive, unmanaged, unsafe recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Sutton Community Council established "The Jonesville/Slipper Lake Action Committee" in November 2015 that gathered widespread community input and participation to determine a course of action to improve the situation on public lands in and around Sutton, known as the Eska and Jonesville mining areas; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska State Legislature designated the Jonesville Public Use Area in 2017, codified in AS 41.23.280-41.23.289 wherein the public use area was established to (1) protect, maintain, perpetuate, and enhance year-round general public recreation, (2) protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat so that the public may continue to enjoy traditional uses of the Jonesville Public Use Area, (3) provide opportunities for the public to enjoy the area through a full spectrum of public uses, including the maintenance and enhancement of off-road vehicle and nonmotorized recreational opportunities for the public and (4) allow (A) continued mineral exploration and development activities, and (B) motorized access to private property,

including property in which a person has a subsurface right, in the Jonesville Public Use Area; and

WHEREAS, AS 41.23.282 requires development of a management plan to protect the homes and property of local citizens in Sutton, provide needed safe places for recreational shooting, mitigate illegal dumping, and provide a healthier, cleaner and safer environment for public recreation; and

WHEREAS, the State has indicated it does not have nor does it expect to have adequate funding to develop or implement a management plan for the Jonesville Public Use Area; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Assembly adopted Resolution Serial No. 20-038 supporting development of a management plan for the Jonesville Public Use Area; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has worked with the Sutton Community and the State to develop a Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan modeled after the success at the Knik River Public Use Area; and

WHEREAS, public planning meetings were held twice a month at the Sutton Library to develop the management plan; and

WHEREAS, three public scoping meetings, two open houses, and a 30-day public review period has occurred to engage with the members of the public interested in the Jonesville Area to ensure the management plan addresses issues about which the public are concerned; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board requests the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly add a request to the State of Alaska for funding to develop and implement a management plan for the Jonesville Public Use Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board supports the Assembly adoption of the Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan in accordance with AS 41.23.280-41.23.289.

Adopted by the Matanuska-Susitna Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board this 28th day of September, 2020.

Ed Strabel, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Alyssia Jones, Admin. Secretary



**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PARKS, RECREATION, & TRAILS
ADVISORY BOARD
350 E Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645
907-861-8578**

**PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS
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Nickel LaFleur, At-Large 1
David Palmer, At-Large 4
Cindy Bettine, District 5
Thomas Phillips, District 7**

September 14, 2020

Ms. Julie Queen
Vice Chancellor of Administrative Services
University of Alaska Fairbanks
P.O. Box 757900
Fairbanks, AK 99775-7900
Email: uaf-vcadmins@alaska.edu

Re: Matanuska Experiment Farm – Gravel Expansion

Dear Ms. Queen,

The Matanuska Greenbelt Trail System and the University have enjoyed a mutually beneficial working relationship for years. However, in early August signs were posted and heavy equipment crossed trails to reach a 70-acre section of property tapped as a potential gravel pit.

The thirty-three miles of trails within the Greenbelt are heavily used by the community for recreation, exercise and bird-watching, and as a respite for peace and quiet from today's world. The disruption that gravel mining would inflict concerns all of us on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board.

We understand the need to create revenue within the University system but believe the monies earned from this gravel pit would not outweigh the accompanying destruction along our valued trail system.

We are proud of our Greenbelt, the historical Matanuska Experiment Farm and their benefits to us all. We ask that you halt your detrimental, unilateral activities, including the damage to the trails and the hole-boring, and instead work with our community on other ways to create needed revenue.

Thank you for listening to our concerns. We look forward to strengthening our relationship by working together on keeping the trails a serene place for the public.

Thank-you,

Ed Strabel, Chair