



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 2022 – 5:30 PM  
Zoom Webinar

**I. Call to Order at 5:36 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair**

**Present:** Makayla Chappell, Emily Haynes, Chris Mertl, Will Muldoon, Taylor Murph

**Absent:** Josh Anderson, Danika Swanson

**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. JMBA Thunder Mountain Bike Park**

Reid Harris (JMBA) – Presented their proposal to build and maintain biking trails in the area south of Under Thunder Trail. JMBA has been working with Department staff to develop the plan. They have approximately \$10,000 to cover costs and plan to self-fund the development.

W. Muldoon – Describe the up tracks. Will this be only for mountain biking or will other uses be allowed? Is this an expansion of the current existing MOA?

Reid Harris (JMBA) – There is an existing up track that needs some improvement to be ready. Insofar as use, these are being built as biking trails. Pedestrians are allowed but they need to be aware that it is a biking trail. The black diamond (advanced) trails should not have walkers as that would be a safety issue but the novice trails would be acceptable. ORV should not be allowed as they are damaging to the trails. This would be an expansion of the current MOA.

E. Haynes – There are trails are on Forest Service and DNR land. Will CBJ or JMBA be getting the authorizations for those?

Reid Harris (JMBA) – JMBA will be responsible for that.

C. Mertl – Expressed concerns that the Under Thunder trail system is a key trail segment. Is it possible to put in a parallel trail to separate walkers and bikers or some way to safely slow bike traffic at the bottom?

Reid Harris (JMBA) – The trail is already pretty flat and mucky at the bottom so bikers will be slowed by the time they get there. We would not be opposed to a parallel trail.

W. Muldoon moves that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee support the maintenance of existing trails and the development of new mountain biking trails, as illustrated in the Thunder Mountain Bike Park Plan, and recommend that the Department continue working with JMBA.

E. Haynes moves that the motion be amended to include a condition that JMBA obtain and maintain all required authorizations. **Adopted as amended.**

## **B. Juneau Disc Golf Proposal**

James Houck (Juneau Disc Golf) - Presented their proposal to build a temporary 9-hole Pitch and Putt course at Treadwell Mine Historic Park.

Shannon Crossley (Juneau Disc Golf) – Presented the outreach activities of the Juneau Disc Golf club with the goal of teaching new players and making Disc Golf accessible to others.

W. Muldoon – Most of the holes are straight shots. Are there any dog legs in the proposal? How much of the 4 acres would be used?

Shannon Crossley – Does not know the percentage of land usage. There are no dog legs on the proposed putt course.

E. Haynes – Is there a plan for regular inspections or reporting of how things are going during the trial period or would JDGC be willing to comply with such if they were required?

Shannon Crossley and James Houck – Absolutely.

C. Mertl – What do you mean by ‘temporary’?

Shannon Crossley – Temporary means the equipment would be installed during the summer and removed by September. If it is successful and is considered an acceptable use of the park, then it could be reinstalled in the spring.

C. Mertl – So you are looking for a seasonal or long-term seasonal course.

Shannon Crossley – It would depend on the success of the park and the will of the JDGC board. They may decide to try another location.

James Houck – If the PRAC or the Department ask for the goals to be removed early, we would comply immediately. We would love for this to become a permanent course. If it becomes ‘non temporary’ then it would be available to the community year-round.

W. Muldoon – How does this comport with CBJ 67.01.90(c) prohibiting missiles in public parks? Does a thrown disc qualify as a missile? Would CBJ be liable?

G. Schaaf – Many people throw baseballs, frisbees, or chuck-it balls in our public parks and these are allowed. This could be considered similar to that. Additionally, there is a provision allowing them in areas as designated by the director. A disc golf course would be an area designated by the director.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Sudie Hargis – Spoke in opposition saying Disc Golf may not be a compatible use for this location. Proposed Cope Park as an alternate location.

Joyce Vick – Spoke in support saying this is an excellent idea. Disc Golf is an easily accessible sport and the course appears to be well laid out.

Carolyn Minor – Spoke neither in support or opposition. She has concerns that dogs might be spooked by disc golfers.

Kayla Mount – Spoke in support of JDGC but expressed concerns with the location. The course is proposed to be situated in the middle of a heavily trafficked area and people may be misplaced.

Sophie Lager – Loves the idea of an accessible course but opposes it in this location. Would prefer to see it further from the entrance to the trail and to be more spread out.

Michael Carow – This is a large park. You have to consider the impact on other users.

Matt Davidson – Spoke in support of the proposal saying as a pitch and putt course, throws would be short distances and chance of injury is low.

Joe Luger – Is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and father to an 8-year-old who loves disc golf. This proposed course should not be feared but embraced.

Jake Quorstad – Spoke in support of disc golf and JDGC but opposes this location. The things that make the sport great also make it dangerous at this location (low barrier of entry, no experience needed). He spoke with 150 people and 125 of them were opposed to the location. Somewhere else in the Treadwell Park might be better.

Kassie Strubel – Spoke in support. She is a recreational disc golfer and feels this is a great opportunity for the community and the young children in the area.

#### PRAC DISCUSSION

W. Muldoon – There has been a lot of public testimony on this issue. Public parks are for everybody. He understands the concerns with location and mixed uses. He is willing to give it a chance and see how it goes.

E. Haynes – Feels that having a trial period to test out the course, is a good option.

M. Chappell – Spoke in support of the sport and thinks this is a good idea. This is a good option for kids to keep them out of trouble.

T. Murph – Likes the idea of a multi-use park. He disagrees that this is too close to the entrance. This is a well-used park but there is enough room for regular users and disc golfers to share the space.

*T Murph moves that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that the Department approve the installation of a temporary 9-hole “pitch and putt” disc golf course at Treadwell Mine Historic Park, with the conditions recommended by staff.*

Objection by C. Mertl – He loves the idea and loves that it is in the park but does not love that it is in the busiest part of the park. If it were permanent, he would not support it. Since it is temporary, he will support it.

*Objection removed.*

#### **Motion Adopted**

##### **C. Temporary 1% Sales Tax Projects**

G. Schaaf explained the temporary 1% sales tax funds P&R projects based on the priorities in the Department’s Six-Year CIP plan. Funding for public use cabins was inadvertently left out of the plan and he intends to add funding for public use cabins back into the list of projects.

W. Muldoon – Other than the omission of public use cabins, is there anything else of which we should be aware?

G. Schaaf – There are some projects included in the packet that are not on the 1% sales tax list. These are unscheduled projects for which we expect to receive grant funding. Building maintenance projects are not on the list as they have other funding.

C. Mertl – How much are you planning to allocate for the public use cabins?

G. Schaaf – \$650,000. This would increase the request to \$8.7M.

C. Mertl – What are you looking to do at Twin Lake Park?

G. Schaaf – Parking lot repaving, trails and drainage improvements.

*E. Haynes* moves that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that the Assembly fund the projects proposed by the Parks & Recreation Department for the Temporary 1% Sales Tax (2022-27) including \$650,000 for public use cabins, contingent upon the extension of the tax by voters in October 2022. **Adopted.**

**VI. Unfinished Business – None**

**VII. Staff Reports** – Information on Commercial Use Permits issued to date have been provided to the committee.

C. Merti – How does the CBJ collect data on understanding the impacts of the Commercial Use Permits and how visitation impacts local facilities?

G. Schaaf – That is part of what we will look at as we update the Commercial Use regulations. Currently, we rely on recommendations made by an ad hoc committee formed by the department many years ago.

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

**A. Chair Report**— Wrote a letter to Mayor Weldon, Assembly member Treim and Manager Watt asking that they fund an additional full-time position at the Dimond Park Field House. That was denied a month ago but it appears there may be partial funding to allow it. Thank you to Will for chairing last month's meeting. There are three vacant seats on PRAC. They will remain open until at least July. In person meetings are at least a few meetings away.

**B. Liaison to the Assembly Report**— Alicia Hughes Skandijs reported last evening was COW meeting and accepted the 1% list. The process will take two more meetings before funding is finalized.

**C. Liaison Reports**—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: Aquatics manager left CBJ last month. AGB pool boiler repairs have been completed.

YAB – J. Anderson: None

Eaglecrest – None

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— None

Lands, Economic Development, Housing – C. Merti: Met yesterday. Passed a motion to accept Mayflower Island from BLM. Travel Juneau MOU was discussed.

Park Foundation— C. Merti: None

Treadwell Arena Board – None

Trail Mix— E. Haynes: None

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None

**Other Member Business** – None

**Adjournment – 7:53 p.m. Having no other business before the board.**

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