

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 06, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar



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A. CALL TO ORDER

PRAC Chair Ryan O'Shaughnessy called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Josh Anderson, Danika Swanson, Emma Van Nes, Kaasáank' Andrew Williams, Paulette Schirmer, & Ren Scott

Absent: Jennifer Gross

Staff Present: Donna Pierce, Parks & Recreation Director; Terra Patterson, Acting Parks & Recreation Deputy Director & Aquatics Manager; Neil Steininger, Assembly Liaison; & Annie Carroll, Parks & Recreation Staff Liaison

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from April 1, 2025

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

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

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2. May 6th Director's Report— *Presented by D. Pierce*

Ms. Pierce updated the PRAC on the City's search to hire a Parks & Recreation Director. She shared that the City Manager Katie Koester, Deputy City Manager Robert Barr, and previous Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Michelle Elfers, will act as the hiring committee for the department's new director. They have narrowed the search down to 5 applicants and will begin conducting interviews soon and arranging for a meet & greet with senior staff for the finalists.

Ms. Pierce also shared that the Adair Kennedy Grand Opening and Rededication held on Saturday, April 26, was a great success with well over 800 people in attendance for the ribbon cutting ceremony and opening day celebration, including the families of Jimmy Kennedy and Richard Adair.

G. AGENDA TOPICS

H. INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES

3. **Hank Harmon Public Range:** Closed for construction as Island Contractors have started work on the upgrade project. Substantial completion for down-range work is expected by July 15th, and final completion by November 1st.

4. **Marine Park Schedule:** Awaiting additional secured funding for this project. Funding to complete the project is included on the Marine Passenger Fee list for this year's budget. If funding is made available, the soonest work will begin is after the last cruise ship of the year.
5. **Outer Point Trail:** Our long semi-affectionate relationship with the beavers at Outer Point is about to resume. No more fooling around with pond levelers, workarounds, and persuasion, we are going out for design for an elevated boardwalk for portions of both the front and back loops (In other words, they won). An RFP for design services will be issued shortly.
6. **Homestead Park:** Closed for construction. The expected June 2 completion date is delayed by at least a month. However, we've worked out an arrangement with the contractor to allow limited access beginning June 2, to accommodate permitted tour operators.

7. **Trail Mix 2025 Workplan**

Mr. O'Shaughnessy asked for an update on the contract rate increase for Trail Mix that was discussed at the April PRAC Meeting. Ms. Pierce let him know that after looking into this staff confirmed that the Trail Mix contract rate had already been increased in FY25 from \$60,000 to \$75,000, and it will remain at that increased rate for FY26.

8. **CBJ Policy Memo Public Camping and Homelessness**

Ms. Pierce shared that the policy memorandum was drafted by the Deputy City Manager Robert Barr with the purpose of giving management guidance for addressing issues that may arise with camping in the Juneau area. The memo provides information about what actions can be taken to resolve issues, and what activities may warrant enforcement so that the city can address issues with a consistent approach in collaboration with different departments.

I. **ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

9. **Draft Trespass Policy:** In lieu of this policy staff is drafting conduct rules for each facility.

Ms. Pierce explained that after receiving feedback from the PRAC on the draft trespass policy, and reconsidering the department's approach to this solution, they have decided to instead focus on crafting conduct rules and staff guidance for all facilities similar to the structure the Juneau Libraries use. She shares that this will try to balance the rights of the public to use facilities while also supporting staff by giving them the tools and guidance they need to do their job and make sure facilities are safe. They plan to do a trial of the new conduct rules to field test them before bringing this topic back to PRAC for discussion and comment.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy thanks Ms. Pierce for approaching this change with care, and assuring that Parks & Rec is consistent with policies and messaging across CBJ.

Ms. Scott agrees and says she appreciates the department taking a step back and being thoughtful about this. She asks if the consequences, such as being trespassed, will be clearly laid out in the new conduct rules. Ms. Pierce confirms that they will be, and clarifies that trespassing someone is the last resort, and that staff will make every attempt to first engage with people and help them, with consequences being progressive depending on repeat behavior.

Ms. Swanson asked if the Juneau Libraries have struck a good balance with the rules they have. Ms. Pierce answers that she believes they have, but that they could be simplified to be made more readable, which is what Parks & Rec will be striving for.

Mr. Anderson asks what enforcement actions are available for officers currently when it comes to trespassing people. Ms. Pierce answered that an officer on their own cannot issue a trespass letter, as that authority is held by the Facility Manager.

Mr. Kaasáank' asked if there is any alternative for people experiencing homelessness. Mr. O'Shaughnessy shared that previously there was the Thane Campground, and the Mill Campground but recently the Assembly decided to transition away from that model and back towards a dispersed camping model.

J. STAFF & PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

10. Aquatics Division Update – presented by T. Patterson

Ms. Patterson gives the PRAC an overview of the Juneau Pools facilities, programing, and services. She shares that Juneau Pools have focused on career development for full-time staff and have strived to create advancement opportunities. She highlights the expanded offerings for swim lessons which have resulted in considerable participation increases and reduced waitlists. Since her last update to PRAC the pools have also held their first Floating Pumpkin Patch Halloween event, and Dimond Dash Triathlon.

Ms. Swanson asks about the physical therapy offerings at the pool. Ms. Patterson answers that SEARHC offers a physical therapy program using the facilities, and shared that the Juneau Bone and Joint Center have also showed interest in renting the facility space to offer therapy as well.

Mr. Kaasáank' shares his appreciation for the pools and asks if the monthly and annual family pass will be returning as an option for users. Ms. Patterson answers that those passes were discontinued when the department switched over to their new registration system CivicRec, but that the Family Day Pass has returned, which covers 5 family members for \$22. Another option for families is to purchase a 10-Visit Pass which can be used for guests that accompany you along to the pool. Mr. Kaasáank' asks if the name plates that were at the Augustus Brown Swimming Pool (AGB) Sauna have been replaced after the renovation. Ms. Patterson answers that they were not reinstalled after work was completed on the area as the City Manager's office decided they would not continue with the program since there isn't a clear policy in place.

Ms. Van Nes asked if the pools will be having another dog day at the AGB pool in the future. Ms. Patterson answers that there is interest in doing dog day again, but that there is a lot of administrative work associated with vetting registered dogs and preparing to hold the event. She concludes that they didn't have the time or capacity to prepare for the event ahead of the annual maintenance closure this year.

Ms. Scott shares that she and her family are avid users of the pools and asks why the Dimond Park Aquatic Center (DPAC) pool is colder than the AGB pool to which Ms. Patterson answers that it costs quite a lot to heat the rec pool at DPAC because it is larger.

K. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Anderson shared that the Youth Actives Board's recommended grant amounts were approved by the Assembly Finance Committee, and next they will be presented to the Assembly for approval in the overall budget

Ms. Schirmer shared that the Lands Housing and Economic Development Committee meeting had been canceled and rescheduled without her knowledge, so she was not in attendance.

Mr. Steininger shared that the Lands Housing and Economic Development Committee discussed the progress towards transferring ownership of Mayflower Island over to the Douglas Indian Association. Additionally, they discussed an ordinance that would change the way that sales tax gets applied for short-term rentals as well as peer-to-peer car rentals. The joint School Board and Assembly meeting held that day discussed moving forward with a playground project at Dzantik'i Heeni School.

Mr. Kaasáank' and his grandson Randy shared the Tlingit phrase ***Naxtoo.aat*** meaning "lets go!". They picked this phrase to share because of the recent reopening of the Adair Kennedy baseball field where Randy plays

with his team the Marlins. Kaasáank' invites everyone to attend a game and help cheer them on "Naḵtoo.aat Marlins!"

L. NEXT MEETING DATE - June 3, 2025

M. ADJOURNMENT– With no further business to discuss the committee meeting adjourned at 6:52pm

Respectfully submitted by Annie Carroll on 5/30/2025, approved as amended at the 6/3/2025 PRAC Meeting.