

Hello Everyone –

Thank you again for attending the Anchorage Parks + Recreation Strategic Plan Update (2009–2014) meetings. We have kicked off the strategic planning process the right way; by **hearing from you** what **your priorities** are for parks and recreation programs in your neighborhoods and Anchorage-wide. We greatly appreciate the time you took to meet with us and look forward to hearing a lot more from you as we plan and implement the next phases of the update process.

Attached you will find draft notes from each of the district meetings and a combined file that includes all meeting notes. Again, these are **draft notes** and we welcome any comments, questions and feedback. The notes are organized by the following categories and issue areas:

Categories (in order of how they appear in notes)

- I. Stories from our Parks
- II. Issues
- III. Goals/Themes
- IV. Strategies
- V. Action Items
- VI. CIP (Capital Improvement Project) List

Issue Areas (not necessarily in order of how they appear in the notes)

- I. Public Participation/Community Involvement
- II. Trails
- III. Open Space/Habitat
- IV. Recreation
- V. Designated Spaces
- VI. Safety
- VII. Playgrounds

These categories and issue areas reflect our first pass at organizing your comments in a way that will help us most accurately and efficiently update the strategic plan. Again, our focus is to update the plan to reflect your priorities for the next five years, 2009–2014. You can access an electronic copy of the 2005–2008 Strategic Plan on the project webpage (more details below).

In terms of next steps, outlined below are some of the tasks we are working on:

1. **Developing Outreach Framework** – this includes making calls to key community, organizational, and interest group leaders to ascertain the best way to get the word out about the Strategic Plan Update and to get more feedback on how to address community concerns re: Anchorage parks and recreation programs. Many of you shared some very good ideas regarding public participation and community involvement during the district meetings. Thank you. We are using many of your ideas to create a model that we're hoping will do a better job of reaching folks that don't normally attend big public meetings. Please call or e-mail if you have other ideas that you didn't get to share at the meetings, or if you have a specific contact person/entity we should add to our list.
2. **Developing Online Feedback Tool** – we have several models that we're considering that will make it easy for folks to log onto our project webpage to submit their thoughts electronically.

3. **Working with Parks + Recreation Commission Strategic Planning Subcommittee** — we met with the Parks + Recreation Commission last week and shared the results of the district meetings. Three commissioners have agreed to form a small subcommittee that will offer feedback throughout the strategic planning process, starting with a work session (not yet scheduled, but hoping for April date!) to review in detail the draft meeting notes. We are also hoping to invite 2 or 3 youth to participate in this work session.

4. **Fully Populate the Project Webpage** — we have a project webpage up and running. Please click here to view, <http://www.agnewbeck.com/pages-portfolio/anch/moa-parks.html>. We are still populating the site and welcome your thoughts on how to make the site most useful and user friendly. Right now, you can access the following:

- a. Pdf/downloadable version of the *2005-2008 Strategic Plan*
- b. Pdf/downloadable version of the *District Meeting PowerPoint*
- c. Pdf/downloadable version of our *current comment form*

As mentioned above, we are researching the best tools for incorporating an online commenting form and will soon be editing and posting an updated (new + improved) version of our comment form.

We are very excited to have had a great start to the strategic planning process and look forward to working with you on the next steps. Here is a sneak peek at our tentative schedule for the next two months:

1. Continue working with community members and other project partners to get feedback and incorporate priority goals, strategies, action items and **(now through the end of May)**
2. Work on draft strategic plan update **(month of June)**
3. Present draft strategic plan to Parks + Rec Staff **(end of June)**

Please do not hesitate to call or e-mail your comments, questions, concerns.

Thanks much,

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