



**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018
6 P.M.
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS**

Agenda Item	Presenter	Action Requested
I. Call to Order	C. Mertl	
II. Approval of Agenda A. Agenda Changes	C. Mertl	Motion to approve
III. Approval of Minutes A. Meeting of August 7, 2018 B. Meeting of September 4, 2018	C. Mertl	Motion to approve
IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items	C. Mertl	
V. New Business A. Gunakadeit Park Property	G. Schaaf	
VI. Unfinished Business A. Parks & Recreation Master Plan B. Treadwell Mine Historic Site & Trail Plan	A. Pierce G. Schaaf	Motion to adopt
VII. Department Information Items A. Chicken Yard Park	G. Schaaf	
VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports Chair Report Liaison to the Assembly Board Member Liaisons Other Board Member Business	C. Mertl <i>Vacant</i> Liaisons All	
IX. Adjournment	C. Mertl	



TO: Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
FROM: George Schaaf, Parks & Recreation Director
DATE: October 3, 2018
RE: October 8, 2018 Meeting

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Please find enclosed the information supporting your agenda topics for this meeting. The meeting is anticipated to last 60 minutes and will take place in the Assembly Chambers at City Hall.

NEW BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

A. Gunakadeit Park Property – Requested by Assembly Lands Committee [Page 14-15]

Gunakadeit Park (also known as “Pocket Park”) is located at 139 S. Franklin Street. The park features were removed to facilitate demolition of the adjacent Gastineau Apartments. Gunakadeit Park is designated as a Special Use Area in the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Special Use Areas are located throughout the CBJ and include areas that are designated for a single use or purpose.

The Lands and Resources Division has received an unsolicited application from Alaska Sustainable Seafoods LLC (d/b/a Deckhand Dave's), to purchase the CBJ parcel that formerly held Gunakadeit Park. The description of the proposal states that the area will be used for a “food court area to foster economic development for new business opportunities as well as displaced existing (businesses) from Archipelago lot.” The City Manager is exploring joint marketing of Gunakadeit Park property along with the former Gastineau Apartments site.

The question before the PRAC is whether to recommend that the Assembly retain Gunakadeit Park under Parks & Recreation management or remove it from the park system. If the property is retained under Parks & Recreation Management, it could still be offered for lease.

RECOMMENDATION: The Department requests that the PRAC recommend to the Lands Committee retaining Gunakadeit Park as a Special Use Area and request that staff develop options for future development or disposal.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

A. PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN – Requested by Alix Pierce, Project Manager

The Draft Parks & Recreation Master Plan is substantially complete and has been reviewed by the PRAC Special Committee over the last year. This is the first comprehensive update to the Department's Master Plan since 1997. The draft Master Plan was presented to the PRAC at its September 4, 2018 meeting, and staff requested the PRAC provide comments by tonight's meeting. The final draft will come back to the PRAC for a recommendation to the Assembly at a later date.

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

A. TREADWELL MINE HISTORIC SITE & TRAIL PLAN – Requested by George Schaaf, Director [Page 16-18]

Corvus Design approached the Parks & Recreation Department in May with an offer to develop a site & trail plan for Treadwell Mine Historic Park at no cost to CBJ. The Department accepted this offer, and staff worked on the project with Debbie Mattson, an intern at Corvus Design. The plan "aims to convey the history of the mining complex, developing a plan that complements the interpretive signage." The plan identifies a range of actions to enhance the visitor experience, which can be accomplished as resources allow.

RECOMMENDATION: The Department recommends that the PRAC adopt the Treadwell Mine Historic Site & Trail Plan.

INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Chicken Yard Park – Requested by Emily Palmer

About 25 Starr Hill residents met privately in September to brainstorm options for Chicken Yard Park that could accommodate both motor vehicles and park features. Staff from CBJ Engineering and Parks & Recreation reviewed some of these options with several residents on September 19th, including one of the owners of 526 Fifth St. The residents shared feedback from their neighborhood meeting, and said that swings and/or play structures are not essential to the park, and suggested that simple green space would provide more flexibility for a driveway. Engineering staff commented that the western retaining wall is adequate to support the sidewalk, but can't support vehicle traffic. We briefly discussed how to pay for a private driveway through the park, including options for a Local Improvement District. Everyone agreed that the legal questions surrounding vehicle access must be resolved before a formal design process can begin.

A second group of Starr Hill residents contacted our office and asked to meet on October 26th. That group said that the neighborhood was not in agreement regarding the situation at Chicken Yard Park. These residents said that a playground (especially swings) should remain part of the park and asked if the Department could survey the neighborhood to gauge overall opinion. We are working on a way to do this using PlaceSpeak.

I am meeting later this month with the City Manager and the owners of 526 Fifth St. to discuss options going forward. We remain open to a compromise that preserves the public's interest in the park.



DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2018 – 6PM
 ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

I. Call to Order at 6:02 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: J. Anderson, E. Carrillo, T. Gilmour, C. Mertl, E. Palmer, C. Prussing, T. Rutecki, K. Shelton

Absent: J. Gellings

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Alix Pierce, Project Manager; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison

II. Agenda Changes – None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from June 5, 2018 – T. Gilmour moves to approve minutes; no objection.
Minutes adopted.

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items –

Laurie Berg (911 Calhoun Ave): There are many people with inadequate wheelchairs from the ships that go through the island's gravel on the Sea Walk at Overstreet Park. If there is a way to press the gravel, it would be easier for them to get to the park to enjoy.

V. New Business –

A. Evergreen Cemetery Historic Landscape Preservation Plan

G. Schaaf: Corvus Design approached us in May with an offer to develop a Historic Landscape Preservation Plan for Evergreen Cemetery at no cost to CBJ. We accepted this offer, and staff worked on the project with Debbie Mattson, an intern at Corvus Design. She produced a plan that provides a framework to preserve and showcase the meaningful history that fills Evergreen Cemetery through the environment it occupies. The plan identifies a range of actions to enhance the cemetery, which can be accomplished as resources allow.

C. Mertl: I have a conflict of interest since Corvus prepared the plan pro-bono.

E. Palmer: It is important to include a section for the prominent Native Alaskans in the cemetery. It would be important to use native plants in the area instead of bringing in non-native plants. I make a motion to adopt the Evergreen Cemetery Historic Preservation Plan as written and ask for unanimous consent.

No objection; motion passes.

B. Douglas Cemeteries

G. Schaaf: The Lands Committee is considering a request by former Juneau Mayor Merrill Sanford to transfer ownership of the Eagles Cemetery in Douglas to CBJ. Mr. Sanford also asked the Lands Committee to recommend that the Assembly acquire all other cemeteries in Douglas. If acquired by the CBJ, Parks & Rec would be responsible for maintenance of the cemeteries. On the staff side, we are unable to absorb additional maintenance responsibilities within our existing resources. The cost estimates assume no future burials would take place in any of the cemeteries. If future burials are necessary, then maintenance costs would be significantly higher. The Department does not have a

recommendation regarding the acquisition of the Douglas cemeteries; we feel it's a decision for the PRAC and Assembly to make. However, if the PRAC supports the acquisition of the Douglas cemeteries, then the Department requests that the PRAC recommend to the Lands Committee the addition of one (1) 0.40 FTE position to the Department's staffing schedule and (2) an increment of \$35,981 to the Department's FY19 budget for personnel services, contractual services, and other expenses necessary for cemetery maintenance.

C. Mertl: Cemeteries are cultural, open spaces. These cemeteries are slowly falling into disrepair, it does make sense the CBJ takes possession. It does concern me about the high maintenance and if Parks & Rec takes over, they need the appropriate funding to maintain them.

Mary-Kay Pusich (1407 1st St.): I am a member of the Douglas Advisory Board; we have been working on this with multiple Directors, Mayors and other city officials since 1983. There have been families who have tried to come find their loved ones and they cannot because of the overgrowth.

Mike Monagle (3730 El Camino): I am the business manager for the Diocese of Juneau which owns the Catholic Cemetery. We were approached by the Douglas Advisory board a couple years ago to allow the city to take over maintenance as we currently struggle to maintain it. We found unmarked graves, broken headstones and it's a shame since it's a cultural and historic site. We're willing to transfer the property to the City and Borough of Juneau at no charge.

Brien Daugherty (418 7th St.): I really think our cemeteries have a deep significance for any community. To keep them up should be a priority. I hope the City will stand up and give a hand.

T. Gilmour: It will be a big task to take this on at the beginning. Does the .40 FTE request be your normal to maintain, or will you need additional support at the beginning?

G. Schaaf: The cost estimate includes initial funding for contract cost to get the parcels cleared; even with additional staff we do not have the man power to do that.

T. Gilmour: I make a motion the PRAC recommends to the Lands Committee the addition of one (1) 0.40 FTE position to the Department's staffing schedule and (2) an increment of \$35,981 to the Department's FY19 budget for personnel services, contractual services, and other expenses necessary for cemetery maintenance.

K. Shelton: These cemeteries house an important part of our community's history and it is the respectful thing to do. It also helps establish our community's identity as we move forward; we don't want to forget our community's history.

No objection; motion passes.

C. Chicken Yard Park

G. Schaaf: We have a safety problem and park maintenance problem at Chicken Yard Park. It has our oldest playground equipment in Juneau, it was installed in 1988. It should have been replaced on our normal replacement schedule, every 10-15 years. Today, it is unsafe and needs to be removed and replaced. We currently have around \$90,000 from the temporary 1% sales tax; we are ready to move forward with the public process to design and construct park improvements with that funding and also leverage that funding with additional money. The park is currently being used by motorized vehicles to access private property adjacent to the park which is a safety problem that is preventing us from moving forward with installation of a new playground. National standards that we have to comply with when we build and maintain playgrounds, show that a playground that size and a driveway can't work here because the lot is too small. In 1980, the Parks & Rec dept. went to the Assembly about closing the park to vehicle accesses; there was a lot of discussion but it ended up getting tabled. In 1988, the playground you see today was installed. For a long time, there has been an ordinance in the city that prohibits motorized vehicles in parks and there is no exception in

Chicken Yard Park. We have allowed vehicles to drive through the park and access the property for many years, which is contrary to our responsibility to build and maintain safe playgrounds. Just to clarify, there is no easement on the park. What we're challenged with is how we can replace the playground and also accommodate a driveway. The question we're asking the PRAC tonight is whether Chicken Yard Park should be retained as a park or whether it should be removed from management by the Parks & Rec department and be used for some other purpose. Our recommendation is to be retained as a park.

T. Rutecki: We need to schedule a work session with Starr Hill residents, Parks & Rec staff and the Risk Dept.

C. Mertl: Mr. Schaaf, can you confirm that this is just a starting point and that we are not looking to make a recommendation tonight? Has Law made an official recommendation to you?

G. Schaaf: The reason we're looking for a recommendation from the RPAC before we spend substantial resources on developing, designing and constructing a new park and playground, we need to make sure that's what the community wants. Our concern is that we cannot construct a playground where vehicles are present. The Assembly has appropriated the funds for the park and we would like to construct the playground next summer; the current playground is a safety hazard and it needs to be removed. Law has confirmed that no easement exists or has been requested.

J. Anderson: Do you have a timeline for demolishing the playground?

G. Schaaf: It needs to be taken out this year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Odin Brudie (512 6th St.): Chicken Yard Park is a gathering and playing spot. I have always been an advocate for downtown open space. I look forward to developing a new and improved Chicken Yard.

Vicki Van Fleet (626 5th St.): My husband and I are the owners of the house in question. We love our house, we love chicken yard and we love our neighbors. We have always respected our responsibility with our access through chicken yard. We don't allow our own friends to drive through to park to get to our house. If they city cannot give an exception to this ordinance or come up with a creative solution for both our legal access and Chicken Yard Park then we may be forced into litigation with the city to establish our legal title of our easement. This is not what we desire; we want the park as much as everyone.

C. Mertl: What I'm reading in the packet of comments, people want to keep Chicken Yard Park as a neighborhood park. Would you be willing to not have direct access all the way through the park, would partial access meet your needs?

Vicki Van Fleet: Yes, we would be willing to talk about that but we would need our attorney present.

Brock Tabor (434 7th St.): I am an active user of the park with my son Chance. I'm a good neighbor and recognize that access needs to happen. I would like to see numbers for the cost of all the scenarios. There are lots of options but not having a place for little ones is not an option.

Sandy Harbanuke (604 Fourth St.): If we don't have a park, the kids are going to play in the street instead. I don't like the idea of making the park smaller; chicken yard has been a place where kids have been able to do all kinds of things.

Paige McGuan (517 5th St.): I played in Chicken Yard as a child and I now have 3 young children who use it frequently. It's a place where I feel comfortable letting them go on their own. The area needs to stay as a playground; we love our neighbors and agree there needs to be access to the property. Juneau is full of creative people that can come up with a better solution.

Judy Crondell (800 F St.): It seems to me the presentation says that Chicken Yard Park is unsafe for two reasons 1) the residents of the home use the park for access to their residence and 2) the

playground equipment has become unsafe. Speaking as a former resident of the property at question for 36 years, my husband and I felt that we were never putting the children at risk by driving through the park. Without Chicken Yard Park, the children would be playing in the streets. Even today, when kids access the park, there is no sidewalk on the chicken yard side or a crosswalk to get to the park. There seems to be overwhelming support to maintain access and a playground. No one is getting hurt, what problem is the CBJ attempting to solve?

Jack McGee (445 Nelson): I am an attorney; there is a lot of confusion of the easement. The legal definition prescriptive easement included the concept of fairness. It is an easement upon another's real property acquired by continued use without permission of the owner for more than 10 years.

Sarah Sjustedit (501 Kennedy St.): I have lived on Starr Hill for almost 10 years. Children need access to green space and to eliminate this park would be public health issue. The community needs to work with the city to allow a needs survey to see what the community wants to do with the park. I do not think vehicle access equates access to your home.

Shawna McMahon (531 Park St.): Chicken Yard has been invaluable to me and my 8 year old. With very little green space in the area, it's a place to get the kids off the street to play. This is a historic park and this is not an either or situation, we can come up with a creative solution.

John Greely (529 East St.): My property is right below the park. Chicken Yard provides an open space for the neighborhood. Are there ways to have hours of operations that would allow for them to leave and come back to their home?

Marla Berg (529 East St.): Safety of the kids is a top priority. We have all raised our kids there and no one got hurt. What are the plans? They need to be shared with the community.

Brien Daugherty (418 7th St.): Yes, cars have always come and gone through the park. When I grew up, it was loaded with kids and all we had was a basketball hoop. I can't say enough how much I want it to remain a park. We need to establish it as a community space that would allow multi-use.

Sally Donaldson (530 Park St.): I bring my grandchildren to the park, I work out there, and we have had a giant neighborhood garage sale there.

Gail Horetski (604 5th St.): I live below the park and have lived there for 35 years. I have watched so many kids play there and there has never been a problem with the cars and the kids playing.

Mac Metcalfe (624 6th St.): This was badly handled in the beginning, disrespectful to the neighborhood. We were invited in after the fact and told there is only one way and that needs to be changed. On a positive note, you mentioned how important safety is for children. My 5 year old cousin was killed on Kennedy Street by a car backing up in the early 50's. Your concern for safety for kids is absolutely right.

Tiyvette Soutiere (634 6th St.): This Park is the neighborhood, a safe park. It is different than Capital Park, there are always people watching at Chicken Yard.

David Thomas (520 Nelson St.): I use the park for green space since I don't have any on my property. It is the yard for the neighborhood. Even as just a grassy area, it would be utilized a lot.

Donna Peel (N/A): 52 year resident of Starr Hill. Big mistake to change what is going on that has been going on well for many years. I would like my neighbors to still get to their property and still have a playground.

Rick Trostel (430 Hermit St.): Raised my daughter near Chicken Yard. Is there any consideration to possibly giving them access via 5th St. (sledding hill) to their property?

Frankie Philaphant (512 6th St.): Longtime resident of Juneau and have enjoyed Chicken Yard very much. You need to educate us more on the national standards.

Paul Korchin (634 6th St.): Newcomers to Juneau and Starr Hill, there's a sense of public trust in the

neighborhood. I'm grateful to hear that everyone wants to keep the park. The challenge is how we can balance keeping the park and playground. I look forward to the conversation.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

C. Mertl: We will work with Mr. Schaaf to make sure this is an open process that includes the neighborhood.

G. Schaaf: We heard overwhelming support to maintaining the parcel as a park, I suggest the committee entertain the idea of having a motion to retain the Chicken Yard Park as a park and direct staff to develop a process to explore options and report back to the committee.

E. Palmer: I'm hearing there hasn't been enough public process. Is there a way to move this forward and have a committee of the neighborhood and staff to work on this together?

T. Gilmour: I would like to find a way to create more neighborhood conversation and come up with solutions.

C. Mertl: Disposal is not an option we want to pursue.

K. Shelton: I would like to know more on the perspective easement and get more guidance from the City legal team.

J. Anderson: We need to figure out the property access part first so we can move forward.

T. Gilmour: I move that PRAC instructs the Parks & Rec Department to hold a neighborhood meeting and explain the legal aspects so they can start a discussion reporting back to us in November.

Unanimous consent; motion passes.

VI. Unfinished Business – None.

VII. Department Information Items

A. Project Playground

A. Pierce: We are in need of volunteers for the Project Playground Community Build portion, we only have about half. Leather & Associates team has been on site getting prepped before the community build. The Community Build kicks off tomorrow at 7am, the community is obligated to complete a certain portion of the playground.

B. Parks & Rec Master Plan

A. Pierce: The Plan is done and is currently being reviewed by staff. Chicken Yard is number two on the list for priority parks, only behind Capital Park which also has a failing retaining wall. The plan has recommendations that can be implemented the next ten years.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— None.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None.

C. Liaison Reports—

YAB – T. Rutecki: Will present to the HRC with the annual report.

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: Had a retreat in July.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum—T. Gilmour: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: Deckhand Dave approached Lands to buy Gunakadeit Park.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Treadwell Arena Board – VACANT

JNU Urban Forestry – C. Mertl: None.

Eaglecrest – E. Palmer: Season passes staying the same, day rates increased \$1.

TrailMix— K. Shelton: None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: None.

Other Member Business – None.

Adjournment – 9:02 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 10/7/2018



DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018 – 6PM
 ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

I. Call to Order at 6:05 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: J. Anderson, E. Carrillo, C. Mertl, E. Palmer, T. Rutecki,

Absent: J. Gellings, T. Gilmour, K. Shelton

Staff Present: George Schaaf (t), Director; Alix Pierce, Project Manager; Colby Shibler, Park Maintenance Supervisor; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison

II. Agenda Changes – None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 7, 2018 – *Not available, moved to next meeting.*

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None

V. New Business –

A. Treadwell Mine Historic Site & Trail Plan

G. Schaaf: Corvus Design approached us in May with an offer to develop a site & trail plan for Treadwell Mine Historic Park at no cost to CBJ. The plan “aims to convey the history of the mining complex, developing a plan that complements the interpretive signage.” The plan identifies a range of actions to enhance the visitor experience, which can be accomplished as resources allow. The recommendation is that PRAC adopts this plan so we can move forward with implementing it when we’re able.

C. Mertl: This plan complements and gives further detail to Treadwell Mine Historic Trail in the Savikko Master Plan from 2008. One thing that this plan does is try to restore the original historic site circulation of the area.

J. Anderson: I move to adopt the Treadwell Mine Historic Site & Trail Plan presented in the packet.

George Utermohle (1970 Glacier Ave.): I have been a user of the area since 1975, I don’t see this as a plan that the PRAC can adopt. You’re proposing vast changes to the existing area. This plan proposes eliminating all existing trails which would clear cut the area to impose these new trails. This plan is inconsistent with existing use and needs to go to the public.

T. Rutecki: In regards to clear cutting, that means cutting down everything that is there.

George Utermohle: That is what this plan proposes, eliminating all existing trails and putting in a new trail system.

C. Mertl: The reestablish of historic trails is appropriate; the ones that are there now were largely put in by the cross country club. This document is a roadmap on how to move forward to preserve the historic nature of the site; it is not a management plan. What I have heard from the Treadwell Historic Society is that they want to stop the deterioration and preserve the landscape, the sites and artifacts and not let it get overgrown.

G. Schaaf: This plan was designed to complement the existing Savikko Park Master Plan that includes

the Treadwell Mine Historic Park which was adopted in 2008. This plan provides us a framework going forward in the future when we develop trails in the area that they will be more consistent with the historic use and values of the area. I don't see it will dramatically change the environment in the area, nor does it propose any changes that are not consistent with the 2008 plan.

E. Carrillo: This is the first time I have heard of this, so maybe we can table it to the next month to get more input from the public.

J. Anderson: This plan is right in line with what we have discussed the last several years; I would like to move forward with a motion to adopt the plan.

C. Merti: I have a conflict of interest since my firm worked on this; I will not be able to vote. We lose our quorum and will have to push this to our October meeting.

B. Parks & Recreation Master Plan

A. Pierce: This Draft Parks & Rec Master Plan is the result of two years of work by department staff and by the PRAC Special Committee, who donated hours of their time to reviewing the document chapter by chapter. We consulted with over 30 user groups and engaged the public through surveys, meetings, and online. Based on the feedback we received from the public, the Special Committee developed a mission, vision, and guiding principles that shape the direction of the Master Plan. The department also developed a set of recommendations based on public feedback and internal goals. The Draft Master Plan document arrives at these goals and recommendations and provides baseline conditions, a policy framework, and guidance to future decision makers. The key themes of the Plan are partnerships, maintaining what we have, supporting underserved residents, and direction for future land management decisions. This is a broad and comprehensive document that presents a lot of information over 100 + pages. Please consider the public and Assembly's perspective in your review, and review for broad content rather than individual interests and bring your recommendations to the October PRAC meeting.

VI. Unfinished Business –

A. Pickleball/Shared Use of Tennis Courts

G. Schaaf: At our June 5 meeting, the PRAC recommended the installation of temporary lines for pickleball at Cope Park and Adair Kennedy Memorial Park. You also asked staff to solicit feedback from the public about how they felt with the shared use of the courts. We worked with our Park Maintenance staff and pickleball volunteers to install temporary pickleball lines at Cope and Adair. We installed signs with QR codes at both courts inviting feedback from court users, either positive or negative regarding the lines. Some of the lessons learned from the past couple of months is that the temporary tape does not hold up well in our climate. The tape faded from orange to white which made it confusing for both players. We learned more about pickleball lines and according to the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA), mixed use courts that accommodate both tennis and pickleball players should include tone-on-tone lines (same color family). Based on the feedback we received from the public, we had 28 positive responses, 8 negative responses and 2 neutral responses. There is an opportunity here to maximize the use of our existing courts without having to spend a lot of money to build additional courts at this time. We recommend installing permanent blended lines for pickleball on one court at Cope and one at Adair, consistent with USAPA guidelines.

E. Carrillo: I would like to make a motion that the PRAC adopts the Departments recommendations of

installing permanent blended lines for pickleball on one tennis court at Cope Park and one tennis court at Adair, consistent with USAPA guidelines.

Art Dee (1180 Fritz Cove): I am a tennis player and adding all this additional stripping has ruined the courts. The stripes are very confusing for both sports.

T. Rutecki: What about the covered areas at schools?

G. Schaaf: Those unfortunately are not a good playing surface for court sports. They're also part of school property and are not available during the school year. From our standpoint we're trying to make the most of our resources we have and looking at this as an opportunity to maximize the use of our tennis courts.

C. Mertl: Any objection to the motion before us?

No objection; motion passes.

VII. Department Information Items - None

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— None.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None.

C. Liaison Reports—

YAB— T. Rutecki: Did not fund a contingency grant; has two new members.

Aquatics— T. Rutecki: City Manager attended the last meeting and stated that nothing will be going before the Assembly until after the election.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum—T. Gilmour: None.

Lands— C. Mertl: None.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Treadwell Arena Board— VACANT

JNU Urban Forestry— C. Mertl: None.

Eaglecrest— E. Palmer: None.

TrailMix— K. Shelton: None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: None.

Other Member Business— None.

Adjournment – 7:23 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

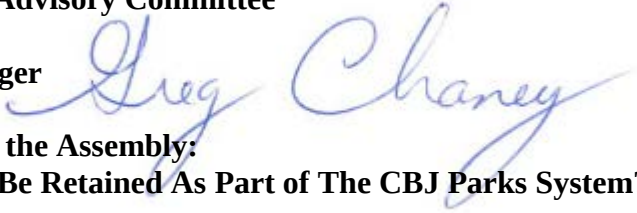
Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 10/3/2018

MEMORANDUM

CITY/BOROUGH OF JUNEAU

Lands and Resources Office
155 S. Seward St., Juneau, Alaska 99801
Greg.Chaney@juneau.org
(907) 586-0205

TO: The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Greg Chaney, Lands Manager 

SUBJECT: PRAC Recommendation to the Assembly:
Should Guna-ka-deit Park Be Retained As Part of The CBJ Parks System?

DATE: September 27, 2018

The Lands and Resources Division received an application from Alaska Sustainable Seafoods LLC dba *Deckhand Dave's* to purchase the City owned property located at 139 S. Franklin Street, the former location of Guna-ka-deit Park also known downtown as "Pocket Park". The description of the proposal states that the area will be used for a "food court area to foster economic development for new business opportunities as well as displaced existing (businesses) from Archipelago lot."

After fires destroyed the Gastineau Apartments, Guna-ka-deit Park improvements were removed and this property was used as a staging area for the demolition and removal of the burned out building. When the Assembly approved the 2016 Land Management Plan, they designated this property's retention status as "retain/dispose" because the park features had been removed, and to provide flexibility for a downtown development plan.

The August 6 2018 Lands Committee considered *Deckhand Dave's* proposal and after discussing the property's status as a park, unanimously passed the following:

A motion from the Lands Committee to forward this application to the Parks Department and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) to provide comments before further Assembly review.

The question before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is whether to recommend that the Assembly retain Gunakadeit Park under Parks management or that the park should be transferred out of the Parks system.

At the August 6 2018 Lands Committee meeting, committee members advised staff to bring this topic to the PRAC to provide a recommendation to the Assembly whether this property should remain a city park. The Committee commented that they were not requesting a recommendation concerning the use of the land if it was not going to be under Parks management. If the

Assembly determines that the site should no longer be managed as a park, the Lands Division will solicit other departments within the City to determine if there is another appropriate public use for the property, such as a police substation. If no other department identifies a need for the lot, the Lands Division will investigate whether it is in the long term interest of the community to retain the lot and lease it; or if it would be more appropriate to sell the property as outlined in CBJ§53.09 ARTICLE IV *Disposal*.

CBJ§53.09.600(a) stipulates that revenue from sale or lease of land shall be credited to the Lands Fund unless it is held for an enterprise operation such as the airport. The Parks Department is not an enterprise fund so, unless the Assembly stipulates otherwise, under current City code proceeds from the sale would not be credited to park uses.

September 25, 2018

TO: Members, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

RE: Proposed TREADWELL MINE HISTORIC SITE AND TRAIL PLAN 9-2018

REQUESTED ACTION: It is requested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee neither adopt nor endorse the proposed Treadwell Mine Historic Site and Trail Plan.

My name is George Utermohle. I reside at 1970 Glacier Avenue, Juneau.

I am a long time user of the Treadwell Historic Area. I have used the area and the adjoining Sandy Beach since 1975. For the last 20 years our family has been a regular user with multiple visits per week.

Though we occasionally visit the area for purely recreational use, our use of the area is primarily as a member of the large Juneau dog owning community. Dog owners walk their dogs multiple times, every day throughout the year. Though we would rather not be outdoors during the worst of the Juneau weather, we have no choice. Our dogs need to be walked and they are apparently unaffected by the weather. Our use of the area is year round – *regardless* of the weather.

Dog walkers have established a history of use of the Treadwell Historic Area that well exceeds the level of use by other user groups. Dog walkers are present in the area throughout the day from early in the morning till well after dark. Dog walkers are present in the area every day of the year. The presence of dog walkers in the area enhances the safety and security of the area for other trail users and the historic elements of the area and the public investments in the area. Especially in the Fall, Winter, and early Spring, dog walkers are by far the predominant user group of the area. There are other users such as joggers, walkers, bird watchers, etc. that use the area, as well. As well-established user groups, dog walkers and similar users of the area must be protected from diminishment of use before other user groups or uses of the area are promoted.

Sandy Beach provides a gateway to the Treadwell Historic Area for most visitors and users of the area. The expanse of open beach and scenic vistas is attractive to all users of the area, including dog walkers. One notable aspect of Sandy Beach is its exposure to Juneau's oft-times harsh weather. During periods of strong northerly winds as well as Taku winds, the beach bears the full force of the winds. During high wind events, Sandy Beach is virtually unusable. At those times, users of the beach retreat to the uplands of the Treadwell Historic Area for protection from the wind. In the Treadwell Historic Area, the dense shrubs and trees provide a wind break and shelter from the winds coming off the channel.

Strong winds are not just a winter phenomenon; they can occur any time of year. These winds and the wind-driven sand forces users off the beach. They either go home or they take shelter in

the Treadwell Historic Area. High winds are not the only weather conditions that cause users to seek protection in the vegetated area of the Treadwell Historic Area. Throughout the year, Juneau often experiences heavy rain. During periods of heavy rainfall the Treadwell Historic Area is a refuge. The canopy of tall trees intercepts the rain and provides a virtual roof over trail users.

The current plan (not the proposed plan) recognizes that current user groups have an on-going interest in maintaining vegetation in the area:

***Trails** Joggers, cross-county runners, hikers, strollers, dog walkers and birders have expressed a desire to maintain the natural vegetated character of the trail that provides shelter and protection from prevailing southeasterly winds and fierce seasonal Taku winds. Savikko Park/Sandy Beach/ Treadwell Mine Historic Trail Master Plan, 2008, pg. 7*

Sensitivity to tree stands and the unique successional forest that serves as wind breaks from Taku gusts and prevailing southeasterly winds must be noted and protected. Savikko Park/Sandy Beach/ Treadwell Mine Historic Trail Master Plan, 2008, pg. 26

The TREADWELL MINE HISTORIC SITE AND TRAIL PLAN 9-2018 proposes to significantly diminish the shelter provided by the Treadwell Historic Area by removing a large portion of the vegetation, especially large trees from the area. The large area between the Office Building and the Steam Plant will be cleared of all trees and other vegetation. New trails will be constructed on the routes of the railroads, boardwalks, and roads that were historically in the area. These new trails will replace the existing trails. An amphitheater and rest areas will be constructed off the trails.

The extensive amount of vegetation proposed to be removed from the Treadwell Historic Area will significantly alter the capacity of the area to provide the “shelter and protection” from weather that is an important element of the current plan. If the area no longer has the vegetation necessary to provide shelter from harsh weather, users will find alternative locations. If the current user groups are displaced, the total use of the Treadwell Historic Area will be reduced. There is no other user group to fill the void if dog walkers and similarly intrepid trail users are forced out of the area during difficult Juneau weather. The area will receive less than its optimal use by the public and thus be underutilized.

The current Treadwell Historic Area offers a quiet area away from motor vehicle traffic. Numerous user groups co-exist in the area: dog walkers, walkers/hikers, joggers, history-philers, and tourists (both independent and guided). The attractiveness of the area is due in large part to the verdant vegetation, both shrubs and towering trees, and the historic relics and ruins interspersed among the vegetation. The imposing forest that presently dominates the area should be embraced as an important element of the history of the Treadwell Historic Area and should be acknowledged. The invasion of the former mining site by a deciduous forest is a natural

consequence of the collapse of mining in the area. It is the forest that provides the “seductive and mysterious sense of the place” described in the current plan.

The current plan acknowledges the role of the existing vegetation in maintaining the quality of the Treadwell Historic Area for all users:

*It [Treadwell Historic Area] would remain a forested site with a continuous fabric of vegetation. **The seductive and mysterious sense of the place will remain, every turn of the trail or passage into another space will reveal unexpected sights.** Savikko Park/Sandy Beach/ Treadwell Mine Historic Trail Master Plan, 2008, pg. 33 (emphasis added)*

CONCLUSION: The Proposed TREADWELL MINE HISTORIC SITE AND TRAIL PLAN 9-2018 which is being considered by the CBJ Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee narrowly focuses on developing the historic resources of the Treadwell Historic Area. The proposed plan addresses neither the current use of the area by existing user groups nor the existing Savikko Park/Sandy Beach/ Treadwell Mine Historic Trail Master Plan adopted in 2008.

The extensive removal of vegetation (trees and associated understory) envisioned in the proposed plan will displace existing user groups that rely heavily on the area for recreation without providing alternative opportunities in the area. Existing uses of the area that rely upon the presence of significant vegetation in the area for “shelter and protection” from Juneau weather throughout the year are complementary with the enhancement of the historic values of the area. The maintenance of established uses and the enhancement of historic elements in the area need not be mutually exclusive. Retention of the existing dense shrubs and tall trees, subject to trail maintenance activities, will allow for continued use of the area by current user groups and for additional historic interpretation.

Because the proposed plan is narrowly focused on development of the historic elements of the Treadwell Historic Area to the detriment of existing user groups, the plan should not be adopted or endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee or the CBJ Parks and Recreation Department.