

**City of Unalaska | Department of Parks, Culture and Recreation**

**Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes for March 17, 2025**

Members present Thomas Roufos, Chair, Greg Peters, Ben Knowles, Avril Straub, Kim Hankins.

The Parks Culture and Recreation Advisory Board meeting was called to order at 5:41 PM on March 17, 2025, At the Multi-Purpose Room at PCR.

Recognize visitors at the meeting, Jolene Longo, Albert Burnham, Cameron Dean

**New Business**

The Advisory Board worked together to lay out the many projects that were in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, putting them in fiscal years and giving a more in-depth investigation to each project. The Advisory Board reviewed 17 projects listed in the Parks and Recreation Master plan and placed them by year and by order as to the most important and needed funding today, and to the nice-to-have projects.

The Aquatic Center remodel and expansion was the advisory board's top priority. This included doing a feasibility study starting in fiscal year 2026. This would give the City of Unalaska a better understanding of what is needed to repair the pool facility. The board suggested that we look at a module prototype for the Aquatic Center. This could save a significant amount of funding needed to produce a new facility. The board also suggested that Jackie Adams, the city’s grant writer, be involved early in looking for alternative sources of funding.

At the same time the board also wanted to have the feasibility study for the multi-use facility starting soon. This might include combining the multi-use facility with a new Aquatic Center. The cost of the feasibility study is $200,000 and will need to be included in the operational budget of the PCR. After the feasibility study, then a CMMP project could be developed with design and construction costs.

In FY 2026, design for Eagles View Elementary School Playgrounds were already in the CMMP with the construction to begin in 2027. Both Roger and Jolene will be attending the NRPA conference in Orlando, Florida, to meet with the playground designers and to see the newest playground designs and equipment, the conference will be in September. The cost listed in the CMMP for the construction is 2.8 million dollars.

Improvement to the weight and cardio room at the Recreation Center, the board thought it was best to continue funding improvements through the business and operation budget and not the CMMP. Jolene will add additional funds for these improvements in FY2026.

The Town Park restroom project was discussed and the board believed that we should consider a restroom similar in size and style to the one the ports have been working on. If possible, we should combine the ports restroom with the town park restroom possibly saving the city design costs. Possible modular restroom might be considered.

The portable climbing wall project was discussed and the board believed we should include other agencies to help with the cost of this amenity. The Coast Guard was mentioned as a group that has helped other communities with similar recreational amenities. A mobile climbing wall comes in all different shapes and sizes and is anywhere from $10 to 50,000.

There were discussions about park amenities, including signing, benches, picnic tables, trash cans, grills and paving the UCSD track around the grass area. The paving project should be done while the paving plant is still in Unalaska. This project should also include artificial turf maximizing the number of days being able to be played at the park. While the plan called out the Town Park bike rack that needed to be replaced, we should also include the Community Center. Expedition Park needed picnic tables, benches signage and bike racks. The Parks Master Plan called out around $50,000.00 of Park amenities that needed to be replaced. For example, some of the costs per item are trash cans, $629.00 each, bike racks, $627.00 each, picnic tables $1,214.88 each, benches $1,592.00 each.

A rental shop for mobile equipment such as kayaking and bicycles should continue to move forward but should be included in the business and operations line-item budget, not the CMMP budget.

The indoor ice rink discussion is really based on the facility big enough to hold the sheet of ice and it really depends on the Aquatic Center and whether they use the pool facility and should be considered as part of the feasibility study.

The synthetic turf discussions for UCSD, Kelty field and Eagle View Elementary School should be done together. It will save time and money and provide a great community asset.

Building a dog park was placed in FY year 2035, as a nice-to-have amenity.

**Old Business**

**Committee Members Comments**

There was some discussion by committee members concerning the scoreboard and possibly placing some stadium lighting at Kelty field. Starting the Adult season with a beer garden. Looking for a possible social district.

**Next Meeting is April 21, 2025.**

**Adjournment at 7:04 p.m.**