



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019 – 6PM
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM 224

I. Call to Order at 6:01 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: J. Anderson, K. Duncan, J. Gellings, C. Mertl, W. Muldoon, E. Palmer, T. Rutecki, K. Shelton

Absent: E. Carrillo

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Alix Pierce, Project Manager; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison

II. Agenda Changes – None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from November 6, 2018 – J. Anderson moves to approve the minutes; no objection. *Minutes adopted.*

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items –

A. Susan Schrader (2611 John St.): I am a 27 year resident of Juneau and I am here tonight to speak to the adoption of the Treadwell Mine Historic Site and Trail Plan the PRAC adopted recently. I want to remind the PRAC that Treadwell Trail is hugely popular and I encourage the PRAC to keep users in the loop regarding further development of the park. There needs to be meaningful public process for notification and comment. CBJ needs to consult with the Douglas Indian Association (DIA), the original land owners. While additional improvements at the park are far off in the future, or at least piece-mealed as funding becomes available, the procedures and process to deal with new projects proposed by the Treadwell Historic Society should be clearly developed now. Some recommendations I have is for the PRAC and CBJ should encourage the Society to publicize their plans; update their website and indicate who their current boards of directors are. The Society and CBJ should consider consulting in an on-going manner with the DIA. The society and CBJ should perform soil sampling for toxins in the uplands soil before any additional soil disturbance is undertaken. The Society, CBJ and PRAC should make greater efforts to reach out to the user groups of this park, the Douglas neighborhood and CBJ residents.

C. Mertl: Are you recommending the PRAC continue more planning and developing in the Treadwell area?

Susan Schrader: No, what I am suggesting is for you to include the public in future plans.

V. New Business –

A. Park Foundation Update

G. Schaaf: Ian Fisk is unable to join us tonight but they are actively working on a lot of exciting stuff to support parks in Juneau. We will invite him back another time.

B. ADOT Twin Lakes Culvert Replacement Easement

G. Schaaf: We have Dan Bleidorn from the CBJ Lands Dept. here to talk about a request from the AKDOT&PF for various easements across CBJ land at Twin Lakes to improve storm water drainage along Glacier Highway.

D. Bleidorn: I am the Deputy Lands Manager for CBJ Lands and Resources Dept. and we have a request for four permanent easements and a couple temporary construction easements by the AKDOT. The purpose of the project is to improve the drainage system. DOT is requesting two temporary access easements which will allow for persons and equipment to traverse the area to and from the culvert that is being improved. The four permanent easements are for existing culverts where the culvers extend beyond the existing recorded easements. There will be no construction activity in the permanent easement during this project. Lastly, they are requesting a temporary construction easement for maneuverability. We are asking the PRAC to provide a recommendation to the Assembly to grant these easements.

K. Duncan: The fecal situation in the lake, can we try to find why? We have isolated the culvert.

G. Schaaf: We did some DNA testing of water samples in the lake this summer. We tested for human, beaver, gull, duck, dog and some others. The primary hit was for dog and second was gull. There was no trace of fecal human DNA. We are going to do this test again this summer.

C. Merti: That slope is pretty well infested with Japanese knotweed which Parks & Rec has been doing a lot of work to try to control it. I just want to make sure there is some type of control of it with these easements.

Benjamin Storey (AK DOT & PF): The areas where the culverts will be dug up, there is no existing knotweed. Currently, DOT statewide allows us to have third party operators apply herbicides in our right-of-ways.

J. Anderson: I make a motion the PRAC recommend that the Assembly grant two temporary access easements, four permanent easements and a temporary construction easement requested by the AK DOT & PF for culvert rehabilitation at Twin Lakes.

Unanimous consent; motion passes.

VI. Unfinished Business –

A. Parks & Recreation Master Plan

G. Schaaf: Our Parks & Rec Master Plan for 2019-2029 is substantially complete and I am absolutely delighted. The amount of public comments and consultation we received was truly epic thanks to Alix. The survey results we got from the McDowell group have provided a lot of great data for us going forward. Alix will talk about all the comments we received from the user groups and PRAC since the first presentation in October.

A. Pierce: I don't think we have ever gotten this much input from the community in a plan we have done. Post draft, we sent the final version with the final recommendations out to all the user groups we consulted; we received their comments and made changes. We received a lot of input from staff on this and came up with something that would be user friendly to the staff to implement these changes in the future. The PRAC Special Committee edited this document line-by-line and included a lot of valuable input. I do believe we have included our public and user comments to the best of our abilities by balancing our needs and requirements to serve

the public as a department. The next step is for the PRAC to move this forward to the Planning Commission and then the Assembly for adoption.

E. Palmer: I would like to recommend adding a second table of contents grouping everything about ZGYC for example which would make it user friendly.

A. Pierce: That is something we can easily do. We will be putting out a press release this week and advertise the dates for the Planning Commission and Assembly for the public.

E. Palmer: I make a motion the PRAC recommend that the Assembly adopt the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and I ask for unanimous consent.

Unanimous consent; motion passes.

VII. Department Information Items –

A. PRAC Park Tour & Retreat:

G. Schaaf: This is an opportunity to come up with a work plan for the PRAC. I want to familiarize what's the PRAC role and how it plays into the Department. We included a facility (DPAC) and park tour in the morning around the valley and then go into the retreat at noon.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— Welcome Kirk Duncan.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: Met with the City Manager who is working with the board on the new ordinance.

YAB – T. Rutecki: Tom will remain Chair for another year; grant applications are out to the public.

Eaglecrest – E. Palmer: It is learn to ski/snowboard month; wants a joint meeting with PRAC.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— VACANT

JNU Urban Forestry – C. Mertl: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: Started informally using Anchorage Foundation park report cards.

Treadwell Arena Board – VACANT

TrailMix— K. Shelton: None.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Other Member Business – None.

Adjournment – 7:01 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 1/21/2019