



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

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

Present: Josh Anderson, Jon Gellings, Chris Mertl, Will Muldoon, Emily Palmer, Tom Rutecki

Absent: Edric Carrillo, Kirk Duncan, Kirsten Shelton

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Michele Elfers, Deputy Director; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison

II. Agenda Changes – None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes– None

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items –

- A. Frankie Pillifant (6th St.): I am the Juneau Nordic Ski Club President; we are a volunteer led organization and have 500+ members that pay dues. Volunteers create and maintain routes with some on parkland. Incorporating the youth program under our 501(c)(3).
- B. Odin Brudie (6th St.): We have had volunteer days at the Pioneer Road and Montana Creek Trail brushing, filling in potholes and digging some drainage. Once snow arrives and the gate is closed at Montana Creek Road, we will be grooming almost every day.
- C. Mertl: How can the Department help in collaborating with the Nordic Ski Club?
- O. Brudie: We are always looking for new opportunities for trails.

V. New Business –

A. DOT Easement Request:

D. Bleidorn: We have a request from DOT for an easement for the Glacier Highway Lemon Creek area improvements project. The purpose of this project is to improve the flow of traffic through the area and make it more accessible for pedestrians. They are requesting three permanent easements and three temporary construction easements.

C. Mertl: What happens after temporary easements are completed?

D. Bleidorn: They are supposed to return them to the previous state or better.

W. Muldoon: I move the PRAC recommend that the Assembly grant easements across parklands in the vicinity of Switzer Creek, as requested by the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities.

Motion passes unanimously.

B. 6-Year Department CIP Update:

G. Schaaf: We are about to begin the process of updating our CIP plan and we would like to hear your comments at our December PRAC meeting. We have consolidated three categories of CIP – Sports Field Repairs & Improvements, General Trail Repairs & Improvements, and Park & Playground Maintenance & Improvements. This is a more streamlined way to handle the money, if we have leftover funds from one project, we

can use it on another without having to go to the Assembly to appropriate it.

C. Mertl: Department priorities? Some have numbers and some do not.

G. Schaaf: The ones that have numbers are up for funding in the current FY. Our request to the committee, as our sounding board and representing the community, review our 6-Year Department Improvement plans (2020-2026) and let us know if any priorities have changed and come back with your comments at our December meeting.

VI. Unfinished Business – None

VII. Information Items –

A. Update on Current CIP Projects:

K. Williamson: The Kax Trail is open to the public for the winter; work will resume in the spring. There are a group of CIP projects that are covering five parks (Adair Kennedy, Auke Lake Wayside, Chicken Yard Park, Eagles Edge and Savikko Ballfields). Scoping and surveying of these projects will be done by PVC and construction will happen next year. Overstreet Park pump room emergency work has been completed and we are able to winterize the park. We are still working with the insurance companies.

B. Hank Harmon Rifle Range Management:

G. Schaaf: The Hank Harmon Rifle Range is Juneau's only public, outdoor target and the department oversees the maintenance and management of the range. Since 2005, we have managed the range through an agreement with the Hank Harmon Rifle Range (HHRR). HHRR has been struggling to meet its responsibilities under the use agreement. The IRS revoked their non-profit status in 2010, the Alaska Division of Corporations involuntarily dissolved the corporation in December 2013 and they were unable to reincorporate for 2.5 years. The past year, we have asked to see their financial records, upcoming board meetings and events at the range but all of our requests have been ignored. Our more recent agreement expired in 2017 and HHRR has not signed a renewal, despite numerous requests. Without a signed agreement, we have been operating on a month-to-month basis for over two years. Running a nonprofit organization is not easy and we recognize the generous contributions of time made by HHRR to the range over the years. Unfortunately, the partnership structure is not conducive to collaboration. We have been contacted by a number of range users who are interested in working with us in developing a new partnership in managing the range and making improvements and keep it operating for the public. This winter we will be moving forward with the process to identify interest in creating a new group to manage the range and we will be developing a new agreement.

W. Muldoon: What will be the responsibilities of this non-profit if the department is handling so much already?

G. Schaaf: We have identified a great funding source for range improvements through the Pittman-Robertson grant. Improvements are funded through taxes on firearms and ammunition sales. We would need a group that could help us identify projects and

would collaborate on improvements for the range so we can make it a better place. Lastly, working with the public to keep the range safe.

C. New Parks & Recreation Website Preview:

L. Verrelli: We are on a deadline to move our current website off the current server by the end of this month. The new website has a fresher, cleaner look. We have created quick links on the homepage to direct users to high traffic pages such as the pools schedule, our POS, etc. Other new features include reporting issues in our parks and our Planning & Projects page where we will have updates on current park projects. We will be developing the website out over the months, including adding pages for the Eagle Valley Center, Find a Trail page and our new public use cabin out at Amalga.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— None

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— Participated in the Assembly retreat which was helpful, they do not want to sell parkland; discussing child care concerning town; discussing support of OHV in town.

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: had a board retreat where they set standing committees & ad-hoc's including budget & finance committee, board development committee, and programming/outreach committee.

YAB – T. Rutecki: None

Eaglecrest – E. Palmer: None

Jensen-Olson Arboretum – E. Carrillo: None

JNU Urban Forestry – J. Gellings: None

Lands – C. Mertl: None.

Park Foundation – C. Mertl: None

Treadwell Arena Board – K. Duncan: None.

TrailMix – K. Shelton: None.

1% for Art – J. Anderson: None.

Other Member Business –

T. Rutecki: Would like us to look into the skills & abilities of PRAC members again.

C. Mertl: Wondering what the status of hut-to-hut?

M. Elfers: We just begun our Trails Plan and that will be discussed.

C. Mertl: Park service has a new policy on eBikes and they are allowable; we need to start planning our 2020 PRAC retreat.

Adjournment – 6:57 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager, 1/3/2020