TO: Assembly Human Resources Committee
FROM: Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Chair, Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
DATE: October 3, 2025
SUBJECT: PRAC Annual Report FY25

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee advises the Assembly and the Parks & Recreation Department on policies, projects, and priorities for Juneau's parks, trails, and facilities. This report primarily covers activity from fiscal year 2025.

Membership

The committee saw changes this year. Charles Westmoreland stepped down, and Jennifer Gross and Susan Crandall joined in the summer, helping ensure a broad range of experience in recreation, facilities, and trails.

Topics of Public Interest

- Pickleball and Tennis Courts
  Courts at Adair Kennedy and Floyd Dryden remained the most discussed topic before PRAC this year. Community members provided regular testimony urging progress on resurfacing and reconfiguration. The committee has emphasized balanced access for pickleball, tennis, and basketball users and continues to monitor project delays.
- Disc Golf
  The Treadwell disc golf course has quickly become one of Juneau's most popular recreational spaces. PRAC supported a proposal to add nine new holes, noting strong community participation, volunteer upkeep, and relatively low cost.
- Playgrounds and Parks
  Projects at Sigoowu Ye, Si't Tuwan, Steelhead Park, and Homestead Park all drew interest from nearby neighborhoods. Public input on design and safe access for children and families was a central theme throughout the year.
- Trails
  PRAC received updates from Trail Mix on bridge replacements, new trail construction,

and volunteer programs. This partnership helps stretch resources, supports workforce development, and ensures Juneau's extensive trail system remains safe and accessible.

- Facilities
  Augustus Brown Pool, Treadwell Arena, the Jensen-Olson Arboretum, and the Zach Gordon Youth Center each play a critical role in providing recreation services. PRAC monitored ongoing staffing challenges and highlighted the need for long-term investment.

- Open Space and Land Use
  The committee recommended retaining city-owned land on Meander Way for public access. Protecting limited waterfront and open space remains a recurring concern in PRAC discussions.

Department Leadership

This year brought a leadership transition with the departure of Director George Schaaf. The committee recognizes and thanks George for his many years of service and contributions to Juneau's parks and recreation system. PRAC looks forward to goal setting and potentially beginning a strategic planning process once a new director is hired.

Looking Ahead

In 2026, PRAC expects long-discussed projects- including and especially the Floyd Dryden pickleball courts, playground installations, and continued trail upgrades, particularly on the Christopher Trail- to move forward. The committee will continue to advocate for investment in parks, trails, and recreation facilities as essential assets for community health, youth opportunities, and quality of life.

I firmly believe that the recreational opportunities provided by our community- be it trails, pools, community events in parks, playgrounds, organized sports, youth recreation- are resources enjoyed by all, and for some, are the primary reason to live here.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Chair
Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
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Attachment: FY25 Attendance Record

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRAC)

ATTENDANCE July 2024 – June 2025 Assembly Chambers & Zoom Webinar

Tuesdays @ 5:30pm unless specified	7/2 2024	8/6 2024	9/3 2024	10/1 2024	11/5 2024	12/3 2024	1/7 2025	2/4 2025	3/4 2025	4/1 2025	5/6 2025	6/3 2025
Ryan O'Shaughnessy Chair 09/03/2024	C	C	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P
Josh Anderson	C	C	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
Ren Scott	C	C	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
Ḵaasáank' Andrew Williams	C	C	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P
Charles Westmoreland Resigned 11/18/2024	C	C	P	A	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Danika Swanson	C	C	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P	A
Emma Van Nes	C	C	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Paulette Schirmer	C	C	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Portland Sarantopoulos Resigned 02/18/2025	C	C	P	A	A	P	A	A	X	X	X	X
Jennifer Gross Appointed 03/03/2025	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	A	P

LEGEND: ***A*** *– Absent,* ***P*** *– Present,* ***C*** *– Canceled,* ***X*** *– not on PRAC*

Committee member notes

- 09/03/2024 - Ryan O'Shaughnessy is appointed as chair of PRAC for a one-year term.
- 11/18/2024 - Charles Westmorland resigns from PRAC to focus on commitments coaching youth sports.
- 02/18/2025 - Portland Sarantopoulos resigns from PRAC as she is moving to Palmer, AK.
- 03/03/2025 – Jennifer Gross appointed to PRAC. First meeting March 4, 2025.
- 06/23/2025 – Susan Crandall appointed to PRAC. First Meeting will be August 5, 2025

Meeting Details:

- July 2, 2024 – Meeting canceled due to availability, next scheduled meeting August 6, 2024.
- August 6, 2024 Canceled due to Glacial Outburst flood response
- October 1, 2024 – Meeting held on Zoom because the Municipal Clerks were using the Assembly chambers for election.