



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, July 7, 2020 – 5:30 PM
Zoom Webinar

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

Present: Josh Anderson, Alex Beebe-Giudice, Edric Carrillo, Ron Crenshaw, Kirk Duncan, Chris Mertl, Will Muldoon, Emily Palmer, Tom Rutecki

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. Jenifer Shapland: I sent a letter on June 28 to ask for the closure of the Montana Creek Road. Currently it is unlocked and it is being used by motorized users endangering human powered users and damaging land along the corridor there.

C. Mertl: The letter has not yet been distributed to the entire PRAC, as the Department is working on gathering information for a future meeting.

Jenifer Shapland: What I am asking the department do tonight is to lock the gate while you figure out if it can be unlocked.

G. Schaaf: It is a complicated situation back there. The road is a city street, which then turns into State land at the bridge and then Forest Service land. The city code allows motorized vehicles (ATV & snow machines) to use city streets when they are impassable due to snow and ice. In the summer time, the gate is closed when the caretaker closes the HHRR. One other thing to note, to close a city street, the Parks & Rec Director or the PRAC cannot make that call, the City Manager has to. I have talked about this request with the City Manager and several Assembly members and their desire is for it to come to the PRAC and for the PRAC to consider it. The Department has not had a chance to pull everything together yet but plan to bring it back to the PRAC in August.

B. Wayne Carnes (N. Douglas): I am a member of the JNSC but I am not speaking on behalf of the board. I support all three agenda items next month, I suggest adding a Biathlon Range item, which would be added to the existing rifle range, and be a year round facility.

C. Mertl: Would be best to talk to the Department that can be brought to the PRAC.

Wayne Carnes: For some information on the JNSC grooming on the Montana Creek Road, as far as working with the motorized users, there is nothing formal we have engaged in as a club. For the most part, the powered users stay off the tracks but it is not a 100% thing. There is a kissing gate during the winter months that has been left open, which allows ATV's and snow machines to drive pass the gate. When the ski trails are wrecked, it takes hours of volunteer time to restore the trail to something that can be safely skied.

V. New Business –

A. Welcome, Alex & Ron:

R. Crenshaw: When I moved to Anchorage in 1970 and I got involved with the City of Anchorage Parks & Rec Board. Worked for the State Parks as a park planner and then worked for the City of Anchorage developing trails, parks and land acquisitions. Towards the end, managed the City of Anchorage recreation facilities. After retirement, moved down to Juneau. Personal interests include tennis, skiing, biking, hiking and all outdoor activities. I am interested in planning, sports and avoiding conflict among users.

A. Beebe-Giudice: I have worked in outdoor adventure and tourism all over the state of Alaska. Currently working for ABAK as their operations manager. I want to help the community develop ownership of our natural areas within CBJ. Promoting responsible use and helping commercial operators, private businesses and citizens to join together to enjoy and promote the responsible use of our parks and other areas around town. I love being outside, working with kids and exploring all the great outdoor opportunities.

B. 2019 Annual Report:

C. Mertl: Included in your packet is our 2019 Annual Report.

W. Muldoon: I move that the PRAC accept the 2019 Annual Report.

No objection. 2019 Annual Report approved.

VI. Unfinished Business – None

VII. Information Items –

A. COVID-19 Impacts & Department Operations Updates:

G. Schaaf: In mid-March, everything changed as we shifted gears to focus on COVID-19. We created a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the department to reference. We closed most of our facilities including DPAC, AGB, ZGYC, Mt. Jumbo Gym and suspended all programs and sports. Our parks, trails, playgrounds, the Eagle Valley Center and the Arboretum have remained open the entire time. During the closure, we deep cleaned all our facilities. Staff impacts include 105 employees laid off, 33 employees reassigned and 13 vacant positions not filled. We worked with Juneau Public Health on our phased reopening plans for the department. At this time, DPAC and ZGYC have reopened to the public. The financial impacts are between \$242,000 to \$374,000 loss in revenue but we also have a reduced costs of \$300,000.

B. Capital Improvement Program Update

M. Elfers: The Economic Stabilization Task Force recommended to the Assembly to allocate \$1M of CARES Act funding to a program that would focus on hiring people for workforce development. It is called the COVID-19 Conservation Corps (CCC), which will expire on December 31, 2020. Of that \$1M, \$450,000 went to Trail Mix, \$200,000 to Parks & Rec and \$350,000 went to Eaglecrest. Each organization is hiring people and they will be working around the community focused on outdoor productions and trail maintenance/projects. We put a portion of the money to our YEP Program with ZGYC which allowed them to have two crews this year. Some of the current CIP that are in progress are: 1) Chicken Yard Park improvements will be happening this later summer.. 2) Adair-Kennedy waterline project will be upsizing the waterlines, which will allow the

bathrooms to be used more frequently. 3) Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei Trail was completed in early summer. We relocated the paved trail off the Mendenhall River.

C. Suggest Items for August PRAC Meeting

G. Schaaf: Things that will be coming to the PRAC in the coming months will be the Montana Creek Road discussion, Hank Harmon Rifle Range agreement and mountain biking opportunities.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— A board member requested getting a board email, what would it entail for the PRAC to get one?

L. Verrelli: We would be creating a PRAC email with the juneau.org handle. If anyone emailed it, it would distribute to everyone's personal email. Currently, people who want to contact the board email the main Parks & Recreation email.

D. Cathcart: One thing to think about, any requests for public records would then sweep your personal emails. Empowered Board have these emails but Advisory Boards do not. I would caution you to go down this route.

C. Mertl: The will of the PRAC is to leave it as is.

W. Muldoon: I would like to see all email communications be sent to the PRAC.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None.

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: Discussed pools reopening plans; AGB renovation changes.

YAB – T. Rutecki: \$316,000 of grant money was distributed to the organizations.

Eaglecrest – E. Palmer: None.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— E. Carrillo: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: Eagles Edge land donation is moving forward.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: Coordinating with CBJ on the cabin build.

Treadwell Arena Board – K. Duncan: Talking about reopening plans and roof replacement.

TrailMix— R. Crenshaw: assigned at this meeting.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Other Member Business –

T. Rutecki: I would like to start the discussion again about a location for ORV's in town.

J. Anderson: I've made proposals for all over town and there's always something wrong with the location. I think the City needs to make a proposal to the user group.

G. Schaaf: I would be happy to meet and talk about where we are.

R. Crenshaw: if there is a working group on this topic, I would be happy to participate.

Subcommittee created on ORV: W. Muldoon, J. Anderson, R. Crenshaw

Adjournment – 7:46 p.m. Having no other business before the board.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager, 9/16/2020