MEETING MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018 – 6PM

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

I. Call to Order at 6:01 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: E. Carrillo, J. Gellings, T. Gilmour, C. Mertl, E. Palmer, C. Prussing, T. Rutecki
Absent: J. Anderson, K. Shelton
Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Ana Corcoran, Staff Liaison

II. Agenda Changes – C. Mertl adds welcome to Jon Gellings, new PRAC member to New Business.

III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items –
Paula Terrel (4970 Thane Rd.): Here on behalf of the Grateful Dogs of Juneau to address dog-free trails. Before the PRAC takes any action, there needs to be an assessment for this need for the community. Are they looking at walking trials or hiking trails? How broad is this need? This is our recommendation.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 1, 2018 – E. Palmer moves to approve minutes; no objection. ***Minutes adopted.***

V. New Business –

A. Pickleball Presentation

Marc Wheeler (427 W. 9th St.): Sue (Warner) and I are here tonight to introduce you to Pickleball and ask for the PRACs support in Juneau. Pickleball is a cross between badminton and tennis and it's available to a wide age range.
Sue Warner (411 7th St.): It is the fastest growing sport in the country; the demographic that is taking off with the sport is seniors. Juneau is the only larger community in Alaska that does not have municipal Pickleball courts.
Marc Wheeler: We're asking the PRAC tonight to endorse Pickleball lines on one of the tennis courts at Cope Park and to allow us to store nets at the park. We can put four Pickleball courts on one tennis court.
Sue Warner: We have spoken with some tennis players and the ones we have talked to are for them.
Marc Wheeler: The cost of the paint and upkeep would be minimal for the City.
E. Palmer: How do you plan to grow the Pickleball community in town?
Sue Warner: Flyers, Juneau Empire ads, radio, Facebook and just word of mouth. In the past year, we have gained over 130 players.
E. Carrillo: I would like to hear from the tennis community; letting PRAC know they are for these lines and that they will not be disruptive to their play. For future meetings, having tennis representatives to voice their support as well would be nice.
T. Rutecki: What if Parks & Rec created an Adult Pickleball league like volleyball?
G. Schaaf: The Pickleball movement was facilitated by Parks & Rec's Dave Pusich. We're definitely

interested in supporting it and we recognize our population is getting older so we're looking at what we can do to provide more activities for adults and seniors. One of the things we're looking at doing is starting with tournaments to see what people are interested in and go from there.

C. Mertl: I support Pickleball, it's a great idea especially if you're getting 16 people on one court which is a win-win for everyone. The tennis community was very vocal during the Cope Park upgrades and I would like to see support from that community for these lines. My concern is that we're not displacing one user group for another.

Marc Wheeler: We're only asking for one court to be painted so there will always be one tennis court. We would also follow the same rules for the tennis courts.

C. Mertl: Can we put on temporary lines until we decide a resolution?

Marc Wheeler: Tape could be an option; we're currently playing with tape indoors.

Keith Murry (6260 Alaway Ave #7): I am a recent Pickleball player. What I have seen, where there is a place to play, the kids come out and play. Pickleball is a sport that a child can play partnered with their grandparent, it is a family sport. Pickleball is the natural conversion for tennis players when they get to the point where they cannot play tennis anymore. If the City is able to provide a place for us to get together that makes it easy for the entry to the game, it would benefit the community of all ages. With your support, it could grow very well in this town.

C. Prussing: We're limited in our outdoor recreation time in Juneau, if tape could temporary be put down and then solicit public input, then we will have some data we can discuss at the next meeting.

G. Schaaf: We can certainly do the tape as a starting point. What we are looking for tonight is a motion from the PRAC if this is something that you would like to see staff move forward with.

Bonnie Chaney (715 6th St.): I just started playing Pickleball this past fall. I laid down the court lines today and it took me an hour. Having something that is permanent would be greatly appreciated. We are not displacing tennis players; they can still use the tennis courts.

J. Gellings: I like how this will take a single use infrastructure and make it multiuse.

Chris Karte (9229 Long Run Dr.): I would like to add Floyd Dryden to the motion, having one of the courts at FDMS get temporary lines as well.

T. Gilmour: I move the PRAC supports putting temporary Pickleball lines on one tennis court at Cope Park and Floyd Dryden Middle School and storage of nets at Cope Park with consideration of permanent lines once the tennis community is involved in the conversation.

Motion passes unanimously.

B. Welcome New PRAC Member Jon Gellings

J. Gellings: I currently work for the Forest Service as a Contracting Officer, before that I was in primarily Parks & Rec type positions. I have worked in Matsu with Parks & Rec and Haines for Alaska State Parks. I have been living in Juneau since 2015.

VI. Unfinished Business – *None.*

VII. Director's Report – G. Schaaf –

A. PRAC Retreat Discussion

G. Schaaf: The board needs to discuss on when you would like to meet for a PRAC retreat. I want to focus on board development, moving toward a high performing board. It will be helpful having a facilitator navigate the retreat and help us come up with some hard, deliverable goals at the end. We will send out a doodle to find a time this fall on a Saturday at the Eagle Valley Center.

B. PRAC/Aquatics Board Roles

G. Schaaf: Any questions on the clarification on the respective roles of the PRAC & Aquatics Board?
C. Mertl: No questions.

C. Project Playground Update

G. Schaaf: The contractor, Carver Construction, has mobilized and materials have been ordered. The Community Build is scheduled for August 8-12 and the steering committee is looking for unskilled and skilled volunteers. IGA has generously offered to donate all the lunches and dinners for the community build volunteers. After the community build is complete, Carver Construction will back in and complete the punch list for the remaining items.

D. Additional Director Comments

G. Schaaf: The Lands Committee heard a proposal from former Mayor Stanford to transfer ownership and maintenance of the Eagle Cemetery in Douglas to the CBJ and requests to look into acquiring all the cemeteries in Douglas for ownership and maintenance by CBJ. This will be coming before the PRAC in the future. The department will be hosting the ribbon cutting for Mayor Bill Overstreet Park on July 3 at 5pm. Lastly, Brent Fischer has announced he will be retiring on October 31.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— The July PRAC meeting will be cancelled.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None.

C. Liaison Reports—

YAB – T. Rutecki: None.

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: Met with the City Manager & Mr. Schaaf; will have a retreat in July.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum—T. Gilmour: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: The Allen Rogers land transfer is moving forward.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Treadwell Arena Board – *VACANT*

JNU Urban Forestry – C. Mertl: Held Arbor Day Celebration.

Eaglecrest – E. Palmer: None.

TrailMix— *K. Shelton:* None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: Working on getting the board reinvigorated.

Other Member Business – None.

Adjournment – 7:30 p.m. ***Having no other business before the board.***

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 7/31/2018