



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022 – 5:30 PM
Zoom Webinar

I. Call to Order at 5:33 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: Josh Anderson, Alex Beebe-Giudice, Makayla Chappell, Kirk Duncan, Chris Mertl, Will Muldoon

Absent: Edric Carrillo, Emily Haynes

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Michele Elfers, Deputy Director; Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager; Kristi West, EVC Manger, Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Trail Mix Director

II. Agenda Changes – W. Muldoon moves to approve agenda. C. Mertl adds farewell to Mr. Duncan and Mr. Carrillo. ***Agenda adopted with additions.***

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. From February 1, 2022 – M. Chappell moves to approve minutes, no objection. ***Minutes adopted.***

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items –

Joan O'Keefe, SAIL Director, thanked the PRAC and CBJ Parks & Rec Department for getting the Dimond Park Field House elevator added to the CIP list for the FY24 budget.

V. New Business

A. Trail Mix Annual Work Report

Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Trail Mix Executive Director (TM): TM develops a work plan as part of an MOU with CBJ that is updated every five years. Work is accomplished with a combination of paid staff and volunteers. The COVID-19 Conservation Corps program funded by CARES funding proved to be a successful workforce development and job skills training program. Trail projects in 2021 included construction, rerouting, and/or improvements to more than a dozen trails. In particular,

- Portions of Blackerby Ridge trail washed out in the mudslides were refurbished, rerouted or revegetated.
- Work on Lena Point trail improved access to the trail, replaced unsafe boardwalk planks with gravel and constructed a new staircase to replace one that was broken
- Treadwell Ditch Trail improvements included a 46-foot long bridge over Neilson Creek and several smaller bridges were installed or improved.
- At the Ball Lake Trail (Prince of Wales) crew members stapled netting to provide traction to the 1.8-mile trail.
- Bear-proof food storage lockers were installed at Mendenhall Campground
- The elevated walkway at Eagle Valley Center was replaced and the old walkway was demolished.
- Amalga Cabin access was regraded and culverts were added to improve drainage
- Slippery boardwalk was replaced with gravel, a staircase was constructed, and culverts were added to improve drainage along the Point Bridget Trail.
- Perseverance Trail was damaged by rainstorms requiring rerouting and pothole repairs. Improvements will continue in 2022.
- Duck Creek Trail was impacted by the construction of a roundabout. TM created a new wetland.
- TM Partnered with The Rock Dump to improve access to bouldering sites at Tee Harbor

- A section of Switzer Creek Trail was rerouted to protect a streambank and salmon in the area
- Debris from beaver activity was removed and trail was improved.
- A viewing tower was built and a bridge was replaced at Pack Creek.
- Various other trails received general maintenance and upkeep.

Outreach, education and advocacy activities included:

- In Spring 2021, TM advocated for Trails Build Alaska
- Hike For a Pint fundraiser
- Online Auction in November raised \$19,090

Priorities for 2022 include deferred maintenance on the Perseverance Trail and rerouting the lower portion of the Mt. Jumbo Trail.

W. Muldoon: In regard to volunteer compensation, are volunteer hours billed to CBJ at twice the minimum wage similar to regular staff time and does that go toward overhead costs?

Ryan O'Shaughnessy (TM): Yes. Volunteer hours are billed at \$20.68/hour. In the planning and budget process, labor, materials and overhead costs are taken into consideration. Often, the difference between TM costs will exceed the CBJ labor reimbursement. In these cases, volunteer hours are used to make up the deficit. Volunteer reimbursement is billed up to but not exceeding any deficit amounts.

K. Duncan: Thank you for all that you and your staff have done.

B. **Amalga Meadows Master Plan**

G. Schaaf – *Explained the Master Plan process for Amalga Meadows and the Eagle Valley Center has been an ongoing process since 2013.*

Kristi West, Eagle Valley Center Manager (EVC): *Presented the Amalga Meadows Master Plan (AMMP) and gave an overview of the history and recent improvements at Amalga Park.*

M. Chappell: I am really loving what you are doing with the space and am excited for future plans for the area.

K. Duncan: Can you comment on the emails included in the packet and what you are planning to do about that?

Kristi West (EVC): Regarding the email from Chuck Smythe from Sealaska, we have added the Tlingit name for Eagle River (Twisted Tree Dam), Asx'ee to the trail maps for the Amalga Meadows Park. Regarding the email from Kaye Sullivan, the map for Pt. Caroline Trail to Amalga has been changed and does not go through the Huffman Area. One cabin has been built and another may be added. The plan for the trail is to discourage dogs on the trail rather than banning them altogether.

K. Duncan: I have not read the plan in entirety, if we approve it tonight are we addressing the concerns forwarded to us?

Kristi West (EVC): The things that came up were keeping things low impact and not putting a trail through Huffman Harbor. Did we address the suggestions regarding the meadow or cabin locations? No. Put those things are not yet decided and will be addressed in future meetings. The plan is a general direction to go.

K. Duncan: I have tremendous respect for you and what you have done. George, if we approve this plan tonight, are you comfortable with what we will be doing.

G. Schaaf: Yes. The plan provides high-level guidance for future improvements and how to manage the area. The comments and emails were included to become part of the record. This goal of the plan is not necessarily to incorporate every comment. That said, it would be great to get a motion on the plan this evening. If it is decided to take a meeting to decide, that would not be the end of the world either.

A. Beebe-Giudice: I really appreciated the modification of the general proposed route Pt. Caroline trail. I think the neighborhood would like some official commitment included in the master plan to ensure the trail will not be put within the vicinity of the neighborhood.

Kristi West (EVC): If you could email me some wording for that. I think that is reasonable and I would like to move forward with that.

C. Mertl: It might give you some flexibility if you call this a 'management plan' rather than 'master plan'. That might help relieve some of the confusion that this is a more high-level plan.

A. Beebe Giudice moves that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that the Department approve the Amalga Meadows Natural Area Park Master Plan. **Adopted.**

VI. Unfinished Business – None

VII. Staff Reports – None

K. Duncan - How did the surface of the Treadwell ice weather last winter?

G. Schaaf – Due to the cold, dry weather, the ice fared better than in previous years.

C. Mertl – Asked for an update on Augustus Brown

G. Schaaf – The bids received for the renovation far exceeded funding and the bid was canceled.

There is slightly more than \$3 million dollars available. Boiler repairs costing about \$60,000 will be the first priority. Next will be the heat exchanger.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report — Annual report presented to Human Resources Committee. There are two new appointees Danika Swanson and Taylor Murph. Additionally, Will Muldoon will remain for another term. One vacancy remains. Please encourage people to apply.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: They are currently petitioning HRC for a code change regarding the number of members allowed to be affiliated with swim clubs. They hope to have the pools fully open in March or April.

YAB – J. Anderson: Grant applicants attended the last meeting for Q&A.

Eaglecrest – A. Beebe-Giudice: Recently awarded \$2M to fund the gondola.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— E. Carrillo: None

Lands, Economic Developing, Housing – C. Mertl: Gunakadeit Park has been sold. The Parks Department may be able to request the proceeds from that sale and purchase land elsewhere. Revisions to downtown parking regulations were also discussed.

W. Muldoon – Can you expand on the parking revisions?

C. Mertl – It removes the parking requirement in the downtown historic district.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: They are looking for members.

Treadwell Arena Board – K. Duncan: None

Trail Mix— E. Haynes: None

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None

Other Member Business –

C. Mertl and W. Muldoon – Thanked Kirk Duncan for his service to the PRAC.

Adjournment – 7:03 p.m. Having no other business before the board.

Respectfully submitted by *Kathleen Jorgensen Business Assists (907)723-6134* 🍷