

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Focus, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 92-012162****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

Focus, Inc. - Community Playground Equipment and Upgrades

State Funding Requested: \$34,000**House District: Anchorage Areawide (16-32)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

A dual community-supported playground upgrade project that is inclusive of children of all abilities. It will take a currently heavily-utilized park and add modern equipment that enhances the park experience for children and families.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$140,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$105,250)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$34,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$750

*Funding Details:**For Detail See Attached Fundraising Schedule**\$30,250 raised since December 2011**\$25,250 pledged for In-Kind Services from various community businesses**\$55,000 predicted funds with agreements in the works at this time**Predicted Non-State Fundraising Total is \$105,250***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

Currently the site chosen for this all-inclusive playground is located in Eagle River in its already existing town square park. This park is a beautiful public park which is utilized by thousands of people every year. It is the host to many large, annual community events, such as the June Bear Paw Festival which draws nearly 40,000 people; the Winter Wonderland event which draws nearly 1000 people from around Eagle River and Anchorage.

While the park does have existing playground equipment that will still remain onsite, the equipment is not fully inclusive to ALL children and is outdated. Our goal is to add All-Inclusive playground equipment to foster participation from ALL children including those who are disabled. We can help eliminate barriers for children with disabilities and allow them to interact with other children and their families in a safe and supporting community-enriching environment. When completed, this playground will be the only one of its kind in Southcentral Alaska. While thousands already use this popular park, usage of the playground will undoubtedly increase with these improvements.

Focus, Inc. has received permission along with substantial support from the landowner which is the Municipality of

Anchorage. The Municipality has agreed to cover the costs of planning and designing the new playground addition.

Once completed, the playground will be incorporated into the Municipal of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department. That department will be responsible for maintenance and funding. The Eagle River Area Rotary Club and the FOCUS parents group will provide labor for maintaining the playground as needed at the request of the Parks and Rec director.

Project Timeline:

Completed: Planning and Design by Boutet Company

Ongoing: Fundraising, Volunteer Recruitment & Monthly Playground Mtgs

February 2012: Design Day Community Meeting

April: Order playground equipment

June 2012: Build Date target

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Seth Kelley

Title: Executive Director, Focus, Inc.

Address: 11901 Business Blvd, Suite 209

Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Phone Number: (907)694-6002

Email: skelley@focusoutreach.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

Questions from Kaboom! and Answers from Project Leaders

1. Please briefly describe your organization's mission and the overall scope of your organization's programs and services.

Rotary is a worldwide network of inspired individuals who translate their passions into relevant social causes to change lives in communities. Individual Rotary clubs work within their communities to address community needs both locally and internationally. Rotary has six areas of focus recognized as community service priorities: Peace and conflict resolution; Disease prevention and treatment; Water and sanitation; Maternal and child health; Education and literacy; Economic and community development. This project will certainly fall within our focus priorities in that the playground will enhance both the health and education of the children in our community through the interactive play among those children with physical and/or developmental challenges and those not so afflicted.

Help Text: Give KaBOOM! a snapshot of why your organization exists. What do you hope to accomplish? If your organization is fairly new, give us an idea of why it was created. Explain any unique programs or services available to your constituents.

6. Does your organization have experience with other community supported projects? If so please describe this experience. Be sure to include examples of how community members participated and how you fundraised for your project.

Help Text: Has your organization ever planned an event for the community served? Explain. This can include anything from a neighborhood block party to How were members of the community involved? Who was the target audience? Did you have to raise money? If so, how did you fundraise and how long did it take to reach your financial goal?

9. Describe your plan for the maintenance and upkeep of your playground. Specifically, who primarily will be responsible for the maintenance and how will maintenance be funded?

Once completed, the playground will be incorporated into the Municipal of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Department. That department will be responsible for maintenance and funding. The Eagle River Area Rotary Club and the FOCUS parents group will provide labor for maintaining the playground as needed at the request of the Parks and Rec director.

Help Text: Playground safety extends far beyond planning and Build Day. How will you take care of the playground once it's constructed? Is there a specific committee that will manage maintenance? Are they volunteers or will they be paid? Who is responsible for maintenance funding?

4. Describe what currently occupies the site where your playground will be built, other play areas that are nearby and the type of usage you would expect your playground to get. If there is no equipment, describe the site of the new playground. Is it within a public park? On school grounds? Are there any nearby playgrounds? If so, why is your new playground necessary?

Currently the site chosen for our all-inclusive playground is located in Eagle River, Alaska, a small community near Anchorage, in the already existing town square park. This park is a beautiful

public park which is utilized by thousands of people every year. It is the host to many large community events that take place on an annual basis. Those events include the Bear Baw Festival which takes place in June and draws nearly 40,000 people from all over the state of Alaska along with or Winter Wonderland event which draws nearly 1000 people from around Eagle River and Anchorage. The park does have existing playground equipment which you can see in the attached photos. However this equipment is not fully *inclusive* to ALL children and is outdated. The equipment is safe and properly maintained so it will remain on the site. Our goal is to add *All-Inclusive* playground equipment to foster participation from ALL children including those who are disabled. By incorporating this type of playground into our community we can ensure that ALL children can play and interact. We can help eliminate barriers for children with disabilities and allow them to interact with all children in a safe and supporting environment. This type of playground is necessary because there are currently no playgrounds in South Central Alaska that go above the accessibility and into the inclusive model. Usage of the playground is expected to be very high. Thousands of people already enjoy the park as is and by adding all-inclusive equipment the usage will easily double.

5. Does your organization own the land? Do you have permission to build? Please provide relevant documentation or plan of action to obtain appropriate permission.

Our organization does not own the land. However, we have received permission along with substantial support from the land owner which is the Municipality of Anchorage. The municipality has agreed to cover the costs of planning and designing the new playground addition. See attached letter.

8. Please describe how you will use the KaBoom? community-build model for your playground project. Specifically, how will community members be involved in the fundraising, planning, and marketing for your playground as well as their involvement in the actual playground build.

Our group will fully embrace the community-build model for our playground. Rotary's mission includes many of the same components of this model which include enhancing the health and education of the children in our community and community development. We will also utilize the resources available to us through the playground project manager as we work through our project. Specifically, we have already organized our initial committee to start our project and through this committee we will focus on involving our community to form supportive partners and willing participants. We will hold a design day meeting in February to bring together the community as a whole and gain the partnerships needed to build a successful playground. At this meeting we will organize teams of people to get volunteers, fundraise, plan and market in order to reach our build date of June 1st, 2012. The initial committee has been meeting on a monthly basis since December of 2011 and will continue to meet monthly until the project is finished. Rotary also meets on a weekly basis and a portion of each meeting will be set aside to update members on the progress of the project. Volunteers will be recruited throughout the months of February, March and April. A publicity plan is in the process of being created and

Equipment will be ordered in April. Equipment meetings with interested parents and vendors from Landscape Structures have already taken place and will continue to take place as we get closer to our order dates.

10. If you do not receive this grant, describe your plan to build your playground.

Our fundraising plan is very aggressive in the fact that our goal is to reach \$100,000 for our playground build and we have several funding sources and options to help us get there. Currently we have commitments from the following; State of Alaska ILP, Chugiak Eagle River Chamber of Commerce, Eagle River Rotary, and FOCUS Inc. We are working on grants with the Rasmuson Foundation, Mental Health Trust, and Chugiak Eagle River Foundation. We have also secured meetings with several corporate donors such as First National Bank Alaska, Matanuska Telephone Association and Enstar. Our fundraising plan includes individual donor strategies to help us get to our goal. Finally we are also planning a community fundraising event that will include a silent auction. In the event that we do not receive a grant from KaBOOM! we are confident that we will reach our goals.

Please briefly describe your organizations mission and the overall scope of your Organization's programs and services.

There are two organizations working together to make this playground a reality. FOCUS, Inc is a principal member of this partnership. FOCUS (family outreach center for understanding special needs) is a nonprofit agency in Alaska that supports individuals and their families who experience disabilities. Our mission: "Provide quality support to individuals and families by respecting their values and sharing their hopes" is the foundation on which we build all of our programs. Our agency works with over 350 families a year.

FOCUS has two major programs. One, our Infant Learning Program works directly with families of infants age birth to 3 with delays in a wide variety of areas. Our team of 10 therapists work jointly with parents to develop the skills and supports needed to ensure healthy growth for their little ones.

We also work with youth ages 3-22 that have continued needs, these needs range from developmental delays, mobility issues and diagnosed conditions such as Down's syndrome or autism. The average age of the people we serve is 15 and this has led to the creation and success of our After School program, Summer Camp and our newly formed Art Coop, focus: art.

Our goal as an agency is to support and develop a community that fully includes and involves all people especially those residents who experience issues related to development development, mobility issues or other disabilities that need accommodation or understanding. This project is a demonstration of the fantastic fit our work is for the community of Eagle River.

Describe the community you serve, the neighborhood in which you plan to build your playground, and the kids who will use the playground.

Eagle River (please describe):

Currently FOCUS serves over 200 children (birth – 15) with disabilities. The disabilities range from mobility issues, communication issues to more involved diagnosis, including Down's Syndrome and Autism. As an agency we work with families and other agencies to build a community that includes all children no matter what their skill or developmental level. Playgrounds are a place where if given the opportunity all children can play and interact. If we as a community take steps to make playgrounds accessible and inclusive for all kids we eliminate barriers and allow all children to interact. This has another huge effect on our community. Many times a mother has to leave her one child in the wheel chair while the other child plays, or she is isolated with her son or daughter on an accessible swing while other children utilize all of the equipment. Playgrounds are also a place where parents can socially connect with their friends while their children are engaged in constructive play. We believe this playground is a means to give this interaction to all parents as well as all children.

When this plan was originally developed parents were excited to see something like this come to Eagle River. When Rotary announced their support and the fact that they would adopt this as their community project several parents expressed their gratitude in letters and heartfelt thanks. In fact several parents have spoken to the Rotary and presented at places like Eagle River Chamber of Commerce to express how positive this would be for their lives.

Will your playground be open to the public? Please describe

Yes the primary focus of our agency and our project is to build a playground that is not only open to the public but is structured in a way to be fully inclusive. The equipment we are using for our design, the companies we are selecting, and the partnerships we are forming are all built on the premise that this playground needs to be for **ALL** children. The park that the playground will sit on is already a beautiful park utilized by thousands of people every year. It is also the host to many large community events from Christmas Tree lighting to the Bear Paw festival. By establishing this type of playground we are demonstrating a belief that as a community we can do more and support better the residents we have, no matter what their diagnosis.

Please describe what steps your organization has taken toward you community build playground project so far. Include in your answer a description of any design day activities, fundraising efforts, volunteer recruitment and any other planning steps your organization has taken in preparation for your playground project.

The project originated with an idea from parents receiving services at FOCUS. In South Central Alaska there are currently no playgrounds that go above the accessibility and into the inclusive model. This limits children from being able to play with their peers and it isolates children and their families from participating in many of the activities families look forward to doing. The FOCUS parent group brought the idea to the Eagle River Rotary to see if they would be willing to support our project. They have taken

the project as their primary community project. So far we have developed an agreement with the municipality of Anchorage to utilize the space. The municipality has agreed to cover the costs of planning and designing the playground as part of this collaboration. We have teamed with Landscape Structure and have held three informational meetings to understand the full scope of inclusive play and to start the design of our project. Our own parent group developed the list of equipment we would like to see in the playground. This list is driving the design and the usage of the park space.

For fundraising both Rotary and FOCUS have developed a fundraising plan. This includes two community events hosted by Rotary. We have also begun writing for grants to the Alaska Mental Health Trust of Alaska, Rasmuson Foundation and of course, Kaboom. We have currently raised \$25,000 towards the project without designs. At the point we have the designs complete we will work towards increasing our corporate donations and utilize the grants and private donations to bring our total to \$100,000.

Let's All Play in Eagle River Meeting Schedule

August 4, 2011: 1st Playground Committee Meeting

- Kicked off the project with a discussion of what we wanted to do, working with the Muni and possible funding sources

September 29, 2011: Joint Chamber/Rotary meeting, discussed park project and had a FOCUS parent speak about raising a child with special needs.

October 24, 2011: Fully Inclusive Playground Equipment Meeting

- Rotary members and Focus staff learned about different types of fully inclusive equipment and the benefits

November 10, 2011: Rotary Project Committee met with ER Parks & Rec

- Discussed the project and where it would go and the support that the city would provide

November 29, 2011: Fundraising Planning Meeting

January 5, 2012: Met with Jason Smart of Rasmuson Foundation

January 26, 2012: Updated ER Rotary Club on project status

January 31, 2012: Met with Natasha Pope of First National Bank Alaska

February 8, 2012: Met with Mental Health Trust

February 19, 2012: Presented project to Joy Lutheran Church

Let's ALL Play in Eagle River Budget & Fundraising Plan

Budget

ITEM NO.	WORK DESCRIPTION	UNIT	EST QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL ESTIMATE
E-1	Obtain and Manage SWPPP	LS	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
E-2	Type IIA Structural Fill	TON	300	\$30	\$9,000
E-3	Site Grubbing/Clearing/Tree Removal	LS	1	\$5,000	\$5,000
E-4	Disposal of Unusable or Surplus Material	CY	300	\$28	\$8,400
E-5	Purchase Play Equipment	LS	1	\$40,000	\$40,000
E-6	Play Equip Installation includes shipping	LS	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
E-7	Asphalt Trail	SY	35	\$45	\$1,575
E-8	Playground Curb	LF	200	\$25	\$5,000
E-9	Safety Surfacing (Soffall)	SF	3,700	\$5	\$18,500
E-10	Misc Grading, Topsoil, Seed, Etc.	LS	1	\$1,000	\$1,000
				Total	\$100,475

Fundraising Plan

Source	Amount	Notes
Rasmuson Foundation	\$ 25,000	Will apply for a grant from this Foundation, will know within 90 days of application. Very confident that we will receive this. Have contacts with this organization and have been encouraged to apply.
Alaska Mental Health Trust	15,000	Will apply for a grant from this Trust. Very confident that we will receive a sizeable donation from them. Have contacts with this organization.
Alaska Infant Learning Program	5,000	Already have commitment from them.
1-2 Major Corporate Sponsors	10,000	In progress (MTA, FNBA, BP, Conocco)
FOCUS, Inc.	10,000	Playground Partner
Kaboom!	15,000	Apply Jan. 13, know within 5-6 weeks
Eagle River Rotary Club	5,000	Playground Partner
Chugiak/Eagle River Chamber of Commerce Slippery Salmon Grant	2,000	Already have commitment from them.
Chugiak/Eagle River Foundation	2,000	Local Foundation that has many Eagle River Rotarians as trustees. Very confident that we will receive this. Will apply by Jan. 25 meeting and will know shortly thereafter.
Local Donors	5,000	Already have raised \$1,400
Eagle River Rotary Member Fundraising	18,000	All 36 members of Eagle River Rotary will be tasked with raising \$500 through their own donation, family members donations, friends and local businesses.
Total	\$ 112,000	

To help facilitate the fundraising that we need Eagle River Rotarians to raise we will be setting up a website at firstgiving.com, which is a great way to make giving easy for people in the community or out-of-state. In addition, Eagle River Rotary's most current Past President is the current President for our local Chamber of Commerce so we will have great access to the business community.

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE



Mayor Dan Sullivan

January 12, 2012

Eagle River/Chugiak Rotary
Attn: Debbie Rinckey
PO Box 773423
Eagle River, AK 99577

RE: Eagle River Rotary Playground Project

Dear Debbie,

I have reviewed the final budget and revised drawing from the Boutet Company for the Eagle River Rotary Playground Project which you emailed yesterday.

Your organization has permission to fundraise for four (4) pieces of accessible playground equipment to be installed within our park by a certified playground safety inspector ensuring they meet the manufacturer's specifications and National Playground Standards.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to working with the Eagle River Rotary on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie Barkley".

Valerie Barkley
Manager

cc: John Rodda, Director
Jacques Boutet, Boutet Company

From: Brad & Tonya Gamble [gamble@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 4:06 PM
To: Seth Kelley
Subject: Rotary's Financial Support of Let's All Play in Eagle River

On behalf of Eagle River Area Rotary Club, we fully support the Let's All Play in Eagle River playground project. We think this is a very needed resource in our community and will be used for years to come. We have pledged \$5,000 of our club funds towards this project and have to date raised an additional \$2,000 from members. We expect to raise more from members in the next couple of months.
Regards,

Tonya Gamble
Eagle River Area Rotary Club President

Chugiak-Eagle River
Chamber of Commerce
CER Town Center
12001 Business Blvd Suite 108
PO Box 770353
Eagle River, AK 99577
907-694-4702
info@cer.org www.cer.org



February 2, 2012

To: All Non-profit Grant & Capital Funding Agencies

FROM: Susan Gorski, Executive Director

RE: Eagle River's Let's All Play! Playground Project

On behalf of the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce 25 member Board of Directors, and its 375 general members, it is with pleasure that I recommend consideration of grant funding approval for the "Let's All Play!" Eagle River Project. The project is being developed jointly by the Eagle River Rotary and Focus Inc., our non-profit agency that provides services for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

It is in the belief that public facilities should be available to all people that this project was conceived. As such, community-built play spaces can serve to unite people and forge a connection between youth and adults. At present, there are no fully inclusive playgrounds in the state of Alaska and thus the directed energy to develop such a facility. Our Chamber is supporting this project with our own independent fund-raising event and encouraging our local businesses to participate.

Of particular note is that our Chamber is very cognizant of the tremendous community service work done by our Eagle River Rotary which has positively affected the quality of life for everybody in Chugiak-Eagle. Additionally, we are very proud of the work done every day by Focus Inc. – they serve to improve the lives of those with developmental disabilities. We encourage any and all funding considerations for this worthy project. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$100,000.

I would be happy to discuss both agencies' track records on service delivery. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 694-4702.

With regards,

Susan Gorski
Executive Director



FOCUS, Inc.

Family Outreach Center for Understanding Special-Needs, Inc.

To Tonya Gamble,

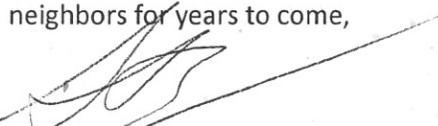
This letter is in support for the "Let's ALL Play, Eagle River" playground project. As Executive Director of Focus, Inc. I fully support this endeavor. Our agency serves infants, children and families dealing with disabilities. We serve over 400 families annually in the Eagle River/ Chugiak community and this project will accommodate all of them.

The most important aspect of this program is that it brings together all of our community to positively affect the lives of individuals experiencing disabilities. By taking an active role in this work and tying it to a youth activity, like a playground, it will have lasting positive effects for both individuals with disabilities and for the community as a whole. A playground is a gathering place of children and their parents, many youth with mobility or cognitive issues cannot participate in this type of play. It also holds back family engagement when one sibling can enjoy the facilities while another is confined in a wheel chair.

It is also incredibly important for children to interact with other children. By having individuals with disabilities fully engaged with other children we build a community based on understanding, tolerance and appreciation, not on stereotypes and segregation.

After reviewing the KaBoom program I feel that this project aligns with both the mission and the overall goal of that organization. I cannot think of a better way to combine all aspects of family and community connectedness into one project.

Thank you Eagle River Area Rotary for all your hard work and determination to improve the lives of your neighbors for years to come,


Seth Kelley
Executive Director
Focus, Inc

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:

State Capitol, Room 409
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3783
Fax: (907) 465-2293
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Interim:

10928 Eagle River Road, Ste. 238
Eagle River, AK 99577
Phone: (907) 622-3783
Fax: (907) 622-3784
Toll Free: (877) 460-3783

REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

October 10, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the Eagle River Area Rotary Club's effort to build a fully inclusive and accessible playground on Eagle River's Town Square Park.

Chugiak-Eagle River has long been recognized as a community that values and supports families, where thousands of children take advantage of the many local opportunities for healthful, outdoor recreation. However, there are over 500 children with disabilities who don't have a place where they can go outside to play safely with their friends and families.

Working with Focus, Inc., the main service agency providing services for children with disabilities in the area, and Eagle River Area Rotarians have set an ambitious but achievable goal of improving Town Square Park, the green space at the heart of our community, by building playground equipment that will be fully accessible to all children, including those with disabilities.

Rotarians estimate they need \$40-50,000 to buy and install the equipment, and make landscaping and other modifications to the park to ensure it meets all recreational and legal standards. They hope to raise the money this fall and winter, begin installing the equipment this spring, and open it up to the children next summer.

In addition to their own efforts, club members are getting help from many other local organizations and individuals, including fraternal, service, professional and church groups. Such cooperation is making the project a truly-community based effort that reflects the region's strong record of support for children and families.

I hope you can join me in supporting the Eagle River Area Rotary Club's project with your dollars, your labor, or your good wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dan Saddler".

Representative Dan Saddler
House District 18



Alaska State Legislature

Representative Anna Fairclough — House District 17

October 14, 2011

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the efforts by the Eagle River Area Rotary Club to build a fully inclusive and accessible playground on the Eagle River Town Square Park.

The Chugiak-Eagle River community values what it means to be a family and the ability to participate in outdoor activities with our families. There are currently over 500 children with disabilities in the Eagle River area who don't have an accessible place to play that is adequate for their needs. The playground would be a gathering place for our residents and an opportunity for children with disabilities to play alongside fellow children.

There is broad support for this playground, but we cannot do this alone. With an ambitious goal of \$40,000-50,000, the Rotary certainly has its work cut out. I am confident through available grants and generous Alaskans this goal can and will be achieved.

I look forward to driving by Town Square Park and watching the children and their families play and interact with one another and build relationships that will last a lifetime. Thank you for your time considering this request. Together we can make this dream a reality for so many children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna J. Fairclough".

Representative Anna Fairclough
House District 17- Eagle River

LISA MURKOWSKI
ALASKA

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR,
AND PENSIONS
INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0203
(202) 224-6665
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510 L STREET, SUITE 600
ANCHORAGE, AK 99501-1956
(907) 271-3735

101 12TH AVENUE, ROOM 329
FAIRBANKS, AK 99701-6278
(907) 456-0233

805 FRONTAGE ROAD, SUITE 105
KENAI, AK 99611-9104
(907) 283-5808

4079 TONGASS AVENUE, SUITE 204
KETCHIKAN, AK 99901-5526
(907) 225-6880

851 EAST WESTPOINT DRIVE, SUITE 307
WASILLA, AK 99654-7142
(907) 376-7665

December 16, 2011

Tonya L. Gamble
Eagle River Area Rotary Club
Post Office Box 770893
Eagle River, Alaska 99577-0893

Dear Tonya:

Thank you for informing me of the Eagle River Area Rotary's effort to build a fully inclusive and accessible playground for the use of all children including those with disabilities. This is a wonderful and worthwhile project.

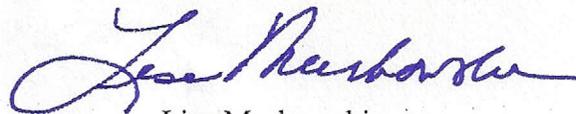
Chugiak-Eagle River has long been recognized as a community that values and supports families, where children take advantage of the many local opportunities for healthful, outdoor recreation. These outdoor recreational opportunities need to be more available to the more than 500 children with disabilities.

I commend the Rotary's collaboration with Focus, Inc, the main service agency providing services for children with disabilities in the Eagle River area to set such an ambitious goal of improving the Eagle River Town Square Park by building playground equipment which will be available to all children.

It is always comforting to me as an Alaskan to witness the combined efforts of many local fraternal, service, professional and church organizations as well as local businesses and individuals directed toward such a worthwhile goal.

My best wishes for your success.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

January 8, 2012

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to pledge my support for the Eagle River Area Rotary Club's efforts to build an all-inclusive playground on Eagle River's Town Square Park.

We have been discussing the need for this playground and the possibility that the local Rotary Club could lead the effort for some years now. To my knowledge, no such facility exists in the Municipality of Anchorage. It's time has come.

In preparation for this, we have already had discussions with many of the local fraternal, civic, and service organizations. One of the first groups we met with was the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce creating excitement and support from that group. They are designating the funds from their annual Slippery Salmon Olympics to this project. As the current Chamber President, I can pledge my commitment to do my best to keep the Chamber informed and engaged as we move forward. I have no doubt we will succeed.

We have also garnered support from the local council of the Knights of Columbus. This project was of such interest that their Grand Knight recently joined our club. The Council is a strong supporter of Special Olympics and their immediate past Grand Knight has a child with autism. This project is a perfect fit and of unique interest to them. With over 100 active members, we can count on them providing a significant amount of volunteer effort whether it's for fundraising or construction support.

Eklutna Inc, is our local native corporation. They are significant land owners and own quarries in the area as well as Eklutna Services, their subsidiary for construction. As the original General Manager for Eklutna Services, I have remained in close contact with the CEO of Eklutna and will work with him for appropriate financial and in-kind support.

For 4 years, I was the Executive Director of a leading non-profit charitable organization in Anchorage. I know the community and understand how fund-raising works here. The Rotary Club's Committee for this project is already in touch with all the right foundations, potential major corporate donors, and benefactors. They are already doing everything right and I will contribute where I can to help keep it that way. Kaboom was my first suggestion, but the Committee Chair, Debbie Rinckey was already knowledgeable and conducting additional research to improve the probability of success.

I am also a member of the Municipality of Anchorage's Planning and Zoning Commission. Although this project will not come before the Commission for approval, my role here has given me experience and an understanding of the Municipalities procedures. I will help navigate this process as needed.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Mulcahy

Let's all Play!

Eagle River



January 31, 2012

Eagle River Area Rotary Club
PO Box 771992
Eagle River, Alaska 99577

Dear Community Partner,

Eagle River Area Rotary is partnering with FOCUS, Inc. for an exciting project this summer in Eagle River. We are going to build a fully inclusive playground addition to the small playground that currently exists at Town Square Park. When this project is completed in June, it will be the first fully inclusive playground in the State of Alaska!

Eagle River Rotary has a long history of community service in the Chugiak/Eagle River Area community. For the 35 years of our club's existence, our club's main focus has been children and we have several programs that we conduct annually in the local schools to help our local children recognize and reach their full potential. In 1986, our club built the original Town Square Park (Rotary Park) on a one-acre plot donated by the Municipality. The Municipality added on to the project and that park is still a jewel of Eagle River.

Now we want to make it even better. The equipment we are using for our design, the companies we are selecting, and the partnerships we are forming are all built on the premise that this playground needs to be for **ALL** children. Community-built play spaces unite people and forge a connection between youth and adults. By building a fully inclusive playground we are demonstrating a belief that as a community we can do more and support better the residents we have, no matter what their diagnosis.

We hope that you would like to be a partner in this project as well. The build will be advertised throughout the Chugiak/Eagle River community for several weeks before the event. This project stresses community involvement and produces visible, tangible, unifying outcomes that you and your employees will be proud of for years to come. Our levels of sponsorship are:

Superintendent	\$10,000 +
Foreman	\$5,000 - 9,999
Engineer	\$1,000 - 4,999
Journeyman	\$ 500 - 999
Apprentice	\$100 - 499

Please contribute to this community project and make a positive impact on our local youth.

Sincerely,

Tonya Gamble
President, Eagle River Area Rotary

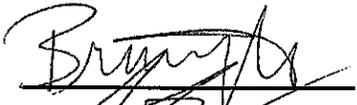
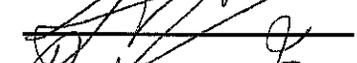
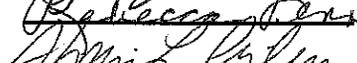
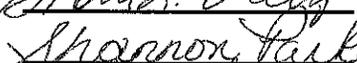
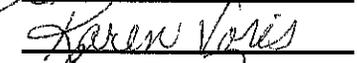
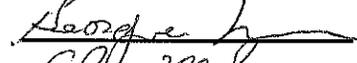
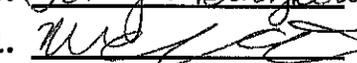
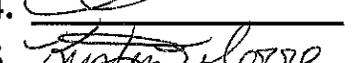
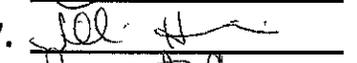
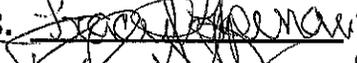
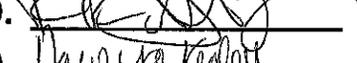
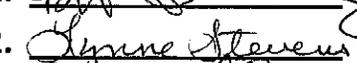
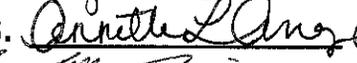
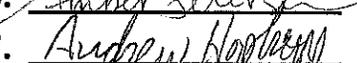
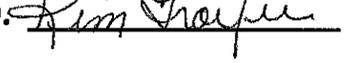
Eagle River Area Rotary Club Tax ID# is: 36-3980694.

Let's *all* Play!

Eagle River



Please sign below if you are in favor of obtaining a grant from KaBoom to build an inclusive playground in Eagle River for families of children with and without disabilities.

Signature	Print Name	Date
1. 	Brittany Reed	1/9/2012
2. 	Seth Kelly	1/9/2012
3. 	Rebecca Fenn	1/9/12
4. 	Sherri Criley	1/9/12
5. 	Shannon Parker	1/9/12
6. 	KAREN VARIS	1/9/12
7. 	Georgiana McCanne	1/9/2012
8. 	Charis Maschouca	1/9/12
9. 	TERON PIRETTI	1/9/12
10. 	Tonya Buczkowski	1/09/12
11. 	Margaret Edwards	1/09/12
12. 	Natalie Brucher	1/09/12
13. 	TERESA HEAD	1-9-12
14. 	Cary Moore	1/9/12
15. 	Kris Moore	1/9/12
16. 	Russ Hart	1-9-12
17. 	Jilli Hiramis	1-9-12
18. 	Tracey Spunangle	1/9/12
19. 	ROBERT R. STIRLING JR	1/9/12
20. 	Vanessa Kedem	1-9-12
21. 	FAITH KELLY	1/9/12
22. 	Lynne Stevens	1/9/12
23. 	Annette Angel	1/9/2012
24. 	Allen Frazier	1/9/2012
25. 	Rosalind Spiker	1/9/2012
26. 	Amber Petersen	1-9-12
27. 	Andrew Hopkins	01/10/12
28.	LIZETTE STICHTER	01/10/12
29.	Courtney Hopkins	1/10/12
30.	Kim TROVER	1-10-12

Project Total Cost: \$140,000

Funds Raised or Solidly Committed to Date:

Rotary Members	\$ 1,750
Community members	\$ 1,000
First National Bank Alaska	\$ 2,500
Alaska Infant Learning Program	\$ 5,000
Chugiak Eagle River Foundation	\$ 2,000
Chugiak Eagle River Chamber of Commerce	\$ 2,000
Subway Donation	\$ 1,000
Focus	\$ 10,000
Eagle River Rotary	\$ 5,000

In-Kind Work Pledges:

from Knights of Columbus, Rotary and Boys Scouts of Eagle River	\$ 25,000
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Other Predicted Funding in the process:

Mental Health Trust	\$ 10,000
Rasmuson Foundation	\$ 25,000
MTA	\$ 5,000
Enstar	\$ 5,000
Rotary members	\$ 5,000

EAGLE RIVER/CHUGIAK PARKS & RECREATION
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Regular Meeting Minutes – January 16, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Eagle River/Chugiak Parks & Recreation (ERCP&R) Board of Supervisors convened on Monday, January 16, 2012 at 7:05 p.m. at 12001 Business Blvd, Suite 170, Eagle River, Alaska. Vice Chair Gale Armstrong called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Gale Armstrong, Chugiak Community Council, Vice Chair
Ms Lexi Hill, Birchwood Community Council
Ms. Lora Reinbold, South Fork Community Council
Ms. Amy Dembowski, Mayor's Appointee
Mr. Michael Miller, Eagle River Valley Community Council (not official yet)

John Rodda, Director
Val Barkley, Manager

III. MINUTES

The November 2011 minutes were approved.

IV. APPEARANCES

Seth Kelley – Barrier Free Recreation Update

Focus took over management of the Barrier Free facility in Beach Lake Park in November. The caretakers (Ann and Rob Wells) moved out, and new caretakers (Doug Myers and Anna Hochscheid) are in. The new board wants to turn around the finances of the facility – it has been losing money. They renegotiated the caretakers' agreement, went through an energy audit and are making improvements as recommended. They plan on having their summer camp there this summer. We discuss a bypass for lake users to avoid facility users. Focus will be removing the smaller dock. They are also working to switch to an online reservation system. Gale asks if the rental period will remain from noon to noon. Seth says that the electronic system will hopefully let you choose the times you want, they want to accommodate the times that people want to rent. Gale asks about the caretakers duties. They will do weekly checks on the facility, to make sure everything is on good order. Focus is hoping to use the site for some vocational training; their clients can train on cleaning, laundry, etc. For snow removal, P&R takes care of the road and the parking lot; Focus has a contract for plowing the access road in front of the building; caretakers will shovel off the boardwalk.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Trail Oversight Committee – Trail Maintenance & Conditions

There is plenty of snow. The map of Mirror Lake trails now shows the new connectors. Crews have been working to clear downed trees, getting them out of the trail; they will be cleared up this spring/summer. The fence at Oberg is gone and will need to be replaced. At Loretta French, the score keeper's box was uprooted off of its pilings and blown around. We will revise the Loretta French work accordingly. Our challenge has been snow removal. Our personnel have done a good job of maintaining the hazardous walking routes. John met with Mark Littlefield about adding new routes near Driftwood Bay (Glacier to Icefall) and to the end of Yellowstone from Yosemite. The Yosemite one will be problematic for where to dump the snow. This will start next fall. There are now 19 segments for Hazardous Walking Routes; we get \$30,000 currently, but that will go up. Michael asks how the new routes affect the man-hours available. On atypical snow year it will add about 4 hours (equip and operator) for each snow

event.

B. McDonald Center Repairs and Expansion Update

All was going well with the expansion until the snow and wind started. Everything had not been closed up, so they've had some challenges. We still anticipate an on-time completion.

1. 1% for Art – The group decided to do tiles on the side of the building near where you walk into the building. The installation will be 3' by 8', with 4 large panels inlaid into the existing tile, with light on each piece. There will also be a smaller mural indoors commemorating Harry J McDonald on the community room wall.
2. The bay we have been using in Gem Auto Body is no longer available to us as the snow load has damaged the building. The engineer's report said that the other areas are usable but ours is not. We've made arrangements to move our equipment to the 4th bay (working with volunteer fire department). The McDonald center expansion will include a maintenance shop, so that will solve our problem soon.
3. John recommends we combine re-doing the Mac Center parking lot with re-doing the driveway from the Old Glenn. It will cost about \$450,000. We have the capacity in our current expansion budget funds to do this, but it's an addition to the scope of work. ***Lexi moves that we combine the parking lot rebuild and the driveway access upgrade into one asphalt project. Amy seconds.*** Lora asks why we have money for this but did not have it to expand the building to make the indoor soccer field regulation size. John says that to make the building bigger would have cost \$1.1 million, and that it will be far cheaper to add this to an existing project than to do it as a separate project. Lora asks if this expansion will add to maintenance costs. John says that we will have a flat surface with good drainage, so it will save on maintenance and be safer and better for the public. ***All in favor, motion passes.***

C. Skate Park – Update none this month

D. Wallace Homestead – Update

It is on the legislative request for \$6 Million. Tom Harrison called John, and they had a brief conversation, but at the moment we will wait and see what happens. Lora asks what happened at South Fork community council. Bill Tucker says nothing much happened there, because they already have a resolution supporting state acquisition if not municipal acquisition. There was a short discussion around the issues we have heard before.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2012 Operating and Capital Budgets

These are approved. In the Operating we made challenges to the mechanics vacancy factor and on IGS; we have been told they will be corrected at first quarter revisions. Debbie Ossiander helped with that negotiation. In the Capital there was a mistake in calculation of mill rate recovery, and there will also be a first quarter revision to fix that.

B. HLB Parcels for Sale – Muldrow St. (behind McDonald Center).

We are not interested in that large parcel; it wouldn't serve a good purpose with other recreational areas in close proximity. Also the land exchange between DNR, HLB and Corrections is moving forward, although there are no details at this time. Lora said that this

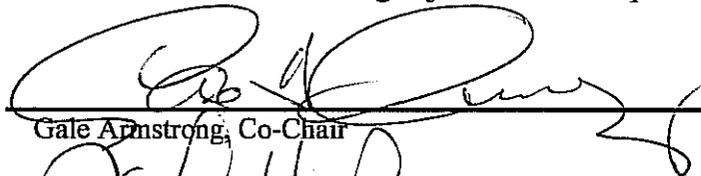
is an important issue at her community council. They are concerned about the 300' buffer for Corrections, wonder where it came from and whether it should be inside or outside the fence. They want to move forward with improving the trails, and settling the land issues is part of that.

- C. The Boutet Company (Jacques Boutet & Steve Callaghan) are here to talk about their work on our 2012 capital projects. John has asked them to take on 4 projects for this summer: A potential skateboard park adjacent to Eagle River Elementary school; technical support for an accessible playground adjacent to Town Square Park (they will be landscape architect and manage the construction); upgrades to Loretta French fields in anticipation of the new ball club, and completing the lighting of the ski trails.
- 1) Loretta French Park: Upgrades will occur in two phases – one complete before baseball season begins in May and the second after the season is done in July. The key focus of winter design work to take the park from local recreation to semi-pro ball. They have found bleachers to seat 300 that will work with the site; we will need to improve the back stop for the older, stronger players. The press box was taken out by windstorm. It had been planned for expansion anyway; they will do a new, larger press box, and will integrate a sound system that will reach the bleachers but taper off at the edge of the field. There will be a flagpole on the far side of the field. That will be the spring work that must be done in time for the season (June 1). In the fall, they will work improve the chain link dugouts to become enclosed dugouts. Possible 2013 work will include a new concession stand. Gale asks if there will be a way to control access and charge admission. John says that that has been discussed, as have other creative ideas for how to raise revenues (sponsorships, etc). Gale asks if the concession stand is usable. John says that they are considering a 2-story concession stand in the long run.
 - 2) Town Square Park: The project is evolving. This will be the first accessible playground in Anchorage, if it is done this summer. Jacques thinks it will draw regionally. Eagle River Rotary is working with Focus, TBC is the technical advisor, and will eventually develop the drawings and be the architect of record to ensure the project stays in budget and to specs, and is safe and accessible. It's a privately funded improvement to a public park. The drawing provided is the most recent design. One of the issues they face is to not conflict with the existing sledding hills. The drawing shows where new equipment would go near the existing equipment. We will need fully accessible pathways leading into the area; the surface must be safe for falls as well. They are looking at \$150,000 for the equipment and construction; our contribution is to pay for TBC's work on this. TBC services typically cost about 8% of project cost, so about \$12,000 (plus or minus). Rotary's fund raising plan is \$112,000 so far. They may ask the legislature if they need to raise more. Their inclusive (rather than just accessible) plan is for all the equipment to be attractive (and accessible) to all kids. Amy asks about the time line. TBC wants to be prepared to break ground this summer assuming fund raising goes well. Steve mentions that if everything is here (equipment, Sof-fall) it can be built in a week. Typically, something is late, and construction is planned for 30 days and contracted not to exceed 45 days. Lora mentions Conoco-Phillips Day of Caring, who often work on playgrounds, as a way to cut costs.
 - 3) Beach Lake Trail lighting: We have about 180 fixtures out there now, with some deferred maintenance issues. The plan is to replace them with LEDs, and we should see a significant decrease in energy costs for the same light. We don't anticipate new poles, unless poles have reached the end of their safe life and need to be replaced. The master's program (Jim Kasuba) let us know that most of their skiers liked the LED lighting; 5 of 24 disliked it as too white, bright, harsh and cold. John Boone did us a great favor helping us get started, but we have since discovered some deficiencies in our

original plan, so we are going to try to do this correctly. The luminaire costs will be what we anticipated. We have taken John's information, and Jim Parker (TBC engineer) will create a scope of work and fully loaded cost to complete this project as envisioned. By the February meeting, we should know what this project will cost, and the estimated change in energy costs. We will not have to add load centers, but there are some wiring issues to address. Once that is done, we will need to decide where to light next. Mirror Lake is a possibility, and the ERHS trails could be depending on land trade status and ASD. Barbara Trost asks if the Hill Loop, since it's in NW quarter, was intended to be not lit, as the master plan calls for minimal improvements in the NW quarter. John believes that provision was intended to refer to new trails in that area, and that the plan's intent included fully lighting the existing trail system. Lora and Jacques discuss the ski club's perception that more poles would be needed, but LED lighting technology as really improved. Amy would like to know how long the reduced energy and service life costs will take to recoup the capital improvements. We also discuss the color perception that makes LEDs look and feel different to use, and some people don't like what they are not used to. People who aren't used to it don't know the difference. The industry is moving toward LEDs so we will have to go that way anyway, as the old lights won't be produced. This is the first in the city; it works as a prototype for doing this on the Hillside lights.

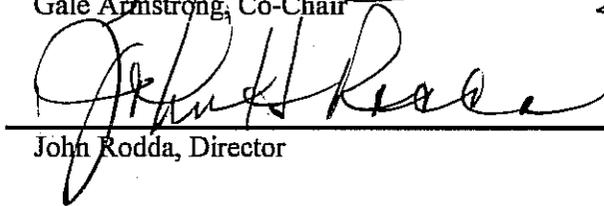
- 4) Skateboard Park: This project is on the back burner right now. Steve shows us an aerial photo of the area and orients us to the parking lot and skateboard park near the tennis courts south of Eagle River elementary. They plan to use the elevation changes on the parcel as opportunities for a half-pipe, fly-box, bowl, steps, and other appropriate structures.

ADJOURNMENT - the meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.



Gale Armstrong, Co-Chair

2/20/2012
Date



John Rodda, Director

2-20-12
Date