

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 1st, 2018
City Hall Chambers— 6 p.m.

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

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

Absent: E. Carrillo

Staff Present: Kirk Duncan, Director; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison; Alix Pierce, Project Manager

II. Agenda Changes – None.

III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items – None.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 3, 2018 – T. Rutecki makes amendment; T. Gilmour moves to approve the minutes with amendments, no objection. *Minutes adopted.*

V. New Business –

A. Switzer Marriott Fund Transfer

A. Pierce: We are working with the four Rotary clubs and the Juneau Community Foundation to improve the Switzer/Marriott Trail next summer. The trail serves as an access corridor between the Lemon Creek neighborhood and Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School, helping students avoid busy streets. Rotary is contributing \$35,000 in raised and grant funding, the JCF is contributing \$10,000, and Parks & Rec has committed \$10,000 to the project to match funds for the Rotary grant. We are hoping to move the \$10,000 from the Treadwell Ditch CIP, which has a balance of \$40,000. We also applied for a grant for \$30,000, which would fund an additional portion of the trail if successful.

K. Duncan: PRAC do you have an objection to us transferring these funds?

C. Mertl: The board unanimously is in support of this fund transfer.

B. CIP Trails Update

K. Duncan: The memo in the packet is good reading material for our next meeting.

A. Pierce: Trail CIP fund transfers have to go through the Public Works & Facilities Committee and two Assembly meetings. What we're hoping to do in the future is pool the trail CIP money we have left so we don't have to go to the Assembly for the two month process multiple times.

C. Land Trade on Southern Mendenhall Peninsula

A. Pierce: The Lands & Resources Division was approached by Alan Rogers with a proposal for a land trade with Parkland on the Southern Mendenhall Peninsula. It should be noted that in the upcoming Parks & Rec Master Plan, the land is slated for possible divestment. We don't have any issues or concerns with this lands transfer.

Rachel Freelander: When the neighborhood was subdivided, no land access was provided so the homeowners of the Smugglers Cove Pioneers Neighborhood Association were granted a utility and driveway easement that would be privately maintained but still allows public access. The uplands (Parkland) square foot value to the waterfront (Rogers property) square foot value ratio is 2.5 to 1. The Parkland the Rogers would like to trade for is already partially developed (70%) and is part of the access road. This is a benefit of the City because we will be securing more waterfront.

A. Pierce: We recommend that the PRAC finds the proposed equal value land trade proposed by Alan and Ellen Rogers to be acceptable and forwards the proposal to the Lands Committee for further consideration and recommendations.

E. Palmer: How would this trade benefit the public?

R. Freelander: The site is waterfront property and the way it would benefit the public is securing more of it. Water front in this area is more valuable than upland parkland that has already been developed,

it is an equal trade.

Alan Rogers: I am the property owner for the last 37 years. The property we're looking at obtaining is at the top of the site; I had originally looked for a 1 SF to 1 SF trade until the city asked for it to be accessed and it had to be a zero net gain on either side. The land we're looking at is 9,000 SF and 6,000 SF of that 9,000 is already part of the access easement so it's an actual net gain of only 3,000 SF. We want to build at the top of the site so we can age in place that is accessible and it is the only flat area on the property.

T. Gilmour: Have you talked to the other homeowners in the area?

Alan Rogers: There has been no objection from the people I have talked to. The site is well removed from the main drive. The house would be built over this property line because of the topography of the property is too steep, we have to set the house back. I would actually be giving up some of the most scenic parts of my property which is part of a bluff.

C. Prussing: This would be an asset to the City's Parkland.

C. Mertl: The intent of trading this land is to provide access for the public to the water front correct?

K. Duncan: No, it is to provide value. There is no desire to develop this land to provide access. We're just adding to our Parkland along the waterfront.

C. Mertl: Would the easement go away with this land swap?

Alan Rogers: The easement would probably need to be adjusted. *Discussed Proposed Boundaries map included in minutes.*

C. Mertl: If the easement was pulled back in the north corner, does that restrict access to the CBJ Parkland at the waterfront.

K. Duncan: No, I do not see this entire request as an issue or concerned about.

T. Gilmour: I make a motion that the PRAC recommends that the proposed equal value land trade proposed by Alan and Ellen Rogers to be acceptable and forward the proposal to the Lands Committee for further consideration and recommendations.

E. Palmer: I object. I don't see how this benefits the public and would not be gaining anything through this land swap.

J. Anderson: The current easement that Mr. Rogers already has and what he is asking for isn't that much more. The trade seems to be null, nobody is going to be denied access to the property and CBJ already owns all the property to the left.

C. Mertl: All this development is already occurring outside of his current property and I don't see the value of adding this strip to CBJ Parkland.

Alan Rogers: The house on the map is proposed, it does not exist.

Yea: J. Anderson, T. Gilmour, C. Prussing, T. Rutecki, K. Shelton

Nay: C. Mertl, E. Palmer

Motion passes.

VI. Unfinished Business –

K. Duncan: I would like to add my comment about the April minutes. In the minutes T. Rutecki stated what the PRAC could and could not comment on. I spoke to the City Manager and he said the PRAC can comment on any recreational activity in the borough, which includes the Aquatics Board and Treadwell Board. I suggest we ask the City Manager clarification on what he was saying.

VII. Director's Report – K. Duncan –

A. Project Playground Update

A. Pierce: We tentatively have a contractor, Carver construction which came in with the lowest bid at \$1.14. Their bid is significantly lower than the engineer's estimate which is \$1.9 million. The alternates which are the items the steering committee is fundraising for (zip line, turf field, plaza and poured-in-place) came in higher than other bidders.

B. Board Vacancies

K. Duncan: We still have one vacancy on the PRAC.

C. Director Transition & Department Update

K. Duncan: George Schaaf is our new Director which I am very excited about. George previously was

the Executive Director of Trail Mix and then became the Superintendent of Park Maintenance & Landscape with Parks & Rec. He left for the Forest Service and worked as the Partnership Coordinator for this region. George has begun and my last day will be May 11th. I'm going to give a quick update on where the Department is at this current time. I was asked to take over the Department when I was working at Public Works in 2014. There was a report created by Jim Hall a previous Director for the Department; it was very negative, with low staff morale and poor guest experience at our facilities. That has turned around due to the works of lots of folks. As part of the report, it recommends that the P&R Master Plan needed to be updated which Alix has been working on. The Zach Gordon Youth Center was asked to take over the Afterschool Program and Jorden Nigro has done an excellent job bringing the program along. We created the Youth Employment in the Parks (YEP) program, added a Youth Outreach Coordinator position and moved Youth Sports under Zach Gordon to provide better coordination for all youth services offered to the community by the Department. The Eagle Valley Center is breaking even operationally and providing a great venue for meetings and outdoor activities. Treadwell Arena continues to be a great investment for the community with over a 65% cost recovery. There has been a lot of conversation about the pools. Since 2014 we have lowered the general fund support by 14% or over \$200,000 a year. We have a lot more business and happy people coming into the pools. Our trails are used by 80% of the Juneau community and we spend the least amount of money on them, something we will need to look at. Parks & Rec provides the high quality of life in our community. Once the Master Plan is complete, Alix will be taking on the Trails Master Plan. We have worked really hard the last few years to turn the Department around and now it is time for George to take it to the next level.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— Thank you Kirk for all the positive changes you have made for the Department.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None.

C. Liaison Reports—

YAB – T. Rutecki: Provided YAB memo sent to the Assembly. Awarded \$332,500 to various community non-profit organizations serving Juneau's youth.

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: The board was extended another year.

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 – C. Palmer: None.

TrailMix— K. Shelton: None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: the \$50,000 was approved and moving to the Juneau Community Foundation on July 1, 2018.

Other Member Business –

C. Mertl: Mr. Rutecki, will you be proposing some dog-free trails? What is your timeline? We need to establish a schedule or date to discuss this since there has been public concern on the topic.

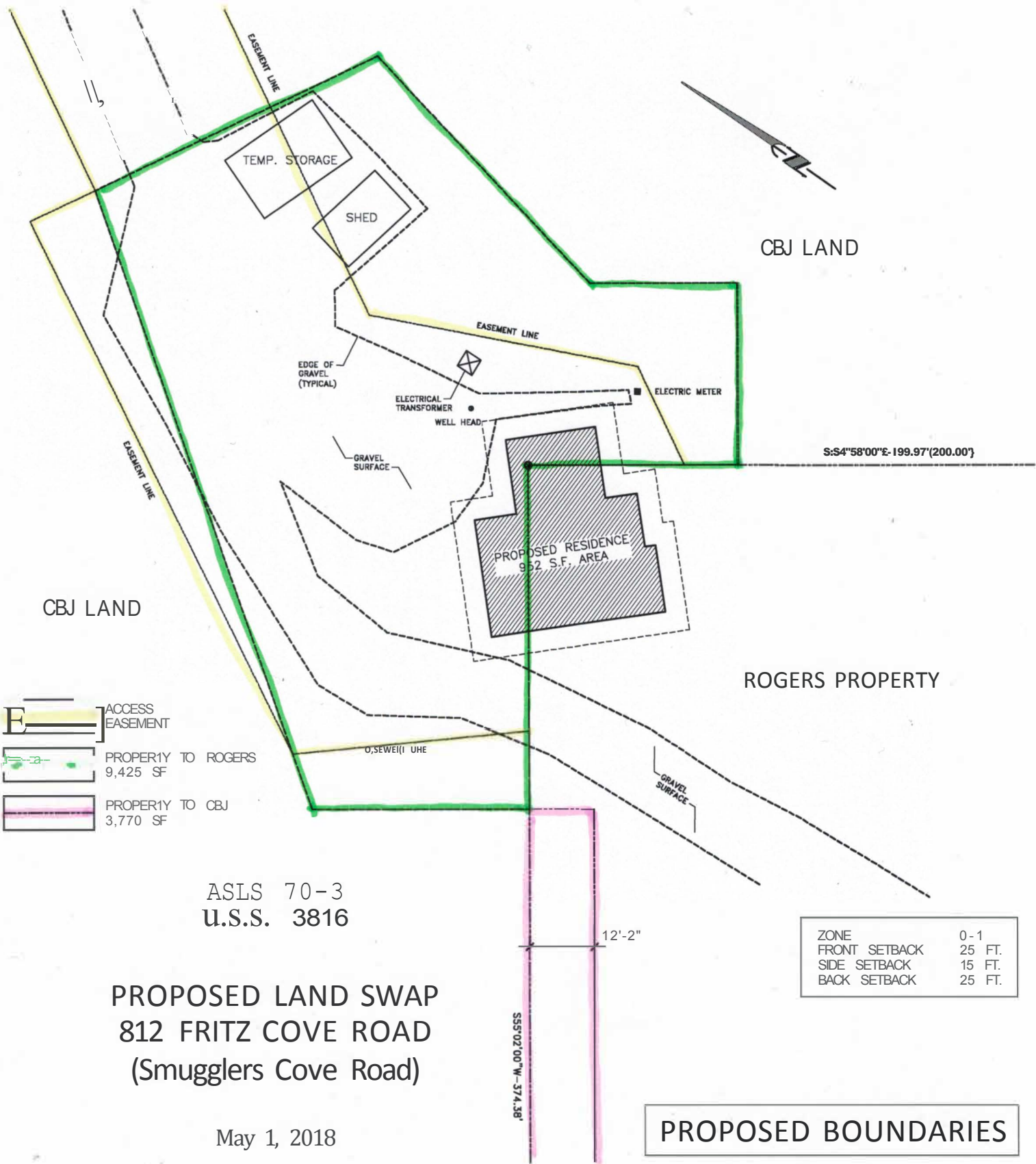
T. Rutecki: There is something coming, next meeting maybe, definitely by the end of the year.

C. Mertl: We have peaked the interest of the public and to respect the public time and interest, to give them an idea of when they will see a proposal for discussion.

T. Rutecki: Once the public shifts over to logical thinking instead of intuitive/emotional thinking we will be ready.

Adjournment – 7:09 p.m. Having no other business before the board.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 5/20/2018



PROPOSED LAND SWAP
812 FRITZ COVE ROAD
(Smugglers Cove Road)

May 1, 2018