

WASILLA CITY COUNCIL ACTION MEMORANDUM

CM No. 98-61

SUBJECT: Skatepark Dates of Operation

PREPARED BY: Administration

DATE: November 16, 1998

FOR AGENDA OF: November 23, 1998

SUMMARY:

See attached information on our insurance company's recommendations on the skatepark.

A review of the Alaska Municipal League "Loss Control Guidelines" for public skateboard facilities. Is further emphasized in a letter dated 11/3/98 from Michael K. Williams.

Mr. Williams makes four recommendations, which refer to:

- (1) making rules
- (2) enforcement of rules
- (3) enactment and publicize efforts of #1 & #2
- (4) a comprehensive facility maintenance

In reviewing with Chief Fannon and Kaye Sloan the loss control guidelines, the following presently exists: AML recommended rules:

- (1) complete facility registration (No)
- (2) wear safety equipment (we recommend)
- (3) enter-exit park designated areas (No)
- (4) no other use permitted (Yes)
- (5) only one per skate board (Yes)

AML recommends signage:

- (1) posted at entrance and throughout (Yes)
- (2) runs to degree of difficulty (No)
- (3) description of each piece of equipment and use (No)
- (4) hours of operation (No)
- (5) place "Inherently Dangerous" signs throughout park (No)

AML recommended protective equipment:

- (1) proper protective equipment should be used at all times (No) (we recommend)
- (2) equipment should include helmets, knee, elbow, and wrist pads and appropriate footwear (No)

AML recommends supervision to:

- (1) monitor usage (No)
- (2) ensure registration (No)
- (3) yearly inspections (Yes)

Amended +

APPROVED

DATE: 11/23/98

BY: K. Yarbrough

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- (4) first aid readily available (No)
- (5) enforcement policies (No)
- (6) accident reporting (Yes)

AML recommends:

- (1) eight-foot fence (No)
- (2) lighting (No)
- (3) locked gates when closed (No)

Reviewing the number of recommendations presently not followed, and the climatic changes occurring this month, it is recommended that the skateboard park be closed for the winter. This is our existing policy for all parks.

That a plan to meet the majority of the AML's recommendations be put into place prior to reopening 04/15/99.

FISCAL IMPACT: No Yes, amount requested: \$ Fund:

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Council to set policy on Skatepark's seasonal operation.



Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor

Attachments: AML Recommendations



November 3, 1998

Kaye Sloan, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
City of Wasilla
290 East Herning Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Dear Kaye:

Thank you for taking time on October 21, 1998, to review the City of Wasilla's skateboard program, and walk through the new park. Your continuing efforts in minimizing exposure to the city, and reducing injuries to park users are greatly appreciated.

After review and consultation with several "outside" entities that have proven, mature programs, the AML/JIA recommends the City of Wasilla implement the following elements to gain further protection from liability, and to help assure that exposure to injury of users is minimized:

Recommendation #1

Require use of helmets, wrist, elbow, and knee protection by all users, at all times, when on the skating surface (concrete) of the park. In addition, require all visitors, whether skating or not, to wear helmets at all times when on the skating surface of the park.

Recommendation #2

Coordinate with local law enforcement to affirmatively and regularly patrol the park, specifically to enforce recommendation #1.

Recommendation #3

Develop, pass, and publicize a city ordinance that clearly spells out Recommendation #1 and Recommendation #2.

Recommendation #4

Develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive facility maintenance program.

Recommendation #5

Officially close the park for the winter, commensurate with the closing of other park units.

The above recommendations are not intended to prohibit or discourage additional efforts, such that parent groups, school groups, community watch and similar users may develop.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Williams

Michael K. Williams, Risk Manager
Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Association, Inc.