



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019 – 5:30 PM
CITY HALL CHAMBERS

I. Call to Order at 5:30 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: Josh Anderson, Edric Carrillo, Kirk Duncan, Jon Gellings, Chris Mertl, Will Muldoon, Emily Palmer, Tom Rutecki

Absent: Kirsten Shelton

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Michele Elfers, Deputy Director; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison; Greg Chaney, Lands Manager

II. Agenda Changes – C. Mertl adds Park Foundation update from John Pugh under Unfinished Business. T. Rutecki adds discussion on Fish Creek Natural Area Park under Information Items. J. Anderson moves to approve the amended agenda. *Amended agenda approved.*

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 7, 2019 – E. Palmer moves to approve the minutes; no objection. *Minutes adopted.*

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None

V. New Business –

A. J. Bean Request to Purchase CBJ Property

G. Chaney: The Lands Division received an application from the Bean family to purchase a parcel of CBJ land adjacent to their property at 1070 Arctic Circle in the Brigadoon Estates neighborhood. The lot in question is a 4,518 square foot parcel that was dedicated as “public park” by the Planning Commission in 1983. In the land management plan it is labeled as retain; it was never envisioned to be developed into a playground but more of a vegetative buffer. We are requesting the PRAC pass a motion with a recommendation to retain or remove said parcel from the park system. Does this parcel provide an important park function and should it retain in the system?

E. Palmer: What is the public benefit of disposing this property?

G. Chaney: This could become two lots and increase this from a single family residence lot into two lots.

E. Palmer: What has the process been so far in notifying the neighbors of this potential sale of this parcel?

G. Chaney: None so far. When this goes to the Planning Commission, everyone within several hundred feet will get a notice in the mail.

C. Mertl: I feel we’re setting up a precedence that everyone who is adjacent to undeveloped parkland will put in petitions to buy property. We need to have neighborhood input since it was part of the developed plan of the neighborhood. We

need to develop criteria for land sales.

M. Elfers: The parcel itself is above street level which makes it difficult to develop; we don't see a future use for development of this parcel.

T. Rutecki: I move the PRAC recommends that the Assembly approve the sale of parcel # LND-0419 and the proceeds from the sale go to Parks & Recreation.

E. Palmer: I object to the motion because the public benefit has not been clearly defined and there needs to be public input.

J. Gellings: I object as well; we need to notify the neighbors first.

K. Duncan: I object, on a political standpoint after last night's Assembly meeting.

W. Muldoon: I object, we need to figure out a process.

Motion fails.

M. Elfers: I would suggest the committee to recommend to the department to develop criteria for land disposal for the PRAC to review.

C. Mertl: For future land sales, there needs to be notice, quantifiable criteria and where does the money go after the sale?

G. Schaaf: What I heard from the committee is that you would like to see a plan for public notice, some criteria to make a determination and information on how the funds might be used at the next PRAC meeting.

E. Palmer: I move the PRAC develop some criteria for evaluating park property for disposal; and developing funding mechanism for potential sales to go back to the department. When ready, public notice needs to go out to the Brigadoon Estates neighborhood about the potential sale of the parcel.

***Aye: J. Anderson, E. Carrillo, K. Duncan, J. Gellings, C. Mertl, E. Palmer, T. Rutecki
Nay: W. Muldoon***

VI. Unfinished Business –

A. Park Foundation Update from John Pugh

John Pugh (1011 D. St.): I am the vice-chair of the Juneau Park Foundation. Currently, we are focused on two projects, the Amalga Public Use Cabin and improvements to the Auke Lake Wayside. We're working with the Rotary Clubs who received a \$32,000 matching grant to build the shelter. Hoping to have the shelter built by the end of the summer. We're still working on developing the organization itself. We have two new board members and will be working on updating the website.

VII. Information Items –

A. Fish Creek Park Discussion

G. Schaaf: The Parks & Recreation Master Plan was adopted last night at the Assembly meeting. A table in the plan that identified four parcels of land that could be considered for disposal was discussed. The table reflected input from stakeholders, public process, staff and Manager's Office. Leading up to the meeting, we heard a lot from many concerned community members advocating for parkland in their back yard. Most of the testimony at the Assembly meeting last night talked about the Bay View Area/Fish Creek

Natural Area Park. Many testified about the recreational value and the habitat value of the land that supports the fish creek ecosystem. At the end of the evening, the Assembly agreed to remove the Bay View Area/Fish Creek Natural Area Park parcels from disposal. The other three areas are still included in the plan. Overall the feedback we received on the plan was very positive.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— None

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— Received a presentation from Kollin on aquatics; Aquatics Board appointments have been delayed; discussed and approved the Parks & Rec Master Plan. Planning a rafting trip down the Mendenhall River to see erosion from the water.

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: working on replacing the Aquatics Board; swim lesson prices are increasing.

YAB – T. Rutecki: Discussed two contingency grant requests; awarded them to the Juneau Jumpers and the LEGO League Championships.

Eaglecrest – E. Palmer: None

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— E. Carrillo: None

JNU Urban Forestry – J. Gellings: None

Lands – C. Mertl: Discussed the Bean parcel request.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: None

Treadwell Arena Board – K. Duncan: Submitted annual report, expanding ice from 36 to 38 weeks this coming season. Board recommends 55% cost recovery goal.

TrailMix— K. Shelton: None.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Other Member Business –

Adjournment – 6:55 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 8/20/2019