



# WRANGELL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING

October 4th, 2023, 5:30 PM  
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

Present:

Absent:

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting minutes are attached from May 3<sup>rd</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

CORRESPONDENCE:

PERSON'S TO BE HEARD:

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: See attached.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. HOP: Helping Our Parks. Community engagement
- B. Adopt-A-Garden: Seasonal wrap-up and start-up tasks

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Adopt-A-Park
- B. RV Park: micro-cabin concept, tent platform
- C. Community Center Dedication: Athletes Past, Present, and Future
- D. Action-oriented advisory board meetings

CLOSING

- A. Next agenda items.
- B. Adjourn meeting.



# Wrangell Parks & Recreation

## Director's Report

November 2023

### EMPLOYEE UPDATES

- Recreation & Aquatics Coordinator
  - Devyn Johnson continues to work hard at collaborating with local volunteers, ensuring that P&R recreation and aquatics programming is alive and well.
- Parks & Maintenance (New FT position: Parks Custodian Light Maintenance)
  - Earon Gross has accepted the Parks Custodian Light Maintenance position. He begins work on Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Earon has experience as an electrician technician, project manager, general contractor, and groundskeeper – all of which will complement the parks position. We look forward to sharing Earon's accomplishments within the position.
- Recreation Maintenance Specialist
  - Lane Fitzjarrald is busy managing the pool, providing janitorial and maintenance services, working with contractors on the heating and ventilation system, and tackling various projects. Lane continues to be an asset to the regular operations, ensuring the pool and community center are running smoothly. This fall and winter, Lane will work with the P&R team to identify important facility projects, along with performing routine maintenance. Lane wrapped up the public restroom season with a final cleaning and winter prep. Lane is playing a lead role in training Earon Gross in his new position, with a focus on preventative maintenance, community center revitalization, and pool chemistry management.
- Lifeguards & Recreation Assistants
  - Joe Gartrell, Emma Martinsen, Claire Froehlich, and Mad Hesler completed the American Red Cross lifeguard certification course, instructed by Devyn Johnson and Lucy Robinson. Lifeguard training and employee onboarding will continue based on availability. With this new group of trained lifeguards, we hope to offset a few gaps in our regularly scheduled activities due to current lifeguard unavailability. Working with young students and athletes requires balance and determination to make it work.
  - Jamie Roberts will play a crucial role in our ability to provide quality aquatics programming within the community during the winter months. Jamie is currently coaching the WHS Swim Team, and Swim Club. Both programs are an important piece to the viability of the P&R aquatics programming, with many young swimmers joining our team as lifeguards and recreation assistants, later in life.
  - Mad Hesler and Lea Bucknell have joined the crew, providing much-needed office coverage in the evenings, along with fill-in work throughout the winter months. Mad will help kick off the community center's regular hours by providing support to the activity. We will promote the new activity and keep the people posted on how it's going. If the interest is high, we'll increase the hours and continue with the activity.
  - John Roundtree and Darren Shilts are two seasoned lifeguards who continue to do great things within the P&R team. They both help to host in-service training for new lifeguards who need a bit more in-water training.



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### RECREATION & AQUATICS:

Recreation programming plays a pivotal role in enhancing the quality of life and community engagement in Wrangell.

Our existing programming encompasses a diverse range of activities, including sports leagues, fitness classes, outdoor adventures, and educational opportunities. These programs have been successful in attracting community members of all ages and backgrounds, fostering a sense of unity, volunteerism, and well-being.

The information listed below does not include our regularly scheduled swims, weight room/cardio, and court participation totals.

PROGRAM/ACTIVITY	VOLUNTEERS & EMPLOYEES	PARTICIPANTS	ACTS OF PARTICIPATION PER MONTH	LOCATION
YOUTH BASKETBALL, 5 DAYS PER WEEK	30	61 KIDS	250	COMMUNITY CENTER
ARTHRITIS CLASS, 3 DAYS PER WEEK	2	8-10 ADULTS	120	POOL
WATER AEROBICS, 3 DAYS PER WEEK	2	6-10 ADULTS	120	POOL
PICKLEBALL, 3 DAYS PER WEEK	3	6-10 YOUTH/ADULTS	120	COMMUNITY CENTER
YOUTH OPEN GYM, 2 DAYS PER WEEK	3	8-10 YOUTH	80	COMMUNITY CENTER
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, 2 DAYS PER WEEK	P&R EMPLOYEE	5-8 ADULTS	34	COMMUNITY CENTER
JIU JITSU, 3 DAYS PER WEEK	2	5-8 YOUTH/ADULTS	96	COMMUNITY CENTER
OPEN SKATE NIGHT	2	12-15 YOUTH/ADULTS	60	COMMUNITY CENTER
ADULT ASL CLASS	1	3-5 ADULTS	20	COMMUNITY CENTER
YOUTH ASL CLASS	1	6 YOUTH	24	COMMUNITY CENTER
SWIM CLUB & SWIM TEAM	2 COACHES	41 YOUTH	205	POOL
BALLET	1	38 YOUTH	152	COMMUNITY CENTER
SENIOR FITNESS	P&R EMPLOYEE	6-8 ADULTS	32	WEIGHT ROOM
YOUTH FITNESS CLASS	P&R EMPLOYEE	8-10 YOUTH	40	WEIGHT ROOM
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>1353</b>	<b>-</b>



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Volunteers play a crucial role in providing community programming. Community members provide a direct link between the programming and the community's needs and interests. They understand local nuances and can tailor programs accordingly. By offering their time and skills without financial compensation, volunteers help organizations achieve more with limited budgets. This cost-effectiveness is particularly valuable for P&R-based programs with resource constraints. Read below for a list of current/recent P&R volunteers:

Chelsie Ludwig

Bailey Scheib

Devyn Johnson

James Silva

Adrienne McLaughlin

Jason Clark

David Roane

Sarah Scambler

Kendra McDougall

Kassee Schlotzhauer

Keisha Rushmore

George Damian

Bridgette Davidson

Jeff Davidson

Tracy Martin

Jeanie Arnold

Dustin Johnson

Josh Blatchley

Kaelene Harrison

Daniel Harrison

Emma Martinsen

Anna Allen

Trevyn Gillen

Aaron Angerman

Dawson Miller

Lucus Snider

Addy Andrews

Diane O'Brien

Kim Covalt

Michael Bania

Alice Rooney

Jamie Roberts

John Deruyter

Chris Johnson

Cassandra Schillings

Jessica Stewart

Victoria Carney

Sam Carney

Jaime Perry

Matt Nore

Franki Gablehouse

Suellen Bahleda

Victoria Houser



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### FACILITIES

- The maintenance crew will wrap up the community center surplus project by removing the items that did not sell through the surplus system. For future organizational purposes, staging areas will be created for sorting: To Be Sorted; Surplus Items; Second-Hand Store Items; and Garbage. This will help to eliminate the buildup of clutter. The community center basement hallway storage will be reorganized, while the entrance and stairway will be completely cleared of items to ensure easy access in the event of an emergency.
- American Red Cross Lifeguard Course scheduled for Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, with five participants currently registered. Devyn and Lucy will co-teach the course. This is a large task, as both Devyn and Lucy will work their regular shifts, then co-teach on Thursday and Friday evenings, along with full days on Saturday and Sunday.
- The community center continues to see an increase in usage, with well over 700 users during the month of September and close to 850 in October, with youth basketball, adult and family-focused activities, WHS PE classes, and high school sports practice sessions. We aim to re-organize much of the recreation equipment storage, paint, and add hooks for hanging decorations, etc. Devyn and Lucy have reached out to the community for historic photos of events, activities, and programming that took place in the community center over the years, creating a photo collage, along with stories, that can be hung on the walls throughout the space. A community event is planned for March 2024, dedicating the community center to athletes past, present, and future.
- Expanded hours continue: P&R weight room, cardio, and the court, Sundays, 12:00pm-5:00pm. Sundays have been successful, with 10-15 people utilizing the weight room, cardio equipment, and The Court.
- The stair repair project, located on both the north and south end stairs that allow access from the high school parking lot to the community center, is complete. Johnson Construction completed the repair project in the nick of time.
- Alex Riordan pressure washed and repaired the handicap access ramp that leads from the community center's lower parking lot to the walkway, leading to the community center.
- Monthly in-service training for the lifeguard team is scheduled for one Sunday, each month, allowing for focused training and team development, enhancing skills, and promoting unity. Allow for 1 hour per week of endurance swimming and partner in-water skills training.
- The pool siding project continues to move forward, with much of the siding project complete. The color matches well with the community center gray. We look forward to continued progress. A reminder to the public that parking is tight, with much of the equipment and materials stored in the lower-level community center parking lot.
- Both the Men's and Women's lockers need to be replaced due to rusting, aging lockers. A design plan and quote will be obtained to address the need for the assembly, as the cost of the project will be well above \$25,000.



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### PARKS, TRAILS & GREEN SPACES

- Helping Our Parks: Create public education and promotional materials. Engage community. Adopt-A-Park opportunity. Seek funding through grants, business donations, and local fundraising. Target corporations and businesses that profit from Wrangell's business.
- Adopt-A-Garden: Community outreach was successful. With help from the P&R advisory board, we aim to create a seasonal wrap-up and start-up schedule. This season's wrap-up will need to be coordinated with the current list of volunteers.
- Parks, Trails & Green Spaces:
  - Shoemaker RV Site: Further develop the micro cabin concept for this site. A micro cabin, or cabins, could help to bolster revenue from visitors and locals who want a camping experience, with an easy access option. This concept will require research and development. This site is not being utilized due to the failing Alaska Marine Highway system, and the expense of RV travel. To revitalize this space, we are hoping to re-brand and get the people excited about the concept.
  - Playground replacement planning. Seek public input through community meetings, questionnaires, etc. Identify needs. Create a funding initiative. Keep the community engaged through public fundraising events and Adopt-A-Park programs.
  - The Petroglyph Beach access ramp will need a thorough QA. Although the funding source and site responsibility are in question, it is important that the ramp remains safe for public use. We tackled a broken step and completed a pressure wash, last week.
  - The parks crew will continue to QA the parks, shelters, benches, fire pits, and green spaces. They will focus on shelter assessment, cleaning debris from the roofs, checking for rot/rust, and hardware replacement needs. We will also utilize the local tree management company, requesting a walk-through of all trails and parks to determine tree stability – removing trees that pose a risk.
  - The Mt. Dewey trail needs to be repaired in several areas. Also, the metal mesh that covers most of the trail may need to be replaced due to slip risk. The suggested material is netting, which has proven to work well on the local Forest Service-managed trails. Lucy will work with the Forest Service trail crew to determine the best solution.
  - The Volunteer Trail has several areas where drainage is an issue. P&R will consult with the Forest Service trail crew for suggestions regarding repair.
  - Lane Fitzjarrald, along with Glen Decker with Wrangell Island Tree Service, performed a tree stability assessment, hiking Mt. Dewey Trail and the Nature Trail, along with City Park, Petroglyph Beach, and Shoemaker. A full report will be available soon. This report will be used to determine which trees should be removed to ensure public safety and reduce possible maintenance issues due to downed trees.
  - We are working with the Stikine Sportsman's Association to develop a plan to install power at the shooting range site, which will aid in the development of the future skeet/trap range. This group is also interested in helping with the installation of a



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gate with a keycode access pad and providing support/funding for a future annual hunter safety course.











START













**ATTENTION**  
NO GLASS IN THE LOCKER ROOMS OR IN BASK  
LEAVE SHOES AT THE LOCKER ROOM ENTRANCE  
NO PHOTOS IN THE LOCKER ROOMS OF YOUR AREA  
THANK YOU!

















