



MEETING MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019 – 5:30 PM

CITY HALL CHAMBERS

I. Call to Order at 5:31 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

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

Absent: Kirsten Shelton

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison; Dave Scanlan, Eaglecrest Manager

II. Agenda Changes – None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – None

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None

V. New Business – None

VI. Unfinished Business – None

VII. Information Items –

A. Eaglecrest Presentation:

D. Scanlan: Eaglecrest has done a series of master plans & strategic plans over the years and most recently the plans suggest year round use of the area. Today, snow patterns have compressed the season creating financial constraints and a cost recovery of 70%. We target 90 operating days each season but now see the opportunity to expand into summer operations. We're proposing activities for our Eaglecrest Summer Adventure Park which include an aerial gondola to the highest point of the west ridge line, a summit lodge (would include viewing area, concessions, event rooms & rentals), hiking trail improvements, mountain coaster, ropes course, adventure maze, lift served mountain biking, long span zip-line and more (playgrounds, disc golf). This would create 100+ seasonal and year round benefitted jobs which in turn could allow Eaglecrest to be open 7 days a week. For daily summer operations, low projection of 489 daily visitors (\$6.71M revenue) with a high projection of 593 daily visitors (\$8.14M revenue). Total project cost is \$34.8M with the aerial gondola (\$11.2M) and the summit lodge (\$5M) being the biggest ticket items but the most desirable. There are three funding options: 100% public financing, ownership & operation (highest risk, highest reward & full control); 100% private financing, ownership (lowest risk, low reward, low control); dual public-private partnership (sharing risk, sharing control and seeing financial rewards). Currently have a request out for a private partnership which closes on August 12. So far the public response has been cautiously supportive.

J. Anderson: What is the outlook on the funding big picture? Is it all or nothing?

D. Scanlan: if we can secure funding by December, we would plan on breaking ground May 2020. The most successful summer parks have a suite of activities. However, the gondola & summit lodge would be our two key items since they would benefit the winter & summer operations and appeals to a wide range of customers.

W. Muldoon: The current zip line company up at Eaglecrest, are they interested?

D. Scanlan: Yes, we have talked to them and they're very interested in participating.

E. Palmer: PRAC has talked about collaborating, do you see a way in how the two boards could work together and support each other? How do you envision it?

D. Scanlan: The best way is look into trail infrastructure and any programming ideas for youth programs; we would be interested in growth and outreach. We're certainly open to any ideas for joint-collaboration.

B. Land Disposal Process:

G. Schaaf: Since our June meeting, CDD & Law have done more research on the Bean request and discovered the three parcels that are labeled as public parks were part of the planning process which creates complexities when selling the property. Its treated as a right away and we're still working through issues on that specific request. Another question that came up is if whether the proceeds from the sale of lands could be dedicated for the acquisition of new land for parks and/or maintenance of parks. The answer is no per the existing code which requires that all proceeds from the sale of municipal lands be credited to the Land Fund. If the CBJ established a Parks & Recreation Service District, proceeds from land sales could be restricted to that account.

J. Gellings: Are you interested in creating a Parks & Recreation Service District?

G. Schaaf: I would be interested in looking into it.

PRAC: Can you come back with more information on a Parks & Rec Service District?

G. Schaaf: Yes, I can. Lastly, we sat down with our staff & CDD to come up with a better way to address requests to dispose of parkland:

1. The process begins when an application to purchase CBJ land is received by the Lands & Resources Office, along with the required fee
2. Parks & Recreation staff will review the application with other affected departments, including CDD and Law, if necessary.
3. The CDD will review the application to consider relevant codes and area plans.
4. The CDD will work with Parks & Recreation to receive public comment on the application. Public notice may include mailing flyers to nearby property owners, media advertisements, signage, and a public meeting.
5. After public comment has been received, the PRAC will review the application and provide a recommendation to the Department and the Assembly.
6. The Planning Commission will review the application, if required, and provide a recommendation to the Assembly.
7. The Lands Committee will review the application, if required, and provide a recommendation to the Assembly.

8. The Assembly will consider the application and decide whether to retain or dispose of the property.

E. Palmer: I like the process which is clear; I would just like the PRAC to be notified during step 4 if there are any public meetings we could attend.

W. Muldoon: I think it's great; did we get an additional request?

G. Schaaf: We just received a new one which you will be seeing in a future meeting. We're following the new process above.

C. 2019 Day of Play:

L. Verrelli: Our 10th Annual Day of Play is happening on Saturday, August 17 from 9:00am-5:30pm. We have a day full of free activities for the entire family to enjoy from 3 free open swims, 2 free open skates, activities at the ZGYC, City Douglas Museum, Douglas Public Library, Fieldhouse and at Riverbend Elementary School. Our Trucks N' Stuff is a favorite which will be held from 2:00pm-5:00pm in the DPAC parking lot where CCFR, JPD, Capital Transit, Park Maintenance, North Star Trekking and the State Troopers will be joining us.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— None

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— Finalized & approved new Aquatics Board appointments; had a successful ride down the Mendenhall River to see erosion from the water.

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: The old board has ended; the new board is now live with only two old board members. They will be setting new priorities. Lifeguard instruction capacity has doubled.

YAB – T. Rutecki: Currently has two contingencies to review.

Eaglecrest – E. Palmer: None.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— E. Carrillo: None.

JNU Urban Forestry – J. Gellings: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: Currently working on the Auke Lake Wayside shelter; received \$25K grant for the Amalga Public Use Cabin.

Treadwell Arena Board – K. Duncan: Just had the season opener where they debuted their new red line with formline thanks to Abel Ryan and BAM students. They have a new concession stand, LED lights in the entire facility and are looking into the Safe Sport Program.

TrailMix— K. Shelton: None.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Other Member Business –

Adjournment – 7:02 p.m. Having no other business before the board.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 8/20/19