



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021 – 5:30 PM
Zoom Webinar

I. Call to Order at 5:31 p.m. – W. Muldoon, Co-Chair

Present: Josh Anderson, Alex Beebe-Giudice, Edric Carrillo, Makayla Chappell, Ron Crenshaw, Kirk Duncan, Emily Haynes, Will Muldoon

Absent: Chris Mertl

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Michele Elfers, Deputy Director; Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager

II. Agenda Changes – None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – None

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None

V. New Business –

A. Unmanned Aircraft Systems Policy

G. Schaaf: As we build out our policy manual for the department. This one came up for a couple of different needs within our department. Our facilities maintenance division is interested in using unmanned aerial system drones to do building inspections and energy efficiency surveys of buildings. The technology that is available today allows them to identify heat leaks, water leaks and restructures. Our parks maintenance staff is interested in using this to inspect field lights and other high areas. Many of our older buildings do not have the appropriate fall protection systems on the roofs. Using the drones would help keep our maintenance crew a lot safer. Drones are also becoming more useful as time goes on to collect aerial photography for all the different purposes that are listed in the policy. We thought it was important to have a policy because we recognize that the use of unmanned aerial systems can cause some concern. We want to address these concerns to any property owners that may have questions to make clear about why we would be using these systems and under what circumstances and restrictions we have. Our first priority is to protect the privacy and safety of our citizens.

W. Muldoon: This pertains to Parks and Rec usage of drones and not with the public?

G. Schaaf: That is correct; this does not affect the public's use of drones on parklands.

R. Crenshaw: George you and your staff are far ahead of the curve on these policies and it is a very impressive policy, and I applaud you for it. I move the PRAC recommends that the Department adopt Policy No. 100-04 (Unmanned Aircraft Systems).

Motion passes unanimously.

VI. Unfinished Business – None

VII. Information Items – Staff Reports

A. Thunder Mountain Bike Trails

M. Elfers: As many of you probably know, mountain biking has become a popular sport. One of the areas that we've seen a lot of trail use is over in the Under Thunder trail area. We have been working with Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance (JMBA); they are our stewards for trail building and trail maintaining. We have a MO with them on this and we've been talking with them on creating an inventory of the existing trails and making a master plan for the trails in that area. The first step moving forward would be planning, looking at what a trail system would look like, rehabilitating existing trails and making sure they're safe and built to design standards. Another important part of a trail system is signage and rating the trails. Making a clear criteria on how to rate the trails, so that people have a better understanding on what they are getting into.

W. Muldoon: Sounds like everything's good in the kind of good neighbor organic policy we've got with JMBA, seems like it should be sufficient?

M. Elfers: Yes, our MO has their role as steward of trails and maintaining trails. The model we have is that they're volunteers to CBJ. CBJ will run any construction and maintenance work and they are the volunteer organization. They help lead planning efforts in town.

W. Muldoon: Sounds like there's also people just making their own trails, and that is okay for CBJ? No one's moving gravel or damaging trails?

M. Elfers: We are trying to get a process created and JMBA is working with the bicycling community. They are working with the City to create a process so that when people are building on city land, that there is communication and coordination going on.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— None

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: Two aquatics board members are departing.

YAB – J. Anderson: None

Eaglecrest – VACANT

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— E. Carrillo: None

Lands – C. Mertl: None

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: None

Treadwell Arena Board – K. Duncan: None

Trail Mix— R. Crenshaw: None

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None

Other Member Business –

R. Crenshaw: I would like an update on Montana Creek from last winter and how that is influenced staffs thinking on what is going to happen this coming winter. Also if we can have a future meeting for the comprehensive motorized non-motorized plan.

Adjournment – 6:01 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Hunter Huddlestun, Administrative Assistant I, 09/23/2021