



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022 – 5:30 PM
Zoom Webinar

I. Call to Order at 5:31 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: Josh Anderson, Alex Beebe-Giudice, Makayla Chappell, Kirk Duncan, Emily Haynes, Chris Mertl, Will Muldoon

Absent: Edric Carrillo

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Michele Elfers, Deputy Director; Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager

II. Agenda Changes – None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A. From December 7, 2021 – J. Anderson moves to approve minutes, no objection. ***Minutes adopted.***
- B. From January 4, 2022 – J. Anderson moves to approve minutes, no objection. ***Minutes adopted.***

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None

V. New Business

A. Juneau Nordic Ski Club Planning

Roman Motyka (JNSC): [*The plan can be found here.*] The JNSC is a non-profit that has been grooming trails and advocating for Nordic skiing for over 30 years and has close to 1000 members. Our five-year goals include the addition of 15+ km of ski trails at higher elevations. Our ten-year goals include an access road to Spaulding Meadows with a shared trailhead and completion of a world-class system of interconnected trails along with warming huts, recreational cabins, and a biathlon range. The next steps are to work with the PRAC, CBJ and other government organizations to plan for the future. We are hoping that CBJ will help support the development of these trails for the benefit of the entire community.

J. Anderson: Your proposed trails intersect with a large snowmobile area. If you are having problems with snowmobiles on Montana Creek what is your plan to mitigate your concerns up in Spaulding Meadows?

Roman Motyka (JNSC): We are waiting on the Master Plan to show us what the motorized and non-motorized boundaries are.

M. Elfers: We have been working on these maps of motorized and non-motorized use in the Montana Creek area and should be available tomorrow.

J. Anderson: I understand there's always been a Nordic zone and snowmobiles zone up in Spaulding but one of the trails you want to use is the Lake Creek Trail which is currently a snowmobile trail. I am all about sharing and I would like to see improvements to Montana Creek and Lake Creek with trails that are made wide enough to ensure Nordic trails remain

intact and allow room for snowmobiles to access the same trails. Everyone needs to understand they're going to have to share these locations. Not sharing Montana Creek and then adding skiers to Lake Creek does not sound equitable.

Roman Motyka (JNSC): That is part of the Master Plan process. For Lake Creek, we were thinking a dual-purpose road to higher elevations where snowmobilers have one direction and Nordic skiers another.

J. Anderson: I agree, if the trail was made wide enough and it was clear that both user groups have their area they will respect that. When one user group tries to displace another user group, they're going to try to protect what's theirs.

E. Haynes: What are your potential funding sources for these trail improvements?

Roman Motyka (JNSC): We have been talking to the USFS about the Great Alaskan Outdoors Act that has been used to rehabilitate trails in the area including funding from CBJ and DNR.

C. Merti: I want to commend you on this plan. I'm looking for a plan to possibly address management conflict resolution and share trail strategies. If you can nail some of those, then I think this plan is going to be great. In terms of supporting the plan, it would help us understand what your priorities are and costs. I would recommend waiting on publishing this until after the Montana Creek Master Plan is completed.

W. Muldoon: It is a dynamic plan that is fluid. Does the JNSC need anything from us?

Roman Motyka (JNSC): The completion of the Montana Creek Master Plan and assistance in grooming and trail maintenance.

A. Beebe-Giudice: How many youth program participants received financial aid?

Frankie Pillifant: In the last three years, we have moved to a pay-as-you-can format. The youth program does a lot of fundraising to help support everyone who wants to be included in joining the youth Nordic ski program.

VI. Unfinished Business –

A. Fish Creek Park Master Plan

M. Elfers: Last year Parks & Rec and Fish & Game was approached by Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition (SAWC) to partner on a Fish Creek project.

Rob Cadmus (SAWC): Fish Creek has a considerable amount of recreational use in the area, but it has a failing dike and has been heavily modified over the years. We did a lot of outreach and engagement within the community through 2021. We developed three options that we put out to the community. We received a lot of passionate and sincere comments, that were all over the map. We came up with a drawing of the concept that is more of a hands-off approach. Leaving the northeast pond as it is with some recreational improvements. We would be doing some fish habitat enhancement in the dyke. Some slight changes to the dyke on the southwest pond.

M. Elfers: We had a lot of wonderful, passionate input, what is shown on this plan is a more deferred maintenance approach. Not a lot of new stuff or change just doing a little bit better as what's there now.

Rob Cadmus (SAWC): It's a natural environment that has been heavily modified and it will probably change over time. There's going to have to be a kind of management strategy recognizing that this place is not going to be static. The next steps are to finalize the master plan, design work & details and assist with gathering funding.

W. Muldoon: You guys nailed it with the robust public process and engagement, the

unified map data sets, it's great. Is there anything you feel you need from PRAC?

Rob Cadmus (SAWC): At the moment, my hope was to inform you of where we are at in the process. Once we finalize the master plan, what happens with it after that is up to the department.

E. Haynes: The thorough public engagement you did was impressive. Having a solid plan when going to funding agencies will definitely expedite the project in the future.

C. Mertl: The Northeast pond in both concepts showed improvements but your final plan has no improvements. What is the rationale for leaving it as is?

Rob Cadmus (SAWC): We went around a lot with this but currently, Fish & Game is currently doing some bat monitoring so we need to leave it be for now. Also, a lot of folks were against the proposal of removing the dike.

VII. Information Items –

A. 2019-2029 Parks & Rec Master Plan

M. Elfers: *Gave a brief presentation on the Master Plan which can be found here.*

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— This is officially Mr. Duncan and E. Carrillo's last PRAC meeting. Thank you for your service on the board.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— COW set the priority projects list with Lemon Creek included. Talking about long-range plans for the Seawalk.

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: Board passed the Aquatics budget; AGB reno on hold.

YAB – J. Anderson: None.

Eaglecrest – A. Beebe-Giudice: Pay increase for staff was passed by the board.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— E. Carrillo: None

Lands, Economic Developing, Housing – C. Mertl: None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: Looking at beautifying stairs in downtown Juneau.

Treadwell Arena Board – K. Duncan: None

Trail Mix— E. Haynes: None

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None

Other Member Business –

G. Schaaf: Our PRAC retreat is planned for March 12 from 10am-2pm. More details to come.

Adjournment – 6:57 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager 2/25/2022