



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020 – 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), Chris Mertl, Will Muldoon, Tom Rutecki

Absent: Jon Gellings, Emily Palmer, Kirsten Shelton

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

II. Agenda Changes – None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A. From November 5, 2019 – W. Muldoon moves to approve minutes; no objection.**
Minutes adopted.

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None

V. New Business –

A. Request for Stephen Richards Roundabout Property

G. Schaaf: DOT&PF has submitted an application to the Lands Department for the Mendenhall Loop Rd. improvement project. The state is requesting to purchase land and acquire easements from CBJ. This request includes a portion of the Duck Creek Greenbelt, which is managed by Parks & Rec as a Conservation Area.

M. Elfers: The land they are requesting is 1.3 acres and classified as a conservation area. Duck Creek runs through the property. In this area the land functions primarily as a riparian habitat, wetlands/greenbelt and adjacent to an anadromous stream corridor. Duck Creek is categorized as a 4A impaired waterbody and water quality standards identified include residues, fecal coliform, bacteria, turbidity, dissolved gas, toxic and other deleterious organic and inorganic substances. It is still considered good habitat for juvenile overwintering salmon.

D. Bleidorn: The property DOT&PF is trying to acquire is ~7,800 sq. ft., the temporarily construction easement is 1,500 s. ft. and the permanent easement is 450 sq. ft.

M. Elfers: Staff invited John Hudson who is a habitat biologist with Southeast Wildlife Council to help us better understand the impacts to this property. As well as, helped us put together some ideas on how we can mitigate impacts to the property with these easements and acquisitions. Staff Recommendations include:

1. Any fill placed in this area will be placed at a 1:1 slope to minimize the fill footprint and loss of habitat.

2. Construct a shallow wetland pond area to provide rearing and overwintering juvenile Coho and other fish habitat adjacent to the creek with surface connection to the creek. This pond can be on CBJ property and it will serve to mitigate the loss of habitat in impacted areas.

3. Remove pavement and fill in the road corridor along the north end of the property in the area where the permanent easement is being requested. A 6' gravel trail can be maintained. Topsoil shall be placed in the remaining disturbed areas and native vegetation appropriate for the anadromous stream corridor shall be planted and maintained for a calendar year to establish growth.

4. Implement green infrastructure for storm water control along this park property. No piped storm water shall enter the property from the road.

Christopher (DOT&PF): in this process, there has been some concern from F&G about overwintering ponds onsite.

J. Anderson: What does Parks & Rec get out of this?

M. Elfers: The benefits that are coming to PR land that will improve the habitat there.

W. Muldoon: What are your concerns about the trail in recommendation 3?

Christopher (DOT&PF): Concerned that we won't be able to do it with the project but maybe through another mechanism with the city that we will discuss in negotiations as a possible alternative.

M. Elfers: Some of the work that is directly tied to the construction may be performed by DOT. Some of the other work that is not directly tied to the construction (1&3) maybe performed by someone else. That would happen in negotiations.

T. Rutecki: I don't see enough information to make the decision today. I want to see what is in the creek now and in the past.

C. Mertl: I support the project and taking an impaired water body and making improvements to it. My caution is that we remove the word "may" and instead use "shall" and "will" so there are arguments that we can stand behind once we go through negotiations and the intent of what PRAC and the department are looking for doesn't get watered down or lost. In concept, I think this is a good idea.

T. Rutecki: I would like to see this come back to us with more information.

Christopher (DOT&PF): The scope of the project was to deal with congestion from Nancy St. to Backloop Rd. The roundabouts created the least amount of land impact throughout the area.

J. Anderson: If we do not get you an answer tonight, will that hold the project up?

Christopher (DOT&PF): We would need to move forward with bidding the project; we aim to breaking ground in April.

C. Mertl: Can we give an answer at our February meeting?

G. Schaaf: We are making a recommendation to the Assembly for these sale/easements. The timing is a little awkward and there is not much to get around that. We are working in good faith that we will both find a good spot to move this forward. This is our opportunity to try to do something more than just the value of the land but to advance the conservation values of the parcel. The recommendation we are looking for is whether you

would like to recommend us to move forward with the negotiations.

M. Elfers: With this request to acquire conservation parkland, we were thinking more creatively to see what we could do that is more meaningful and makes sense for the area.

W. Muldoon: I move that staff requests that the PRAC provided a recommendation supporting that the Assembly dispose of 7,878 square feet to the DOT&PF with the conditions outlined in this memo and upon approval of the Parks & Recreation Director.

Nay: T. Rutecki

Aye: C. Mertl, J. Anderson, E. Carrillo, W. Muldoon, K. Duncan

Motion Passes.

W. Muldoon: I move that staff requests that the PRAC provide a recommendation of support to the Assembly to grant a permanent construction and maintenance easement of 459 sq. ft. and grant a temporary construction easement of 1,543 sq. ft. of Parks managed property upon approval from the Parks & Recreation Director to the DOT&PF.

Motion passes unanimously.

VI. Unfinished Business – None

VII. Information Items –

A. Commercial Use Regulation Update

G. Schaaf: Wanted to give a quick update on where we are at in the process of our commercial use regulation updates. In December we held a public meeting and had a good turnout. We have received positive input throughout the process. We held 5 stakeholder meetings with permittees and a meeting with users. The public comment period closes on January 15. After this closes, we will compile a final draft of the regulation and put it back out to the public for a final 21-day comment period. After that period closes, we will compile all those comments and make any changes. We expect this will be going to the Assembly in early March.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— None

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— Field House contract is coming up. They are discussing if it makes sense that the Eaglecrest Director is running it. I am working with George to create an OHV ordinance, trying to find a piece of land to get the discussion going again.

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: Discussing finances and commercial use.

YAB – T. Rutecki: None.

Eaglecrest – E. Palmer: None.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum – E. Carrillo: None.

JNU Urban Forestry – J. Gellings: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: Creating an easement for Twilight Café; land swap with Aurora Arms to get a driveway to access CBJ land behind it to create long-term housing.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: Talking about cabin coordination at Amalga.

Treadwell Arena Board – K. Duncan: None.

Trail Mix— K. Shelton: None.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Other Member Business –

M. Elfers: We have a handful of public meetings coming up – January 22 is a public meeting on Chicken Yard Park. January 29 will be a public meeting with JMBA about a bike skills park at Cope. February 11 we are hosting a meeting to discuss the Eagle Valley Center & Amalga Meadows master plan.

Adjournment – 7:06 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager, 8/1/2020