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INFORMATION RELEASE

May 4, 2017

About 300 attend Rebuilding Project Playground meeting, BP announces donation match
Volunteer steering committee will coordinate playground design and community rebuild

The City and Borough of Juneau thanks the roughly 300 people who attended the Rebuilding Project Playground meeting Tuesday night at Centennial Hall. On April 24, the playground at Twin Lakes was destroyed by a fire.

“We’ve been overwhelmed by all the goodwill shown by Juneau residents, businesses and organizations. Project Playground was originally built by the community, and the community remains passionate in rebuilding it,” City Manager Rorie Watt said.

Moving forward, a volunteer steering committee will be formed to help with project planning, design and logistical coordination. Community members expressed a desire to modify, improve or expand on the original playground design. Rebuilding will likely start next spring. A website is in the process of being created and more information on how to get involved will be available shortly.

“We are grateful for all the original volunteers of the project. Many have been instrumental in helping CBJ figure out next steps and are continuing to give time and energy to the new project,” Watt said.

CBJ is insured for the full replacement value of the playground after a \$100,000 deductible, although any improvements or expansion to the playground may not be covered by insurance. The projected cost of rebuilding is still being determined.

CBJ thanks everybody who’s contributed funding to rebuilding efforts. The Juneau Community Foundation, which is managing donations, has received about \$12,000 so far. Tuesday night, BP offered to match donated funds up to \$25,000. For individuals or groups conducting separate fundraising efforts, CBJ requests those funds be directed to the Juneau Community Foundation. Please go to juneaucf.org or drop off/mail checks to JCF’s office at 350 N. Franklin Street, Suite 4, Juneau, AK 99801. The goal is to raise \$100,000.

CBJ is conducting environmental tests on the site, including the soils underneath the area, to determine how best to proceed with a clean-up. More information on timing and process will be released as the details are available. Parks & Recreation anticipates the Twin Lakes shelter will be available for reservations starting June 1.

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For more information, contact the City Manager’s office at 586-5240 or Parks & Recreation at 586-5226.