

CBJ DOCKS & HARBORS BOARD
SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

For Wednesday, August 29, 2007

I. Call to Order.

Ms. Jebe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

II. Roll.

The following members were present: Ms. Jebe, Mr. Preston, Mr. Mehrkens, Mr. Kueffner, and Mr. Williams.

Also in attendance were the following: Mr. Stone – Port Director, and Mr. McCall – Harbormaster.

III. Approval of Agenda.

MOTION by Mr. Mehrkens: ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. The motion passed without objection.

IV. Items for Action.

1. Echo Cove Launch Ramp Motorized Vehicle Management.

Mr. Stone had a power point presentation showing the Board members an aerial map of the Echo Cove facility. Lots 5A and 5B are Goldbelt property and lot 4A was acquired by CBJ through traded land parcels. As part of the land trade, CBJ agreed to prevent trespassing on the adjacent Goldbelt owned lands. Mr. Stone said that Goldbelt has repeatedly asked CBJ to control trespassing on the tidelands.

Mr. Stone also said that the State of Alaska owns the tidelands adjacent to Goldbelt property, which is managed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). He said that DNR does not want motorized vehicles crossing the salmon stream because it causes damage to their natural habitat and it is currently illegal.

There is a \$150 fine for any motorized vehicles in parks and recreation areas. The parking lot, launch ramp, and non-recreational area are where motorized vehicles are allowed to be. Mr. Stone suggested that Echo Cove facility close for winter months, prohibiting all ATV use at the facility, or allowing ATV users to use the launch ramp to access state tidelands.

The Board members discussed the issue before opening it to public comment.

2. Public Hearing

1. Tracy Gilmore 9343 River Court Way, Juneau - 907-790-2337

Ms. Gilmore attended the meeting to tell the Board members that she has seen damage and harassment done by the ATV users. She said that the ATV riders ignore area regulations.

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2. Pam Nicholson P.O. Box 211274, Auke Bay - 907-790-3519

Ms. Nicholson attended the meeting to tell the board that riding an ATV is a family activity and would be willing to pay a fee for usage or work with CBJ to find a place for her family to ride.

3. Jeff Monette 10208 Heron Way, Juneau - 907-321-4770

Mr. Monette attended the meeting to tell the Board members that he is a member of the local group called Rough Rider's and is willing to work with CBJ to reach a compromise. He said that people will go to Montana Creek and ride, but it is very dangerous and he would rather not put his family at risk.

4. Karla Hart 4950 Wren Drive, Juneau - 907-523-6996

Ms. Hart attended the meeting to tell the Board members that she would like to see the area closed to ATV users. She said that she does not go to Echo Cove because it is dirty and noisy.

5. Bob Martin 9354 Rivercourt Way, Juneau - 907-789-7157

Mr. Martin is the Vice-President of Goldbelt, and attended the meeting to tell the Board members that there are 3,300 shareholders who are the rightful owners of the Goldbelt owned tidelands. He said that the shareholders have expressed anger and hurt feelings over the damage done to the surrounding environment. He is requesting that the Board members follow through with the suggestions of Mr. Stone.

6. Jesse Hay 9450 Patricia Place, Juneau - 907-723-4216

Mr. Hay said that he would be willing to work with the city to find an alternative site for ATV riding. He agrees that something needs to be done to alleviate the damage to tidelands. He is also a member of the Rough Riders.

7. Chris Hausler 7951 Gladstone Street, Juneau - 907-635-1212

Mr. Hausler said that Echo Cove and Montana Creek are the only two local places to ride, and prefers Echo Cove because it is safer.

8. Desiree Groble 6031 Gullway, Juneau - 907-209-2010

Ms. Groble said that she grew up riding motorcycles, and was taught to be respectful to the lands by cleaning up garbage. She said she is willing to work with the city to find a compromise for a place to ride.

9. Jim Bradley 3813 Melrose Street, Juneau - 907-723-3814

Mr. Bradley said that he feels Echo Cove is the only local place that is safe to ride. He also said that he takes the time to help clean it up. He suggested that CBJ builds a bridge over the salmon

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stream to limit the damage done to it.

10. Sean Swift P.O. Box 33742, Juneau, 99803 - 907-957-2146

Mr. Swift said that he is a 20 year resident and has seen ATV areas close. He said that the damage done isn't a result of the ATV users. He said that he urges the city to find an alternative.

11. Ray Howard 9226 Longview Drive, Juneau - 907-586-4191

Mr. Howard said that he has an autistic child that enjoys riding an ATV. He said that he is disappointed that the riders are a nuisance, but feels there are alternative to closing Echo Cove.

12. James Tipps 6029 Chatham Drive, Juneau - 907-209-6686

Mr. Tipps is the President of the Rough Riders in Juneau, and said that he stresses responsible riding, and that closing Echo Cove would cram 300 ATV users into the Montana Creek area. He said that he supports active management of Echo Cove and has offered to help in any way that he can.

13. Marcos Morehouse 9322 Glacier Hwy. #58, Juneau - 907-209-1429

Mr. Morehouse asked the Board members to assist the public in finding a more suitable place to ride their ATVs.

14. William Soren - 907-780-3520

Mr. Soren suggested that Docks and Harbors help get permits for OFV users.

15. David DeMars 8273 Garnet Street, Juneau - 907-789-9333

Mr. DeMars said that he rides ATV's with his daughter. He said that he has seen damage to trees, but feels that it is not ATV riders that are responsible for the damage. He feels that there are benefits to riding ATV's such as hand-eye coordination.

16. Dan Collins 3460 Kant Court, Juneau - 907-789-4869

Mr. Collins said that users are well below the high tide marker and that he is cautious of children and campers.

17. Justin Busch 3310 Douglas Hwy. Douglas - 907-723-1502

Mr. Busch said that he enjoys riding and will pay for a permit to ride his ATV.

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18. Kyle Ison 3528 Forest Grove, Juneau - 907-321-1293

Mr. Ison said that the damage is being done by kids that won't listen to adults. He also said that he will enforce rules but will not put himself in danger.

19. Bob Loesher

Mr. Loesher said that he feels ATV users should not be allowed to gain access to tidelands using CBJ launch ramps. He also said that he wants to protect the fish and wildlife.

20. Shelly (had a problem with tape recorder, I couldn't get her last name or address)

Shelly told the Board members that she is a Goldbelt shareholder and is an ATV user. She hopes to keep the lands open for riding so that she and her family can have a safe place to go.

21. Brady Scott 1011 Bonnie Doon, Juneau

Mr. Scott wanted to clear up the fact that Department of Natural Resources manages the lands up to the high water spit, above the mean high water is not owned by the State of Alaska.

22. Vic Scorano 9097 Blackwell, Juneau

Mr. Scorano said that the risk management is unacceptable for any shareholder to assume any responsibility. He recommends that CBJ post signs stating no trespassing.

The Board members discussed the issue and concluded that it should be brought forward to the full Board at the regular meeting to decide what actions to take.

Please see attached photos submitted as evidence of damage.

V. Adjournment.

MOTION by Mr. Williams: ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The motion passed without objection.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 pm.