



**Blueprint Downtown Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
CBJ Assembly Chambers**

August 8, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Steering Committee Members Present:

Christine Woll, Chair	Lily Otsea
Kirby Day	Karena Perry
Daniel Glidmann	Jill Ramiel
Michael Heumann	Patty Ware
Laura Martinson	Ricardo Worl

Steering Committee Members Absent:

Betsy Brenneman, Wayne Jensen, Meilani Schijvens, and Nathaniel Dye – Planning Commission Liaison

Staff:

Beth McKibben, Senior Planner, Project Manager
Alexandra Pierce, Planning Manager
Tim Felstead, Planner
Brenwynne Grigg, Administrative Officer

I. Roll Call

Ms. Woll called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

July 18, 2019 DRAFT minutes, Blueprint Downtown Steering Committee Meeting

An amendment to the July 18, 2019 draft minutes were recommended on page 2, paragraph 4, as Ms. Ware's and Ms. Woll's comments should be reversed.

MOTION: *By Ms. Ware to approve the July 18, 2019, minutes as amended. Mr. Glidmann seconded.*

The motion passed with no objection.

III. Public Participation - none

IV. Steering Committee Updates

Ms. McKibben introduced Ms. Grigg as the Committee's interim recorder of minutes, due to Ms. Hamburger's resignation from the Community Development Department.

Ms. McKibben went on to update the Committee on two additional focus group meetings, one on parks and open spaces, and the other on transportation infrastructure and parking, which took place since the last steering committee meeting. Another focus group will meet on health and human services the week of August 12.

The next steering committee meeting will briefly host Mr. Bruce Denton, who will speak on the proposed move for the Glory Hall from the downtown area.

Mr. Day asked when he might see data from the focus group meetings, to which Ms. McKibben replied that she had not yet compiled her notes, but would discuss with staff when and how to share the information once it is compiled, and that the data would also be included in an appendix in the plan document. Ms. McKibben gave a brief description of how the focus group meetings are encouraging conversations from individuals with common interests, yet from different perspectives. For example, people that move snow have a unique view of the streets compared to how the general-public might view the streets.

Ms. Pierce explained that they are finding some very strong common themes between the various groups across various topics, and some thought needs to go into how to compile the information without it sounding repetitive.

Ms. McKibben added that the comments staff are hearing in the focus groups are still very representative of comments heard through the Visioning process.

V. Draft Chapter 7: Parks, Open Space, and Recreation

Ms. Woll introduced the discussion on Chapter 7: Parks, Open Space, and Recreation, commending staff on a good first draft of the chapter, but explaining to the Committee that it is still in process, and she is looking forward to an in-depth conversation on the topic to generate some very specific content for the chapter.

Mr. Glidmann asked that if he had a question about a possible park location downtown, and questions around the commercial permitting process, when might be a good time for that discussion.

Ms. Pierce recommended that if it does not come up in the course of conversation during her presentation, then to discuss it afterwards.

Ms. Pierce began her presentation by stating this is the first content chapter, and that she would appreciate a lot of feedback during her presentation, so that she could finish writing the chapter based on the direction of the Committee. She went on to explain how partnerships were a major theme during the writing of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and how she expected this to continue to be a major theme in this chapter of the Blueprint Downtown. Primarily, because the citizens of Juneau have many big ideas for our parks and open spaces. Realistically, the City can only sponsor and/or fund some of them, and partnerships are critical to seeing some of these things happen. She went on to demonstrate a great example of partnerships in the Treadwell Arena and the Dimond Park Field House, being driven by volunteers, and not coming up through the traditional city process.

Ms. Pierce built on Mr. Huemann's comments at the last meeting around keeping people in the parks, and spoke about the importance of programming, which involves anything that provides something for people to do. This could be activities, events, or games, offered by the City or by partners, but held in public spaces. She added that CBJ's Parks and Recreation Department has a

policy of not competing with the non-profit and private sector, so if they provide a sports league or program, the CBJ will not provide a similar program, but will fill in any gaps.

Ms. Pierce reminded the Committee that it is important to note how Blueprint Downtown relates to the Parks and Recreation Plan and the Comprehensive Plan. Those plans are higher level and does not dig into the details on specific parks, but Blueprint Downtown should be more focused on the details of individual downtown parks; i.e. What activities those parks might be used for, general programming, or infrastructure that might be needed. There would then be a more detailed planning and public process for each park concerning design and CIP budget, to which Blueprint Downtown would be an important guiding document for that.

Mr. Glidmann asked if Parks and Recreation was working towards commercial programming, where they will be responsible for commercial permitting and uses in the Parks, and that Docks and Harbors will not have a role in commercial permitting.

Ms. Pierce replied that Parks and Recreation and Docks and Harbors both have commercial permitting processes on land or areas that they control.

Mr. Glidmann went on to discuss approval of permitting for the food service in Marine Park, and how there was not much process involved. The intent being to bring more people into the Park and dilute some of the negative activity that is occurring there. He expressed that the commercial permitting of public lands was a concern of his and a lot of other private landowners, and stated the need for incorporating further discussion if Parks and Recreation is going to lease or rent park space for uses that compete with private landowners.

Ms. Pierce stated that Parks and Recreation is working on a project that looks at fees and charges to commercial permitting, and that discussion lives there. Additionally, that if we are discussing things related specifically to downtown and the parks downtown, perhaps the Committee could consider how we phrase our recommendations. For example, if we wanted to do public vendor markets sometimes for small businesses, versus the long term leasing of land, because those are two very different things.

Mr. Heumann reminded the Committee that the downtown is the only place dense enough in Juneau for many of these businesses to be viable.

Ms. McKibben suggested this might be a topic for discussion as staff and the Committee work on the Business and Economic Vitality Chapter.

Mr. Day revealed that businesses have approached him about this very issue in Marine Park, which caused him to speak with Parks and Recreation, and they have communicated plans to re-evaluate their entire permitting process. Additionally, he thinks it is a good idea to consider the Seawalk as a Park, as there is confusion around whether Parks and Recreation or Docks and Harbors manages the Seawalk.

Ms. Ware asked if we knew who manages the Seawalk. Mr. Glidmann replied that Docks and Harbors manages the Seawalk. Mr. Day recalled a circumstance when a vendor wanted to come in with a bike rental program, there was a discussion between the two departments as to who would be in charge of them. Ms. Woll suggested we put the item for future discussion in our 'parking lot'.

Ms. Pierce stated there is nothing in the chapter that mentions who manages the Seawalk, but for planning purposes, treating it as if it were a public park makes sense. However, Ms. Pierce was unsure of whether it would be appropriate for the Committee to make a recommendation on the management of the Seawalk, or whether they might flag it as an item to be elevated to the City Manager's Office and Assembly for a resolution. Mr. Day agreed that it seemed appropriate to flag this item.

Mr. Glidmann steered the conversation back to the recreation program in Marine Park and recalled how owners of properties used to frequent Marine Park regularly, and now will not go there because of the smoke and crowd generated from the food carts. He lamented over how the Park seems less a space for recreating, and more of a food court, calling attention to the fuzzy line between what to you do for the local population, and what you do for tourism, and ensuring we do not contribute to the degradation of the experience in the park.

Mr. Heumann communicated that he feels completely different and enjoys the vibrant environment in Marine Park.

Ms. Pierce validated the discussion as noteworthy and reminded the Committee that each park might have a different purpose and function, and as we discuss each park, it is for the Committee to make recommendations as such.

Ms. Pierce then added that before they move on from the partnerships discussion, she wanted to inform the Committee that Juneau now has a Parks Foundation, based off the model of the Anchorage Parks Foundation. In Anchorage, they have expanded from fundraising, to coordinating volunteer days, activities, running the Youth in Parks Program, which gives at risk youth their first jobs, etc.

Ms. Pierce also suggested the Committee remember trails in this discussion, and stated that Trail Mix maintains everything through City, State, and Federal funding. Additionally, Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement to maintain their trails and build trails through City land.

Finally, Ms. Pierce touched on the Main Street concept and encouraged the Committee to read the Main Street USA report, as the Downtown Business Association was the organization chosen to lead the Main Street implementation in Juneau.

Capital School Park

The presentation displayed a current view of the park, and then an image from the Master Plan completed in 2012. Ms. Pierce explained that Parks and Recreation will conduct a public process to update the Master Plan, and anticipates that beginning this winter, with construction following in the next year or two. She went on to state this park is badly in need of maintenance, and the conversation of the Committee should entail what is the purpose of this park, and what type of uses and activities would complement this purpose.

Mr. Glidmann asked if the Master Plan provided for grills, to which Ms. Pierce replied there is a barbeque pit drawn into the conceptual design. Mr. Glidmann encouraged all parks designed in a way that afforded low maintenance structures, as budgets will possibly be decreasing, but within reason, as we do not want our children playing on gravel.

Mr. Day asked if there were covered spaces or an outdoor sitting spot, to which Ms. Pierce replied there was not.

Ms. Ware informed the conversation of a picnic table design in Cope Park, which has a covering on top of it. She recommended the City duplicate this design in other parks, as it is a wonderful feature.

Ms. Otsea asked if basketball courts were included in the design, as that is a big draw for older kids, to which Ms. Pierce replied that it did not appear so.

Ms. Ramiel advocated for the large amount of perfectly flat space that currently exists in this park, which makes it a prime spot for inflatable recreational equipment, such as bouncy houses, for children's birthday parties. Especially as the downtown does not have many, if any, spaces of this type for families. Ms. McKibben attested that the flat space is perfect for the outdoor gym classes held there in the summer. Ms. Ware added there was recently a rally held there for keeping children and families together at the border, and she advocated for keeping a large flat open space in the park.

Mr. Glidmann asked if the park was subject to the City's noise ordinance, and asked what the hours were. Mr. Felstead replied that there is no specific decibel level, that it is objectionable to what people considered reasonable. Ms. Pierce added that the parks have hours, typically closing at 11:00 p.m., largely for enforcement purposes, to give Juneau Police Department reason to remove people doing disruptive things in the park.

Ms. Ware commented that she would like to see an opportunity for improved signage or labeling of the empty chair project. What currently exists is a beautiful corner, yet many locals do not know it is there, and there would be a lot of interest in this installation. Ms. McKibben agreed and stated that as we work on the Arts and Culture Chapter, we can identify these things. Ms. Woll asked for the topic to be included in the 'parking lot' discussion board.

Ms. Woll asked about the timing of the Master Plan for the park because she wanted to ensure this discussion is included into the public process, prior to finalization of the design. Ms. Pierce replied she did not know the exact timing, but that the Chicken Yard Park Master Plan is scheduled first, then Capital Park is due shortly afterward, and she would make sure the Committee was aware of the dates of the public process once released.

Ms. Ramiel added an amendment to the parking lot discussion to include the downtown sculpture map, since the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council was working on a mural map, and perhaps those two things complement each other.

Ms. Ware asked if the City planned to maintain the sledding hill, because it is heavily used. Ms. Pierce replied that she did not anticipate changes to the topography. However, the retaining wall may change, since it is approximately 100 years old.

Cope Park

Ms. Pierce presented the current Master Plan for Cope Park, and admitted that during the park's recent remodel, asphalt, paving stones, and green surfaces were omitted due to budgetary constraints. These elements of the Plan would be implemented should we acquire more funding.

Also included in plans is a bike skills park in partnership with the Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance in the wooded area. Older children have already built jumps and ramps there now.

Mr. Heumann asked if the City would have to cut down trees to accommodate the bike skills park, to which Ms. Pierce replied that would not be necessary. Additionally, there would be a bike trail that would go through the lightly wooded areas around the park, with the intent that a parent could keep eyes on an older child on the trail at all times, while pushing a younger sibling in a swing at the same time. Funding has limited the City's ability to finish the improvements on the park, but the hope is that partnerships will enable those improvements in time.

Ms. Woll stated that as she was reading the Visioning document, she was reminded of discussion around Gold Creek and the restoration of the creek, and wondered whether that was worth mentioning in the Blueprint Downtown here. Mr. Felstead stated there are specific recommendations mentioned in the former Willoughby District Plan. Ms. Ware agreed with Ms. Woll and added that tourists were frequently trying to locate the creek to watch the fish, and that it would be nice to remove the fence with the barbwire and improve the aesthetics of the creek with benches and other amenities.

Mr. Glidmann asked if we could incorporate some structures that would give a clan house reference and provide shelter, while incorporating cultural heritage.

Mr. Worl asked if the park design included lights for the evening and winter, to which Ms. Pierce replied that it did. Mr. Worl followed with an inquiry into whether there were enough vertical along the sides for a snowboard/ski jump. Ms. Pierce replied there used to be a rope tow in the 1930's, and there could be something in the Toboggan Hill area. Mr. Heumann suggested that might need to be separate from the sledding hill, as that attracts smaller children.

Ms. Ramiel stated that the park has a terrible marketing problem, and programming is nonexistent. She suggested that better signage would be an improvement, because unless you are familiar with it already, one would not know why to walk back into the area. Ms. Pierce stated that there is a Park and Trail Signage Project in the works, and the CBJ will soon have an improved signage experience in all of our parks. Mr. Heumann asked if the signs will include images of park features, to which Ms. Pierce replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Day stated that he assumed the CBJ would continue the practice of disallowing commercial use, such as tours, in the parks. Ms. Pierce confirmed Mr. Day's assumption.

Mr. Day also advocated for lighting in the park, because it contributes to feeling safe in the parks.

Mr. Worl asked if there were any issues with drug use or homelessness in Cope Park. Ms. Ware stated there is a little bit of an issue, especially on the trail.

Ms. Otsea stated that the seating needed improvement, but if there is a game to attend, because there is not currently a reason to sit where the seats are located. Ms. Pierce replied that the City has moved away from programming that field because it is now a dog park. However, it is available and rentable for use.

Chicken Yard Park

Ms. Pierce presented on Chicken Yard Park, opening with an update that there has been resolution to the driveway issue, and now the City will move forward with a Master Plan on the park, starting with a neighborhood visioning process. She stated that the City has learned the park is incredibly valuable to the Starr Hill Neighborhood, and she expressed anticipation for the results of the visioning and planning process. The City aims to hire a landscape architecture firm in fall 2019, and hopes to commence construction in summer 2020.

Ms. Ware agreed that Starr Hill is a very active neighborhood, and anticipated a lot of input.

Mr. Glidmann added that it was his perspective there are two schools of thought on the park, as to whether there should be a simple climbing net with picnic tables to encourage more creativity in the children, or to appoint the park with swings, wheels, and other amenities.

Ms. Pierce stated that if the Committee had strong opinions, they could compile them and forward to the Parks and Recreation Department. However, given that this process is currently happening, it may be best to become involved in the meetings and participate from that level. She added that staff would provide updates on the status of the meetings.

Cathedral Park

Ms. Pierce next presented on Cathedral Park, showing where a play structure and slide used to exist years ago. However, with it being within close proximity to two other playgrounds, there is not a lot of interest from the City in building another playground. However, it is an open public space and needs a purpose.

Ms. Ware suggested providing some picnic tables that are covered, similar to what is currently in Cope Park. In addition, there are stairs and a platform with nothing on the platform, so perhaps there could be a piece of art, or signage about the history of the park. This area could potentially be an attraction for tourists attending mass, as well as a quiet place for locals.

Mr. Day agreed that an interesting display on the history of the place, or the downtown in general even, would be great in this location.

Ms. Pierce spoke to an idea of a rubbing that children could do for a park passport. Perhaps a rubbing that is different for every park.

Mr. Glidmann a potential need for a place in town where you can simply be quiet. Given that this park is Cathedral Park, and the word cathedral gives a strong spirit, perhaps this would be a good location to encourage reflection, a place to pause. Perhaps a place to connect to our history and what was there before, so you can place yourself in someone else's shoes.

Ms. Woll agreed with Mr. Glidmann, and expressed approval of that framework for Cathedral Park, stating it would be a nice contrast to the other nearby park.

Mr. Glidmann added that he would like to encourage seating that sheds water.

Ms. Ramiel suggested placing a water bottle filling station in the park to encourage sustainability, with a sign that says, "Choose Juneau, Our Water is Delicious".

Ms. McKibben stated that she appreciates how Rotary Park now provides a dog-watering station, and perhaps this would be a downtown location for a dog-watering station.

Ms. Woll liked the idea of promoting sustainability.

Mr. Felstead pointed out that the Catholic Diocese owns this park. Ms. Pierce confirmed that statement and added that the CBJ manages the park, stating an informal trade that occurred, since the CBJ owns a piece of land the Catholic Diocese uses. She continued by stating the park is City controlled and managed, and the CBJ has done all the historical infrastructure, but we would need their permission for future improvements, though we don't anticipate an issues there.

Mr. Worl suggested that a rock garden, perhaps locally sourced, designed in the space to encourage a peaceful atmosphere. Ms. Perry added that she visited a Minneapolis park with wind chimes, and found it quite nice.

Mr. Worl asked the Committee if there was a neighborhood ownership of this park, similar to Chicken Park. Ms. Ware replied that she did not really believe so. Mr. Felstead explained there are two multi-family residences close to the park, but most of the children use Capital Park instead.

Mr. Felstead presented the idea that there is no garden space for the residential neighborhoods around there. Ms. Woll spoke to the need for garden space, stating there is an appetite for more community garden space in the downtown.

Bishop Kenny Memorial Peace Park

Ms. Pierce presented on Bishop Kenny Memorial Peace Park as a hardscape park that serves its purpose, though not much happens in this park.

Ms. McKibben suggested this park might be a nice programming location for summer outdoor lunch concerts. Mr. Glidmann asked if power was available at this park, to which Ms. Pierce replied that she would find out.

Ms. Ramiel suggested that if this park had covered space, we might use this park more.

Telephone Hill Park

Ms. Pierce presented Telephone Hill Park as another hardscape park in the downtown, and admitted it is a very challenging space for the department.

Mr. Glidmann stated he would like to encourage additional parking lot space in that park.

Ms. Woll asked how we are encouraging people to move through the park. Ms. Pierce replied that she did not know what attempts have been made beyond enforcement and keeping it as clean as possible.

Mr. Worl wondered if opening the park up by eliminating the brush might help the situation, so that people would not feel so hidden up there. He added that the switchback trail up to the park is very nice, and it is a great spot for tourists to get a quick and easy photo of the downtown. Perhaps by removing the benches so that it is a standing area only and adding a sign directing tourists to a scenic viewpoint would improve the traffic through the area.

Ms. McKibben asked about the history of naming the park Telephone Hill. Ms. Ware shared that this is a historical name, so there should be a sign that gives relationship to the structures that were up there.

Ms. Ramiel stated that perhaps extending parking would be a good use for the space, but it is very beautiful up there, so taking it away completely seems wrong also.

Mr. Worl suggested posting old photos of what downtown Juneau used to look like, so observers could make the comparisons today. He continued to state that this group might not come to consensus on the use of this park, so do we live with that in the Blueprint Downtown document, or do we make a decision. Ms. Pierce replied that she would attempt to incorporate all the comments and bring it back for review. She continued stating that Committee members are not saying very different thing, and there may be a way to mesh them together and have a sort of multi-use park.

Marine Park

Ms. Pierce presented on Marine Park, as being, or becoming, the nexus of the Seawalk. She referred to the park as an important public space, which used to host concerts and public events often, and now has food carts.

Ms. Ware lamented that she missed the days of concerts in the park, and objected to taking the seating out, though she expressed understanding of why the seats are gone. She added that she did enjoy the food from the food carts, and the vibrancy it brings to the area. The covered structure in the middle of the park, however, seems to have lost its function. Ms. Pierce replied that there is free Wi-Fi under the structure, which added to Ms. Ware's understanding of why it was always full of people. She then made the suggestion to add more seating, understanding that it might be an issue, but that it is currently an odd area.

Mr. Day expressed regret over the infrastructure removal from the park as being for all the wrong reason. However, he went on to add the food carts are not simply carts. They take up large amounts of area with tents, tables, etc., and one vendor is impeding on the bench space in the park. He added the space rental should be a fair price, and instead the rates are too extremely low. While recognizing that the boat crews and many of the local love the food, the City needs to confront reality and decide what we actually want there.

Ms. Perry appreciated the benches that used to be in the park, and would go there every night to sit. Today, she expressed there seems to be a lot of wasted space, and there needs to be more benches, and to improve or repair the few remaining benches. Additionally, she stated the flow of the park seemed awkward, and design improvements between the Seawalk, Marine Park, and the adjacent downtown will enhance the flow.

Mr. Glidmann remembered how over the years, the City had designated corners all over the downtown for food carts, however there were much fewer tourists, on the streets at the time. Some carts are more compatible than other carts for people walking by in close proximity. Other carts emit excessive smoke and leave trails of grease, which is a natural by-product of the food they are selling. He spoke of a specific food cart in front of Juneau Drug, and admitted that they have a similar competitive advantage as the food carts in the park, but as long as they are not in front of someone's food business, he is okay with it. Customers can purchase their food, and take it to the park to eat if they would like. He expressed concern over Marine Park serving as a restaurant, and

added that this vision group cannot look at Marine Park in its existing structure, but must look at the bigger picture.

Mr. Glidmann spoke about ideas to make a connection to Seward Street where the lightering dock used to be, and that will become a major intersection of how people with access the water and the downtown core.

Mr. Felstead clarified for the Committee that the Visioning report spoke of better connection to the water, which was lost when the lightering dock was removed, taking away a significant number of users of the park and the shelter area. The Waterfront Plan has a recommendation to remove a portion of the Merchants Wharf Building to create a better opening and connection to the water, and a better flow of people moving towards Main Street.

Ms. Pierce added that the lightering dock was not intended as a kayak launch, though it was sometimes used as such. However, the Visioning document, as well as a great many public comments, speak to the desire for a way to access the water from the downtown. Docks and Harbors doesn't not want to see that in the Docks area due to safety concerns, but further out toward Overstreet Park may be an appropriate place. Perhaps Marine Park needs an entire Master Planning process, which could be the recommendation of this group as well.

Mr. Glidmann asked the Committee to remember and hold on to 'why' people loved the concerts in the park – it was a major event – and to keep that spirit in the forefront in any future recommendations for Marine Park. Ms. Pierce, the Visioning document does recommend a public performance space.

Mr. Heumann pointed out that the boundaries of Marine Park are a little blurry and blend together with other spaces, such as the cruise ship docks, the downtown, the Flight Deck, etc. He emphasized there needs to be a broader conversation about how the waterfront gets used and the experiences of the users. Do vendors exist, should there be open seating for restaurants, perhaps an open air fish market, etc.? There needs to be a critical mass of activity taking place in the park.

Ms. Pierce commented on a Norway Point to Bridge Park Plan that Docks and Harbors did which has things like fish market stalls and vendor spaces included in the plan, but located down by Overstreet Park. Marine Park needs to be a hub of activity, but what kind of activity should exist there? That is the question.

Mr. Heumann asked the Committee to remember that when things in Juneau were more free form as to what one could put where, we would do well to remember that places are prime for a reason, because of the foot traffic.

Ms. Woll called for a time check, 7:50 p.m., to ask the Committee whether a larger discussion on Marine Park and the Seawalk could occur at the next meeting. Ms. Pierce suggested moving through two more parks tonight, then moving into a discussion about the Seawalk, and then the boat harbors as recreational amenities at the next meeting. Additionally, Ms. Pierce expressed a desire to make changes to the chapter, tracking everything, for the Committee to review. Ms. Woll agreed to that plan.

Mr. Day appreciated the thought process here, and reiterated that very few people want to use the grassy area and other parts of Marine Park because of what is happening there. Unless we get ahold of this, we may as well make it parking, because it is not serving its purpose for families and the public. He expressed difficulty in envisioning the park we imagine will be fantastic, when we have the current challenges of inebriation in the park today.

Ms. Ramiel reminded the Committee that our job is to vision this space, and we should think of Marine Park as our town square. We have chipped away at the park for so long that it is nonsensical. She advocated for a Marine Park Master Plan.

Mr. Felstead added that a part of the vision work survey target families living in the Valley. The survey asked people, what it would take to get them downtown, and a common theme included a children's park near the waterfront in the center of downtown.

Gunakedeit Park

Ms. Pierce presented on the challenging history of this park, and how it sat empty for a number of years following the fire at the Gastineau building. She asked the Committee, "Is the current use its proper use"?

Mr. Glidmann suggested leaving the current use on a year-to-year lease to see what development opportunities exist.

Ms. Ware expressed sadness over the current use going away at the end of summer and seeing the space empty again, wishing there was a way to make it a covered winter vendor area. Mr. Glidmann agreed that it would be a great place for a Christmas market, with lights strung across in a festive manner.

Mr. Heumann suggested alliances with the Downtown Business Association or other neighborhood associations, to investigate the demand for a market, and business willing to market themselves.

Mr. Day asked if there were any active discussion about the piece of property next to the park. Ms. Pierce answered that she was unaware of plans or the terms for the lease.

Mr. Felstead pointed out that the Gastineau apartments were a very awkward shape, due to the property line, and suggested the City entertain the idea of reorienting the shape of the parcels to open the space up more.

Mayor Bill Overstreet Park

Ms. Pierce opened the presentation of the Mayor Bill Overstreet Park, by asking if anyone had strong feelings about this park, as it is very new. She added that Parks and Recreation have purchased a portable movie screen and plans to host "Movie in the Park", starting at this location.

Mr. Heumann suggested the City allow a water taxi service to dock at the park. Mr. Glidmann stated it could be a simple float dock, so as not to impede on the existing design elements.

Mr. Heumann also suggested allowing kayak rentals, since it is a very calm and accessible location. Ms. Pierce informed the Committee that Harris Harbor is currently looking at adding space for amenities, and having a harbor front walkway with a fish market, and connectivity to Overstreet

Park. She does not know the timeline of this, but encourage the Committee to put it in context to other plans. Additionally, she added that Parks and Recreation is in discussions with a kayak rental vendor.

Mr. Day recalled a paddleboard operation in Harris Harbor last summer, and added he thought the City has done a great job with Overstreet Park.

Mr. Felstead informed the Committee there would be a pedestrian crosswalk to the Seawalk at the entrance of Glacier Highway soon.

Ms. McKibben also added there is potential here for pedestrians to access the Aak'w Kwaan Village District.

Mr. Glidmann asked if the Committee could view an overlay map of the Eagan Drive project. Ms. Pierce replied that should could bring some renderings of the project at the next meeting.

Mr. Day spoke about the island being a great opportunity for habitat, as well as benches and quiet things to do. Ms. Ware agreed that she enjoyed the spot because it is quiet and contemplative.

Mr. Felstead recalled various visioning comments that enjoyed seeing children excited and energetic due to the water shooting around at the whale, and they would like to see additional features to continue to engage children to play in that area. He also stated that the State of Alaska Department of Transportation has concerns with things designed under the bridge, due to winter snow plowing throwing snow in that direction.

Mr. Heumann suggested actual water pads for children to play in around the whale. Ms. Pierce replied that Parks and Recreation looked to budget for portable splash pads last summer.

Ms. Ware appealed to the Committee to reflect on why we are so proud of this park, and to preserve that spirit in any design improvements.

Mr. Day asked if signage existed for Overstreet Park. Ms. Pierce informed the Committee of a sign next to the entrance of the park, and that it will likely be the first park to receive the new park signs. Ms. Ware replied that signage on the Seawalk would be helpful, since she encounters tourists that seem lost trying to locate the park. Ms. Pierce spoke about the Wayfinding Project, which will direct tourists to the park with improved signage.

Ms. Ramiel stated that if we put the same care and design into Marine Park as we have the Mayor Bill Overstreet Park, that it would change the way we look at it.

Mr. Worl expressed approval of the concept of signage from Marine Park, leading to Overstreet ark. He added that a large archway or post directing people to various areas would be a nice feature. In addition, including a fishing boat or ferryboat play area to the park might draw children.

Ms. Otsea commented there exists a shelter in Overstreet Park, with a grassy area for playing croquet, but it is not yet a well-known fact. The area could use some promotion. Ms. Pierce added that Parks and Recreation has equipment for rent, and it would be a good idea to have signage advertising the rental equipment next to the space.

Mr. Glidmann added that there could be opportunity for a new park on South Franklin Street, next to Pier 49 and the Effy Building. He stated that there are motivated and interested property owners who could be encouraged to cover the park with a simple movable canopy between the two buildings, and one owner would be open to allowing park users access to their restrooms. A park here would be a great place for people to rest if walking from the Rock Dump Cruise Ship Dock.

Mr. Day stated that he is working very closely with Parks and Recreation on developing this alleyway into a park, and adding lighting, benches, potted plants, etc., to create a beautiful park strip.

VI. Public Participation - none

VII. Committee Comments – none

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION: By Ms. Ware to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Heumann seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: August 28, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in Assembly Chambers