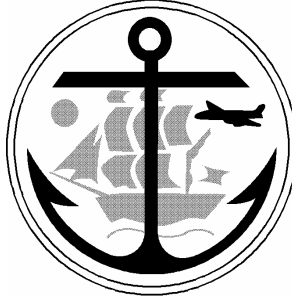


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CITY POSTPONES PARK STRIP PROJECT

Renovation delayed to allow for more community participation

In an effort to give the community more time to submit ideas for improving the Delaney Park Strip, the Municipal Parks & Recreation Department is postponing a major project designed to renovate one of the city's most significant public spaces.

Following a meeting Wednesday night of the Urban Design Commission (UDC), the upgrade will be delayed a year to allow for a more comprehensive discussion of what the Park Strip will eventually look like. The UDC denied the site plan review for the project based on comments from neighbors.

Last month, the United Way of Anchorage and Parks and Recreation announced the "50 Hours of Caring," a Day of Caring project in honor of United Way of Anchorage's 50th anniversary. The plan was to organize hundreds of volunteers to work Aug. 10 to 13 on the Delaney Park Strip and provide an estimated 5,000 volunteer hours.

"We want to ensure the park strip is a good neighbor for nearby residents, while offering the community the chance to have healthy recreation opportunities and fully utilize this historic place in our downtown," Mayor Mark Begich said.

"We understand how vital community engagement is when undertaking a project of this magnitude," said Michele Brown, President of the United Way of Anchorage. "We look forward to re-engaging on this project in some way in the future to commemorate the strong spirit of volunteerism in Anchorage."

As part of the process over the next year, the city has agreed to complete the master plan and use policy for the entire Park Strip which will include a festival policy, as well as a memorial policy. Those were some of the areas of concern expressed by neighbors.

(more)

Delaney Delayed
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“We are grateful to the United Way for its effort to consider the project next year,” said Jeff Dillon, Parks and Recreation Director. “We feel volunteer rich, and with that kind of community spirit and support we can accomplish anything.”

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