



MEETING MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2018 – 6PM
ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

I. Call to Order at 6:00 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

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

Absent: K. Shelton

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

II. Agenda Changes – None

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 7, 2018 & September 4, 2018 – J. Anderson moves to approve both minutes; no objection. *Minutes adopted.*

IV. Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None

V. New Business –

A. Gunakadeit Park Property

G. Schaaf: Gunakadeit Park, also known as “Pocket Park”, is located at 139 S. Franklin Street and is designated as a Special Use Area (designated for a single use or purpose) in the Parks & Rec Comprehensive Plan. The Lands Division received an application from Alaska Sustainable Seafood’s LLC (Deckhand Dave’s) to purchase the parcel. The area would be used as a food court area to foster economic development for new business opportunities as well as displaced existing businesses from the Archipelago lot. The City Manager is exploring joint packaging with our parcel and the former Gastineau Apartments site. The question here tonight is whether the PRAC would recommend we retain Gunakadeit Park under Parks & Rec management or remove it from the park system.

Greg Chaney: The PRACs role is to decide if it should remain a park or not.

T. Rutecki: The Departments recommendation is to keep it as a special use area?

G. Schaaf: Our default is for it to remain a park. There are a few options to consider, dispose the park through a land sale like Deckhand Dave’s is offering; offer the park for disposal through a lease where the city would retain ownership but would be made available for development; or improve it as a park. Retaining it as a special use area keeps all the options open. Also, take into consideration if the park is sold then the City is not able to determine how the parcel will be used.

T. Gilmour: I would like to see it remain a park but I would be open to having it leased.

J. Gellings: Would this stay open for the winter?

David McCasland: I am open to a lease. Creating a food truck park would keep it an open space for the city and a place for the community. During the winter, it would be fenced off

and a secure area, I would also have security and lighting. It wouldn't operate at the same capacity as the summer but I envision it would be open for special events for locals during the winter.

C. Mertl: If you were able to work a lease agreement for only Gunakadeit Park, would that work for your vision?

David McCasland: Just Gunakadeit Park would only fit a few vendors and my vision is to have both properties with multiple vendors there would be a draw for the community.

T. Rutecki: I make a motion that the PRAC recommends to the Lands Committee to retain Gunakadeit Park as a special use area and request that staff develop options for future development or disposal.

George Utermohle (1970 Glacier Ave.): I am speaking on behalf of Grateful Dogs of Juneau. I request this land be retained as Parks & Rec green space for people to walk their dogs.

Motion passes unanimously.

VI. Unfinished Business –

A. Treadwell Mine Historic Site & Trail Plan

G. Schaaf: This was brought to the PRAC at our September meeting but we did not have a quorum to vote. This plan seeks to make sure future trail development in the area conformity of the historic environment and resources in the park. Our staff worked closely on this project and we recommend to the PRAC to adopt the Treadwell Mine Historic Site & Trail Plan.

C. Mertl: I need to recuse myself again since my firm produced the plan.

Wayne Jensen (1210 2nd St.): I am member of the Treadwell Historic Preservation & Restoration Society (THP&RS) and our main purpose is to restore and preserve the history of the park and educate the people of Juneau. It is one of the most used parks in the borough and hosts a great number of different user groups which we want to continue. Having professional guidance on how the park moves forward is very important. As far as clearing, we will selectively clear sections to create view sheds of the channel and around buildings to help preserve them and bring in more light. We will not be clear cutting the entire area.

C. Mertl: This plan would also be a funding tool for when the THP&RS seeks more grants.

G. Schaaf: This plan builds on the 2008 Savikko Park Master Plan which identifies areas for vegetation management for safety and preserving historic structures in the area. This new plan talks about clearing sight lines and view sheds but also looks at invasive plants (alders). Unlike the 2008 plan, this plan talks about preserving tree stands that create protection from the wind coming down the channel.

T. Rutecki: The goal of the THP&RS is to restore the industrial complex like it used to look like with the funds available? Also, what about all the current trails?

Wayne Jensen: Our goal is to preserve what is left there and prevent it from deteriorating anymore. Having a very active trail system is really important to the park. We would focus on eliminating some of the trails that do not make any sense anymore and try to get

reflection of how the historic transportation routes in Treadwell used to be.

Paula Terel (4970 Thane Rd.): I have used the trails for the past 25-30 years and I am in support of the THP&RS. I would not want to see the trails eliminated. It is a wonderful set of trails. I'm concerned these changes would not be inviting to locals.

G. Schaaf: Our conceptual master plans for individual parks are something that we develop in the department. The PRAC is our public consultation tool to get the word out to the community. This is a conceptual plan; this is not a design document we would use for construction. We have many conceptual plans for our parks; it provides general guidelines and intent for future development as we move forward.

George Utermohle: There is currently a Savikko Master plan from 2008 but this new plan does not mesh with the current one. The trails recommend in both plans are vastly different. In the new plans proposal, the plaza would remove everything in the parade grounds; it would be an unnecessary removal of vegetation. The document you have in front of you is an unsolicited document that you did not participate or request in making.

Ginger Johnson (118 5th St.): I have lived on the Treadwell trail for 36 years and I'm one of your most active volunteers. I clean the first 100 yards of the trail every day, picking up bags of dog poop. I support the concept of the plan. In memory of my husband, I paid for the replacement of the roof on the transformers building (\$20,000). This is how strongly I believe we need to preserve the history of the area. I would welcome a little more light and view plains so we can still see the water. I paid for someone to weed whack the first 100 yards three times because the Indian rhubarb was taller than me which would make it difficult for people to pick up after their dogs. I am really committed to saving this area and making it available to everyone; Treadwell is such an important part of our history.

Paulette Simpson (402 Alaska Belle): I am the president of THP&RS, everything we have done over the past 10 years has been organic but in concert with our mission which is to preserve the remaining and existing foundations of the Treadwell mine. There were originally 200 buildings in Treadwell and there are only 3 remaining that we are focused on preserving. What was really helpful when we started off to get a few grants was the 2008 Savikko Plan. This beautiful new plan will allow us to attract more money over the years and it will happen organically, bits and pieces, as we get money, nothing radical.

E. Palmer: I understand this is a conceptual plan, but when it comes to potentially building or decommissioning trails, would there be more public process?

G. Schaaf: Depending on the size of the project, if it's a short project, it would probably come just to you as an information item but if it's a bigger project with our partners we would include the public.

J. Anderson: This area is part of our history; it would be foolish to not preserve the area. I make a motion the PRAC adopts the Treadwell Mine Historic Site & Trail Plan.

Unanimous consent; motion passes (C. Mertl recused himself).

B. Parks & Recreation Master Plan

PRAC discusses their comments on the Parks & Rec Master Plan.

VII. Department Information Items –

A. Chicken Yard Park

G. Schaaf: Staff from CBJ Engineering and Parks & Rec reviewed some options Starr Hill residents brainstormed 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. A second group of Starr Hill residents contacted our office and asked to meet on September 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 anonymously. We are working on a way to do this using PlaceSpeak.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— Thank you for the Grand Opening of Project Playground, it was a success.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None.

C. Liaison Reports—

YAB— T. Rutecki: None.

Aquatics— T. Rutecki: Alix came and presented the Master Plan; DPAC held a successful swim meet; the pool covers have arrived.

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: Gearing up for winter season; brought in a mountain bike consultant team for summer mountain bike use.

TrailMix— K. Shelton: None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: None.

Other Member Business –

T. Gilmour: I am stepping down from the PRAC immediately. Thank you to the other board members and staff, it has been amazing working with you all.

C. Mertl: We need to lock in a PRAC retreat and schedule a Parks & Rec tour. Can we create Champions of Parks & Rec each month recognizing community members that contribute to our community parkland?

Adjournment – 8:07 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 10/26/2018