

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE
ASSEMBLY INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

No. _____

Meeting Date: June 10, 2014

1 **To: THE HONORABLE DAN SULLIVAN**
2 **ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY**

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4 **From: ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION**

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6 **Subject: Bi-annual Anchorage Park Foundation Board Report on**
7 **Park Investments**
8

9 2014 marks the tenth summer construction and volunteer work season
10 for the Anchorage Park Foundation (APF), and it will be the busiest and
11 most efficient yet. APF utilizes all varieties of private and public funding
12 sources and volunteer hours to accomplish park improvements and fund
13 recreation opportunities – this year APF will fund 33 park improvement
14 projects. APF meets donor and volunteer needs by leveraging funds
15 through this unique public-private partnership. We know you agree that
16 APF’s ability to engage the community in meaningful ways, inspire
17 nontraditional partnerships, stretch a dollar, attract grants and introduce
18 new donors to projects, **produces park and trail results.**

19
20 APF partners with municipal staff to implement projects. The board
21 appreciates the support of the Anchorage Assembly and the Municipality
22 of Anchorage staff as we seek supplemental resources and community
23 support for parks, trails, and recreation programs. **Our joint successes**
24 **have led to an increase in community ownership of our system of**
25 **parks and trails.**

26
27 APF will sponsor **33 construction projects for summer 2014** between
28 our neighborhood parks, challenge grants, *Youth Employment in Parks*
29 projects, and other special community park projects. Included in this
30 suite of projects are: seven **playground** installations or renovations, an
31 ADA-compliant dock installation at Jewel Lake Park, stabilization of Ruth
32 Arcand Park Equestrian Trails, and a kinetic art installation along the
33 Tony Knowles Coastal Trail.
34
35

1 APF's work has resulted in private, federal, and state investments, plus
2 a tremendous amount of volunteer support. Since its inception, APF has
3 raised more than **\$26.5 million** for Anchorage Parks. APF has
4

- 5 • raised \$8,708,938 in **private dollars**;
- 6 • leveraged \$6,976,676.03 in **volunteer time and materials**;
- 7 • secured a total of \$2,451,224 in **Rasmuson Foundation** grants
8 (pledged funding if we meet their specified challenges);
- 9 • secured \$7,535,789 in **state capital funds** for reimbursement;
- 10 • and secured \$835,924 in **Federal funding** for reimbursement.

11 Furthermore, APF is the named manager of more than \$920,000 in the
12 2014 state capital budget currently awaiting the Governor's signature.
13

14 APF bridges a gap in government capacity by providing private funders
15 options for giving, with particular focus on enhancing and taking better
16 care of our **neighborhood parks**. Volunteers in 2008 and 2011
17 completed park assessments that gave APF information for fix-it lists
18 and park report cards. Using the volunteer identified park
19 improvements, APF worked with the Parks and Recreation Department
20 and volunteers to substantially renovate 14 parks in 2009, 8 parks in
21 2010, 7 parks in 2011, 8 in 2012, and 5 in 2013. We have 9 Fix-It
22 events scheduled this summer. You are invited to join us and volunteer
23 with your constituents for these projects, each scheduled on Saturdays
24 from 9am-noon:
25

- 26 • Davis Park, May 10 (completed)
- 27 • Roosevelt Park, June 14
- 28 • Little Campbell Lake Park, June 28
- 29 • Arctic Benson Park, July 12
- 30 • Pop Carr Park, July 19
- 31 • Moen Park, July 26
- 32 • Oceanview Park, August 2
- 33 • Balto Seppala Park, August 16
- 34 • Stephenson Park, August 23
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36 In 2013, APF awarded 20 **Challenge Grants** to groups committed to
37 improving a park in 2013 and 2014. Volunteer grantees will match their
38 grants with cash, volunteer hours, materials, or a combination. For more
39 information on any of these exciting projects see

40 <http://anchorageparkfoundation.org/projects/2013challengegrantcampai>
41 [gn.htm](http://anchorageparkfoundation.org/projects/2013challengegrantcampai). Projects include a dog park, a boardwalk, community gardens,
42 and neighborhood parks. Most of these improvements will be completed

1 this summer.

2
3 **Youth Employment in Parks** starts its eighth season in June. Park
4 improvement projects include:

- 5
- 6 • Campbell Creek Bank Restoration at New Seward Highway
- 7 underpass
- 8 • Little Campbell Lake Park Lake Bank Restoration
- 9 • Far North Bicentennial Park Trail Improvements
- 10 • Ruth Arcand Equestrian Trail Improvements
- 11 • Moen Park Trail Construction
- 12 • Chester Creek Trail Vegetation Maintenance
- 13

14 APF is proud to be a champion for the Anchorage Economic
15 Development Corporation's initiative to make Anchorage the #1 city in
16 America to "**Live.Work.Play.**" by 2025. Play is important to thriving
17 cities, and Anchorage parks, trails, and recreation centers are a big part
18 of what this city offers residents.

19
20 The **Anchorage Trails Initiative** of Live.Work.Play. will create
21 meaningful opportunities for businesses and trail users to invest in our
22 trail system, drawing support for the central concept that trails make
23 Anchorage a great place to live. Our trail system attracts talent to
24 Anchorage, which feeds innovation and the economy.

25
26 The **Creative Placemaking Initiative** of Live.Work.Play. will use art to
27 animate and rejuvenate parks, structures, and streetscapes. Projects
28 will bring diverse people together to educate, celebrate, inspire, and be
29 inspired. Over the next 18 months, the Anchorage Park Foundation will
30 host six art installations or events in parks and trails, drawing attention to
31 our public lands and public arts. APF is proud to seed this initiative with
32 a prestigious ArtPlace grant.

33
34 The APF board hereby submits this bi-annual report on the cumulative
35 financial investments in Anchorage Parks and Recreation Programs to
36 highlight the added value the Municipality receives from this nonprofit
37 venture. The board believes strongly that these investments are
38 significant in monetary and social value, and improve Municipal assets.
39 The board acknowledges the Anchorage Assembly as the elected body
40 charged with maintaining our public lands, and looks forward to using
41 this bi-annual report as a means to communicate its contributions the
42 Municipality of Anchorage.

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2 Please stay tuned for APF events with constituents, featuring donors
3 and amazing park volunteers and advocates. APF will host ribbon
4 cuttings, volunteer days, groundbreaking ceremonies, demolition events,
5 opening ceremonies, fundraisers, and park planning meetings. You will
6 be welcome to participate, and celebrate park and trail stewardship.

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8 For more information on the Anchorage Park Foundation initiatives see
9 www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org or call Beth Nordlund at 274-1004.

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12 Prepared by: Beth Nordlund, APF Executive Director
13 Respectfully submitted: Eleanor Andrews, Bill Bittner, Matt Carle,
14 Rick Fox, Ernie Hall, Joelle Hall, Mark
15 Kroloff, David Wight
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18 Attached: **APF 2014 Park Rehabilitation and Construction Projects**
19 **Map**

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21 *Each project represents a different way APF is connecting our*
22 *community. We are bringing our diverse population together for projects*
23 *they care about. From Hillside Trails to Mountainview Gardens to*
24 *neighborhood swing sets, APF has a project close to your heart. APF*
25 *serves as an organizing nonprofit that fosters innovation, reaches out to*
26 *inspire and fund nontraditional partnerships, and produces park and trail*
27 *results.*
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