



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 3, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/94184441385> Or 1-669-444-9171 | Webinar ID: 941 8444 1385

A. CALL TO ORDER

PRAC Vice-Chair Josh Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Josh Anderson, Emma Van Nes, Kaasáank' Andrew Williams, Paulette Schirmer, & Jennifer Gross

Absent: Danika Swanson, & Ren Scott

Staff Present: Lauren Verrelli, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director; Nate Ploof, Treadwell Arena Manager; Neil Steininger, Assembly Liaison; & Annie Carroll, Parks & Recreation Staff Liaison

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Ms. Schirmer to approve the agenda. *No objections were heard, and the agenda was approved.*

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from May 6, 2025

Mr. Kaasáank' noted that the word he shared at the May meeting was incorrect in the minutes. The correct word was ***Naxtoo.aat*** meaning "Lets go".

MOTION by Ms. Schirmer to approve the minutes as amended. *No objections were heard, and the minutes were approved.*

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - *None*

F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. INFORMATION ITEMS & UPDATES

a. 35-Mile ORV Update – presented by L. Verrelli

Ms. Verrelli began by sharing that the department's Park Maintenance staff have been working with CBJ Engineering to finalize the request for proposal so they can hire a contractor to build out 3 quarters of the 5 miles of phase 1 trails this August. Permitting is in place, and they will be building a small bridge over the stream in the area.

Mr. Anderson asks how many phases are planned for the project to which Ms. Verrelli answers that work will only be done on phase 1 this summer, but that she can check in with Park Maintenance for an update to share on the broader plan for the park. Mr. Anderson responds that he remembers seeing the trail map, and does not recall there being a series of phases, not that it is a problem.

b. Sigowu Ye and Si't Tuwan Playground Update – presented by L. Verrelli

Ms. Verrelli shares that Admiralty Construction will be the contractor for the Sigoowu Ye project which will be completed in 2 stages. The first stage will require that all the dirt work be done by August 4, with the second phase being playground installation beginning on August 11. The department anticipates the park will be ready to open in early September. She further shares that the construction work for Si't Tuwan will begin this fall, with the playground installation phase beginning in spring of 2026. She concludes by saying that they anticipate Si't Tuwan will be open for the public next summer.

3. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION & COMMENT - NONE

G. STAFF & PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

4. Treadwell Arena Division Update— presented by N. Ploof

Ms. Verrelli introduces Treadwell Arena Manager Nate Ploof to the PRAC. Mr. Ploof begins his arena update with a brief introduction to the facility and its offerings. The arena is 35,000 sq/ft with a single NHL size ice sheet. Additionally, there are 6 locker rooms, a referee room, a concessions stand, and 3 heated benches with a seating capacity of 250 people. He shares that their full-time staff is a team of 4 people, though the Recreation Coordinator 2 position is currently vacant. During the Ice season they have a part-time staff of 16 made up of Recreation Activity Leaders, Recreation Aides, Maintenance Workers, and Custodians.

Mr. Ploof shares that for FY25 the arena saw a 15% increase in visitors with over 63,000 people visiting between August and May. Their frequent user groups include the Juneau Skating Club, the Juneau Adult Hockey Association, the Juneau Douglas Ice association, as well as Juneau Douglas High School's Hockey team and various school groups. The public can visit Treadwell from August through April to take part in open skates, pond Hockey, stick & puck, family skates, and freestyle figure skating. Additionally, they offer Parent & Tot lessons, adaptive skates for individuals with disabilities, and speed skates weekly with volunteer coaches. He shares that this year they held several special events including the annual Halloween skate, Santa skate, and Turkey bowling with two on-ice movies as a part of the Movie in the Park program. For the summer cement season, they are offering pickleball daily Monday – Friday, and roller skating twice a week.

Mr. Ploof identifies staffing as an area for development, as they hope to fill 2 benefited positions and 9 part-time positions soon. He explains that they will be offering a hiring bonus for the Recreation Coordinator 2 position. The department has also recently reclassified these open positions to offer more competitive wages, and with these changes he is hopeful they can attract more employees and retain staff.

Ms. Schirmer asks what the minimum age is for the Recreation Aides, to which Mr. Ploof answers that applicants must be 15 years old.

Ms. Van Nes shares that she works at SAIL and they love the adaptive skates Treadwell offers. She says that allowing people to walk on the ice with cleats on is a huge help, and she thanks him for making skating more accessible.

5. Department Monthly Summary – May 2025

Ms. Verrelli shares that the updates included in the packet are a quick overview of what the different divisions within Parks & Recreation have been doing. She encourages the PRAC to read the summary and share any questions they may have with her. She shares that they anticipate an update from the Managers Office on their progress hiring a new Parks & Recreation Director by next week and she will keep them informed.

Mr. Anderson asks what method is used to prepare the PRAC minutes. Ms. Carroll and Ms. Verrelli answer that they are written by Ms. Carroll using the meeting recording as a guide.

H. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Ms. Schirmer shared that the Lands Housing and Economic Development Committee discussed travel agencies that receive grant funding, and developments with the Affordable Housing Fund, and finally the terms for the State of Alaska parking lease on Willoughby Avenue.

Mr. Anderson shared that he has nothing to report for the Youth Actives Board as they have completed their recent work, and won't be meeting for a while.

Mr. Kaasáank' shared the Tlingit word **Ish** meaning "fishing hole" which he chose since it's a good fit with the summer fishing season upon us.

I. NEXT MEETING DATE - JULY 1, 2025

Ms. Verrelli shares that typically the PRAC skips the July meeting since many people will be traveling, and asks if the committee is agreeable to scheduling their next meeting for August. With no objections, the PRAC decides to forgo their July meeting in favor of meeting next on August 5, 2025.

J. ADJOURNMENT – With no further business to discuss the committee meeting adjourned at 5:55pm

Respectfully submitted by Annie Carroll on 8/1/2025, and approved at the 8/5/2025 PRAC meeting.