

Douglas Advisory Board (DAB)
February 13, 2019 – APPROVED MINUTES

Call to order: 5:30pm

Members Present: Mary Kay Pusich (vice-chair), Joyce Vick, John Delgado, Adam Garner, Charles Ward, Teri Tibbett (secretary)

Others present: Merrill Sanford, Patrick Kearney, Tony McCormick, Greg Chaney (CBJ), Michele Elfers (CBJ), George Schaaf (CBJ).

Agenda: Approved.

Minutes from January 9, 2019. Held until next meeting.

New Business:

Update on City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)s Maintenance of Douglas Island Historical Cemeteries, from Lands and Resources Manager Greg Chaney. Mr. Chaney offered an overview of the ownership of the Historical Cemeteries, related to the Alaska constitution and “Public Purpose,” which restricts a municipality from spending public funds on private projects. He discussed “thick files” with lots of information to go through, including identifying ownership of the cemeteries. It was noted that the Fraternal Order of the Eagles had a quiet-title for the Department of Transportation to widen the road, and the current title holder would like to transfer it to CBJ. Mr. Chaney also noted that CBJ had previously purchased the Servian Cemetery, and that CBJ code requires that CBJ-owned cemeteries be maintained by CBJ.

The first step is to establish title for the Douglas Island Historical Cemeteries before maintenance of the cemeteries can be built into the CBJ budget. Volunteers are invited to provide the maintenance in the mean time. CBJ will continue to research and work with title companies so an exchange can happen this spring. CBJ may consider hiring a contractor to do the initial clearing work in preparation for ongoing maintenance. DAB members requested maintenance begin this summer if possible. Mr. Chaney noted some transfers will be easy and quick, and others will be more difficult.

DAB members noted cruise ship and other travelers regularly try to visit the graves of their relatives or ancestors, but most are unrecognizable. Help is needed to locate and identify graves.

Old Business:

Mental Health Trust Land Exchange. Mr. Chaney reported the land exchange involved a trade between the Trust and U.S. Forest Service, which was part of federal legislation sponsored by Senator Lisa Murkowski, after multiple hurdles. Teri presented maps and documents from the Trust outlining the exchange. The land behind Sixth Street is not included in the exchange, but is owned by CBJ.

West Side Development. Mr. Chaney offered a review of the recently-built 3.5 mile public access trail (Pioneer Road), which heads south from the end of North Douglas Hwy toward Middle Creek, and is intended only non-motorized usage (walking, bicycles, dog-walking). The road is not a park managed by Parks and Recreation; it’s primary function is construction access, not recreational, is managed by Lands and Resources, and is not maintained. There was discussion about future development of the west side of the island,

including the potential of a deep water port site, housing, and amenities. Development would require collaboration with Goldbelt Inc. Native corporation, which owns the waterfront property all the way down the west coast of the island.

Announcements: None.

Attachments: None.

Next meeting: March 13, 2019

Adjourn: 7:05pm