



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021 – 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, Makayla Chappell, Ron Crenshaw, Kirk Duncan, Emily Haynes, Chris Mertl, Will Muldoon

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** George Schaaf, Director; Michele Elfers, Deputy Director; Jordan Nigro, ZGYC Manager; Ty Shae, Housing Navigator; Ginger Hudson, Arboretum Manager

**II. Agenda Changes – C. Mertl adds welcome & introduction under New Business.**

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes –**

- A.** From March 2, 2021 – J. Anderson moves to approve minutes; no objection. ***Minutes adopted.***

**IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None**

**V. New Business –**

**A. Welcome, Makayla & Emily**

E. Haynes: I work for DOT and big supporter of all public lands. I am excited to help diversify Parks & Recreation.

M. Chappell: I wanted to get more involved in our community and be another voice.

**VI. Unfinished Business – None**

**VII. Information Items –**

**A. Transgender Anti-Discrimination Policy**

T. Shae: It was clear we needed to have protections in place for transgender and gender expansive youth at the shelter because they have a disproportionate rate of experiencing things like homelessness. As we started discussing this policy, we thought it would be good to have something that is more of an umbrella that could be used for the department. We have a lot of facilities and activities that are gender specific where issues could potentially arise. We wanted to set a tone that our facilities are open to everyone and everyone should feel safe when participating in those activities. The policy is meant to be a general form of protection for transgender patrons and staff members so they can choose whichever facilities or programs are safest for them to participate in without fear of harassment. Having this policy in place will give staff something to reference if issues do arise and need to be addressed.

J. Nigro: We wanted to bring it to PRAC since you are the ambassadors for Parks & Rec; you can help us get the word out so people know we have a plan and people can feel safe using our facilities.

**B.**

W. Muldoon: Thank you, this is a great policy. Was this drafted just in house or has it been shared elsewhere?

J. Nigro: It was drafted in house and it will be brought to Leadership this week.

R. Crenshaw: Thank you for this policy, it is incredibly well written. I have not lived in Juneau that long but I am amazed at what an enlightened community it is.

A. Beebe-Giudice: I am curious of the Gender Support Plan.

T. Shae: It is still in progress but it was developed by an organization called Gender Spectrum that established kids could choose which facilities are best for them. Having conversations with the kids from the start, being aware of the youths gender identity, communicating very clearly all of those boundaries from the beginning to protect the youth as best as we can.

C. Mertl: Does the JSD have a policy?

J. Nigro: The JSD does but this is the first of CBJ.

J. Anderson: In regards to the bathrooms and locker rooms, what happens when someone abuses it?

J. Nigro: We worked with Aiden Key who has been doing work with the JSD and runs an organization called Gender Odyssey. When we first looked into it, we could not really find any verbiage. Aiden said to state clearly in the policy's purpose whom this policy applies to. If an individual is going to abuse it, that would not be handled in the policy. This policy is not written for me and it is very clear whom the policy is written for. We will be doing training around gender identity and gender expression for the department so people will feel comfortable saying this policy does not apply to you. If someone is going to cause a big stink, they can use the non-gender bathroom.

C. Mertl: How many facilities do not have non-gender bathrooms?

G. Schaaf: Going forward, new facilities will have gender-neutral restrooms. I do not expect there is going to be capacity to retrofit a lot of facilities and the policy doesn't require that. The policy allows people to use the bathroom where they feel safest.

W. Muldoon: I move the PRAC support the Transgender Anti-Discrimination Policy and ask for unanimous consent.

*Motion passes unanimously.*

**C. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Update**

G. Hudson: I recently relocated from Anchorage with my husband, Ken. We are thrilled to be here and take care of this amazing, special place. Prior to this position, I had my own landscape design business, taught about gardening and wrote about the environment. I have practiced gardening, landscape design and teaching both here and in Texas. I worked at the Alaska Botanical Garden where I handled special projects sorting out plant material and helping to build plant collections. Thankfully, Merrill did all the hard work and he really built up the infrastructure here. My goal is to work on the education, outreach and plant preservation. So far, we agreed to participate in a bumblebee study conducted by the State of Alaska. Another project that we have been asked to be part of is a worldwide project on the conservation of wild original food plants. One of the many important aspects of having a public garden is to preserve the

spaces and to help educate the public.

C. Mertl: I think it would be great for the PRAC to have a tour of the Arboretum one day.

**D. 2021 Trail Mix Projects**

R. O'Shaughnessy: I am here to fill you in on the impacts we saw from the COVID-19 Conservation Corps (CCC), as well as talk about what we are planning for 2021. Parks & Rec, Trail Mix and Eaglecrest partnered together to create the CCC where the intent of the program was to employ people who were unemployed or underemployed due to the pandemic and put people to work. At Trail Mix, we employed over 30 people. We worked on around 10 trails, most of them CBJ managed trails which brought our season total hours to almost 20,000 hours in 2020. For scale, Trail Mix normally puts about 9,000 hours a year into our trail system. We worked on the Pt. Bridget Trail, Equestrian Trail, Horse Tram Trail, Amalga Cabin Trail, EVC Challenge Course, Auke Bay Elementary School, Ann Coleman Beach Access, Under Thunder Trail, Granite Creek and Red Mill Trails. The bigger intent of this program was to provide different types of trainings including Sustainable Trail Design Courses, Wilderness Advance First Aid (WFA) and mechanical and hand tool techniques. Over 60% of the funding that provided to Trail Mix went directly into employees paychecks. 75% of non-payroll expenditures supported local businesses. Trail Mix's 2021 Work Plan include: a new elevated walkway at the Eagle Valley Center, fix up the Lena Point trail, Christopher Trail, Switzer Creek trail, Amalga Cabin access fine tuning, Duck Creek Wetlands mitigation work and some beach access trails.

C. Mertl: Is CCC happening again this year?

R. O'Shaughnessy: CCC was funded by the Cares Act and federal guidance will be released soon for the American Rescue Plan.

**E. Montana Creek ORV Update**

M. Elfers: Working on getting funding for a Master Plan, which is underway. We have learned that the user groups are interested some land and we have made some headway on some. The piece of land that has a lot of interest is at 35 mile, which has a lot of baseline research already. Starting to discuss what a management agreement would look like and going from there. I will be presenting to the Lands Committee on Monday.

W. Muldoon: Who would retain ownership of the land under the code management plan?

M. Elfers: With the collaborative management agreement, the state would retain ownership of the land and the land would need to be managed in alignment with the Juneau State Land Plan from 1993.

**VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports**

**A. Chair Report**—We'll discuss new liaison assignments at the next meeting.

**B. Liaison to the Assembly Report**— We're in the middle of budget season.

**C. Liaison Reports**—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: Getting close to finalizing commercial use regulations, primary focus was liability and being able to maintain private lessons.

YAB – J. Anderson: Scored all the YAB applicants. We awarded over \$300K to local youth orgs.

Eaglecrest – VACANT

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— E. Carrillo: Meeting next week. In support of getting out to the JOA.

Lands – C. Mertl: Talking about programs to encourage housing development downtown.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: Looking at building a second cabin; a proposal coming for a staircase beautification program. Hoping the neighborhood match grant fund stays in the budget.

Treadwell Arena Board – K. Duncan: Reviewed the Annual Report. Treadwell is now closed.

Trail Mix— R. Crenshaw: Ryan covered it in his presentation.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

**Other Member Business –**

C. Mertl: So many cool things are happening out in our parks and on our trails. My kids are really enjoying all the DIY activities.

**Adjournment – 7:24 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.***

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager, 5/24/2021