



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020 – 5:30 PM
Zoom Webinar

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

Present: Josh Anderson, Edric Carrillo, Ron Crenshaw, Kirk Duncan, Chris Mertl, Will Muldoon, Emily Palmer, Tom Rutecki

Absent: Alex Beebe-Giudice

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Michele Elfers, Deputy Director; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison; Merrill Jensen, Jensen-Olson Arboretum Manager

II. Agenda Changes – None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes – None

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None

V. New Business –

A. Youth Activities Board (YAB) Member

G. Schaaf: The YAB consist of nine members including one member from PRAC. Mr. Rutecki has served in the PRAC position previously but he has accepted a position on the board as a member of the public. Tonight, the PRAC needs to recommend someone to fill that seat.

T. Rutecki: YAB is a unique board that influences 10,000-11,000 local youth where the board distributes \$300k in funding. There is more time involved when reviewing the grants in the spring; then the boards meets whenever there are contingency requests.

J. Anderson: I have been interested in YAB but was hesitant with my work travel schedule but now things are via zoom, it might work.

T. Rutecki: I move that the PRAC recommend that the Assembly HRC appoint Josh Anderson to serve on the Youth Activities Board as the PRAC member.

Josh accepts; motion passes unanimously.

VI. Unfinished Business – None

VII. Information Items –

A. Appreciation & Recognition of Merrill Jensen

M. Elfers: As we all know, Merrill is retiring in early December. Michele presented [this PowerPoint](#) appreciation and recognition of Merrill for all his work at the Jensen-Olson Arboretum the last 13 years.

G. Schaaf: We are really going to miss you and Kelly. You took a leap of faith to come to Juneau and you leave Juneau with a gift.

Merrill Jensen: It has been an honor and a privilege to take Caroline's vision into fruition. Thankful for this journey.

C. Mertl: On behalf of PRAC, you have taken a diamond in the rough and created

something amazing. You have evolved it into a world-class garden in 13 years with a limited budget and personnel. The passion and the beauty shows.

K. Duncan: What a pleasure to work with Merrill & Kelly. Thank you for everything.

B. Dimond Park Field House Update

G. Schaaf: The Assembly received a staff report on the prospect of the Fieldhouse being transferred over to CBJ to be operated by Parks & Rec. We think they will take this up at the COW on November 9. Everyone understood what is happening and there has not been any objection.

C. 2020 Infrastructure Bond Update

M. Elfers: The bond initiative passed by the voters for \$15M. It will likely be split in thirds between JSD roofs, Streets projects and Parks & Rec projects. Engineering and Parks have been working together on prioritizing the list of projects. Capital Park is one of the top priorities. Part of the idea behind the bond is economic stimulation.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— Received many follow up phone calls/emails after Montana Creek discussion.

G. Schaaf: I did get a call from the JNSC President; talked about ways we can work together. Encouraged them to work with the Snowmobile Club; we will be collecting data this winter.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report—None

C. Liaison Reports—

Aquatics – W. Muldoon: Both pools are back to a reservations system.

YAB – T. Rutecki: We have a couple new members.

Eaglecrest – E. Palmer: Finalized COVID mitigation plan; opening December 1.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum— E. Carrillo: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: None.

Treadwell Arena Board – K. Duncan: Scaled back use due to level high, 20 people allowed on the ice at one time; getting new roof.

Trail Mix— R. Crenshaw: Been busy with CCC crew out on the trails; highest membership they have had; annual fundraiser is a virtual auction this year; replacing trailhead signs.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Other Member Business –

W. Muldoon: D&H has been meeting in regards to skateboarding by the Juneau Visitor Center. The board has created a subcommittee to work on skateboarding ordinance.

K. Duncan: What is the status of the challenge course at EVC?

M. Elfers: Yes, we signed a lease with SAIL. The brought up a consultant from down south to do a final inspection of the course. The CCC crew is working on improving the trail currently. They are planning to start operations Spring 2021.

Adjournment – 6:29 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, Recreation & Public Services Manager, 12/14/2020