



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019 – 6PM
CITY HALL CHAMBERS

I. Call to Order at 6:00 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

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

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison; Jordan Nigro, ZGYC Manager; Keri Williamson, Engineering

II. Agenda Changes – None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2019 and January 13, 2019 – E. Palmer moves to approve the minutes from January 8, 2019; no objection. *Minutes adopted.* W. Muldoon moves to approve the retreat minutes from January 13, 2019; no objection. *Retreat minutes adopted.*

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items –

A. Saralyn Tabachnick (PO Box 20809): I am here on behalf of AWARE. A few years ago we built a supportive transitional housing facility across from Twin Lakes. We have a totem pole that is in the works by a master carver out at UAS. We approached Tlingit & Haida and Parks & Rec to partner with us about placing the totem at Twin Lakes so the entire community can experience healing.

G. Schaaf: We have had a couple site visits out at Twin Lakes with Saralyn, Tlingit & Haida, the carver and Corvus Design. We have a good location selected and we're waiting for some drawings and more details before we come to the PRAC for a recommendation.

V. New Business –

A. Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail Repairs

K. Williamson: I am a project manager in the Engineering Department and we're planning on relocating a portion of the Kax Trail away from the eroding banks of the Mendenhall River later this year. The trail was started in 1995 and finished in 1996 by DOT and was federally funded. In 2018, the entire southern end of the trail was closed after the last jökulhlaup busted through the oxbow. The work we're planning on doing this year is the reroute at the southern portion of the trail. About 150 feet has gone into the river and an additional several hundred feet are at risk of falling in. We're looking at aligning the reroute along the social trail that is already cutting through the meadows but not interfering with the field of fireweed that is a huge draw for tourists. We're about 80% of the way through the design phase of the project. We have additionally applied for federal funding with the Transportation Alternative Program (TAP); it would

include reconstruction and improvements along the rest of the paved trail in 2020.

J. Gellings: How much reclamation is going into the old trail?

K. Williamson: We're going to remove the asphalt and use a lot of the material below.

C. Merti: Reed canary grass in the old material being spread to the new trail is an issue.

K. Williamson: The existing trail, everything on top will be thrown away, it's mainly all invasive. But below that will be good material for the new portion of the trail. Any material we suspect to be invasive, we will use in the area of the trail that is already full of invasive plants. The goal is to not spread any invasive along the new alignment.

J. Anderson: I make a motion that the PRAC recommends that the Department relocate a portion of the Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail due to erosion from the Mendenhall River. Additionally, the PRAC recognizes that repairing the Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail is a high priority, and supports the CBJ's nomination of this project for funding under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).

Unanimous consent; motion passes.

B. Capital Improvement Program FY2020-25

G. Schaaf: We have submitted the Departments CIP request to the Engineering Department. At the retreat, the committee expressed support in retaining the funds to develop an OHV park; I confirmed in our CIP accounts that we have \$100,000 available for that project.

J. Gellings: If the Department's entire request was granted for deferred maintenance, would the Department have capacity to do it all?

G. Schaaf: Yes, we would be able to.

Traci Gilmour (9343 River Ct. Way): I'm glad to see the fields are listed on the CIP but I am not seeing surface material change for the fields. Are there any plans for new dirt?

G. Schaaf: Our source for the material on our fields is now gone in Juneau. We have tried different experiments and it didn't work well at Savikko Park. What we have been doing is buying chemical additives to add to the fields to dry them out, it's not cheap and the volume we need it high.

Traci Gilmour: Is there any thought of trucking dirt in? There are surfaces materials elsewhere around the state that I can research?

G. Schaaf: Yes, that would be great.

J. Anderson: I move the PRAC recommends that the Assembly retain previously appropriate CIP funds for development of an off-highway vehicle (OHV) park while those efforts continue.

Unanimous consent; motion passes.

W. Muldoon: I move the PRAC recommends that the Assembly approve the Parks & Recreation Department's CIP plan for the FY2020-25.

Unanimous consent; motion passes

C. Amalga Meadows Public Use Cabin

G. Schaaf: In September 2018, I presented the public use cabin out at the Eagle Valley Center. This would be the first public use cabin on CBJ Parkland. The current proposed location for the cabin is on a small beach that's private from the larger Eagle Landing beach. We would require construction of a new 500 feet long trail to the cabin which TrailMix said wouldn't take too long. The cabins we envision are similar to the Eagle Beach cabins; they're a proven design, economical

and easy to build. We're still researching the heating source and restrooms. As for funding, the Juneau Park Foundation and Juneau Community Foundation have expressed interest in funding a good chunk of this project. We're also looking at doing a tier 1 grant with the Rasmuson Foundation. On the revenue side, we want to keep the cabin affordable and accessible for the community. We're hoping to get a recommendation from the PRAC to move forward with this project.

E. Palmer: It's important to keep it affordable. I move the PRAC recommends that the Department proceed with construction of a public use cabin at Amalga Meadow's Natural Area Park.

Unanimous consent; motion passes

T. Rutecki: I move the PRAC supports the Juneau Park Foundation and Juneau Community Foundations application for funding from the Ramuson Foundation to construct a public use cabin at Amalga Meadows Natural Area Park.

Unanimous consent; motion passes

D. 2018 PRAC Annual Report

C. Mertl: This is provided in your packet and I will be presenting it to the HRC in February after the board approves it.

No changes, 2018 Annual Report approved.

E. PRAC Elections & Liaison Assignments

T. Rutecki: I nominate Chris Mertl for Chair of PRAC. *Board approves; C. Mertl accepts.*

E. Carrillo: I nominate Josh Anderson for Co-Chair of PRAC. *Board approves; J. Anderson accepts.*

W. Muldoon: Nominates himself to be the 2nd Co-Chair. *Board approves.*

C. Mertl: Liaison assignments are — Lands Committee, C. Mertl; YAB, T. Rutecki; Aquatics Board, W. Muldoon; Eaglecrest Board, E. Palmer; JOAAB, E. Carrillo; Park Foundation, C. Mertl; TAAB, K. Duncan; Trail Mix, K. Shelton; 1% for Arts, J. Anderson; Urban Forestry, J. Gellings.

VI. Unfinished Business – None

VII. Department Information Items –

A. Chicken Yard Park:

G. Schaaf: We have met individually with the owners of 626 Fifth St. and with other Starr Hill residents over the months to discuss options that would allow the community to have a safe, functional park and resolve the access issue for the homeowners. We have two options tonight that we feel are a good solution to this problem that are accepted by the property owners that will allow us to move forward with long overdue improvements to the park. Option #1 would provide two designated parking spaces at the entrance to the park and maximizes the amount of space in the park for park improvements; it would contain a retaining wall which makes it a little more expensive. Option #2 would move the parking spaces down to the current grade of the park; it would take up more room in the park but is the cheaper option. These options include an easement for the homeowners of the property; they would own the parking spaces which would stay with the house in any future sales. They would also have a non-exclusive pedestrian access through the park to their property. We would also provide a

\$5,000 one-time payment to the homeowners. In exchange for all that, the homeowners would disclaim all interest in the Chicken Yard Park lots and any claims of prescriptive easement. They would also have to maintain their parking spaces. This was presented to the Lands Committee, the next stop is the planning Commission at the end of the month and then to the Assembly to approve the easement and the payment to the property owners. Lastly, the City Manager has increased our funding requests for playground improvements for chicken yard park to help cover the cost of the construction of this parking area and updating the playground.

K. Shelton: Thank you for tackling this and being responsive to the public and homeowners.

B. Zach Gordon Youth Center Update:

J. Nigro: The mission of ZGYC is connecting youth and engaging community. Our drop-in center has free food, climbing, basketball, a wellness center, homework support, arts and crafts, prevention and much more. Annually, we see around 500 youth and provide 10,000 meals. We also offer summer and spring break camps that are affordable and this year we're changing the ages from 8-12 to 7-11. We are also adding a week of camps for 5 & 6 year olds. Youth Sports is now over at ZGYC and we offer indoor & outdoor soccer (5-14), basketball (5-14) and Start Smart (3-4) for over a 1000 youth in the community. Coming in 2019, we will be offering girls outdoor soccer and youth volleyball. BAM AfterSchool is supported by community partners and volunteers which makes the program free in both middle schools. It serves 25% of middle school students annually and provides fun and age appropriate activities for all. New this past fall, is family engagement which is organized by our AmeriCorps volunteer. We organize four events monthly and have had 280 family members participate so far. This summer will be our fourth summer for Youth Employment in the Parks (YEP) which is a partnership with SAIL & DOL. The program employees' youth 16-20 with disabilities and peer mentor. We have had 25 successful graduates since starting in 2016, with our entire 2018 cohort graduating last summer. They develop hard and soft employment skills, and they have made an impact in many parks throughout the community. We're currently organizing a community wide summer activity expo for the community.

E. Carrillo: I have heard from multiple community members about how they can volunteer?

J. Nigro: We always need volunteers for our BAM Program.

K. Shelton: How do you interact with the early childhood folks?

J. Nigro: We have Start Smart for our littles but we're thinking about creating a program for 2-3 year olds that would be at the center while the older kids are in school.

E. Carrillo: What are some issues that you're facing?

J. Nigro: ZGYC has been part of Parks & Rec since the late 70's. It was originally a non-profit and then Parks & Rec took it over. Over the years, we have added a lot of components. The needs is me trying to grow YEP which is grant funded and I'm concerned about what will happen if the funding goes away.

K. Duncan: What is the relationship with the Friends of Zach Gordon Youth Center?

J. Nigro: When the center was a non-profit and it was turned over to the city, they wanted to keep their non-profit status. They meet quarterly and they actually own the building.

C. Mertl: Do you feel you're providing enough capacity for the demand or are you limited due to funding and/or staffing?

J. Nigro: We do a lot of important partnership work which fills the needs of the community. We have grown so much in the last few years; what we want to focus on now is deepening the work we do. We're working on our new website (CBJKids.org) which will have a shared community calendar for all kids/youth related activities around town. What we don't want to do is push out the kids that really need the space.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— None.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— The Assembly passed funding for the Kax trail; removed the Aquatics Board sunset and added two seats; the Archipelago lot funding has passed; discussed disposing parkland funds and using those funds to fund other parks with the Lands Committee.

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: The Assembly approved the new ordinance; discussing fee schedule changes.

YAB – T. Rutecki: Grant applications are out to the public.

Eaglecrest – E. Palmer: None.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— None.

JNU Urban Forestry – C. Mertl: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: Heard about Chicken Yard Park; Lands Dept. is researching the ownership of the Douglas Cemeteries.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: Pursuing 501C3 status; made a motion to support the EVC cabin.

Treadwell Arena Board – None.

TrailMix— K. Shelton: None.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Other Member Business – None.

Adjournment – 8:13 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 2/19/2019