

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 3rd, 2018
City Hall Chambers– 6 p.m.

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

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

Absent: G. Schaaf

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 March 6, 2018 – T. Gilmour moves to approve the minutes, no objection. *Minutes adopted.*

V. New Business –

A. Airport Parkland

C. Mertl: This is an FYI for the department that the Airport has put in a grant to make improvements to Parkland across the street from the Airport.

B. PRAC Elections

Chair: T. Rutecki nominates **Chris Mertl**; *all in favor.*

Vice Chair: T. Gilmour nominates **Josh Anderson**; *all in favor.*

2nd Vice Chair: C. Prussing nominates **Tom Rutecki**; *all in favor.*

VI. Unfinished Business –

A. OHV (Off-Highway Vehicle) Update

J. Anderson: I am currently the President of the Juneau Motocross Association and I'm here to give an update to the public and PRAC about OHV. Currently, there are no new proposals in place but we did create a website called the JuneauATVForum.com for all information related to OHV recreation and to promote responsible and safe OHV in Juneau. The website includes a survey, other local related club website links, a forum, information and updates to the public. I do not want CBJ to lose interest in the OHV community; this is still a big deal to the user group.

E. Carrillo: What is your end goal?

J. Anderson: Ultimately, find a riding spot for people to recreate using OHV, dirt bikes, ATVs, etc. that won't bother the community.

B. Dog-Free CBJ Trail

T. Rutecki: This proposal is in its infancy and I would like to have a work session tonight. Animal Control is here now; we can speak with them on how they can enforce this. The previous task force did see the need for a dog-free trail and they did designate one at the time but that is no longer the case. Currently, there is no dog-free trail.

George Utermohle (1970 Glacier Ave.): I am here on behalf of Grateful Dogs of Juneau. In the original Dog Task Force, which I participated in, the Auke Lake Trail was originally designated as dog-free but when they received funding to upgrade the trail it allowed dogs again. The Police Pond trail, Fish Creek West Spur trail were both designated as dog-free as well.

Marina Lindsey (3431 Greenwood Ave): I want to encourage the committee to respond to requests

from the community and not just respond to a request from someone on the PRAC who is interested in limiting access to trails. There are multiple users of the trails, from runners, dog-walkers, pedestrians and bikers and we have all worked together to make things friendly in our community. Before we get to limiting something in our community I would like to know the problem we are addressing.

Vicky McLaughlin (116 Wood St.): I am a member of Grateful Dogs of Juneau and I wanted to know the motivation behind this. I'm looking at possibly not limiting dogs on trails but more dog parks being created. I would like to see more of an effort of protocol of what is expected of dog owners on the trails. If there is a problem that is generating this, we could look into education and proper protocol on the trails.

T. Rutecki: Twin Lakes would be a great option, have a dog park at the north end of the lakes and no-dog trail on the paved path. I would say education is not working per a recent study.

C. Mertl: The issue is that there are adults and children who are truly afraid of dogs. I personally think that with all the trails that Parks & Rec manages, there can be one trail that is dog-free. At our last PRAC meeting, I was hoping Mr. Rutecki would have brought forward some trail recommendations to put forward to the PRAC; we need a starting point for the PRAC and public to discuss.

T. Gilmour: I'm not inclined to select a trail; we need to educate people on how to handle dogs who do not want to be touched.

E. Carrillo: I believe Tom should have a list of trails for the Board to discuss to move forward. I personally would like to see the main issue, which I'm not seeing.

E. Palmer: I'm a dog owner and one of the scariest moments was with my daughter who was bit by a dog. I do think it is reasonable that there is one trail in Juneau that is dog-free. The trail that is selected should be near other trails that can be used by dog owners not to cut off access to them.

Karen Wood: I am the Director of Animal Control (AC) at Gastineau Humane Society. The selected trail needs to be centrally located for the public and for AC so we can get there quickly. It would be nice to have a trail that has openings at both ends like Twin Lakes or Auke Lake Trail so we can approach from both ends if we need to. I do think there will be some complications, the same complications we have now enforcing the current ordinances but we will do whatever the City decides. We have 3 full time officers for the entire city; a four our stint on a trail is not possible, we're also dealing with animals in traffic, cruelty and neglect cases, injured animals, licensing, and all kinds of things. If there was publicity around a new dog-free trail we will try to be there and accessible as we could. Things do come up and we have to take off on other calls.

E. Carrillo: Do you have any statistics on the amount of calls AC receives?

Karen Wood: We had 112 cases this past month, 465 phone calls and issued 53 verbal warnings and 3 citations. Not observing the leash law is one of our lowest priority situations. It is preferable to pick a trail that is already a leash law trail since there is already some law set up.

Marina Lindsey (3431 Greenwood Ave): The trail I would recommend is Brotherhood Bridge since there are parallel trails; dogs could be on the dirt and bikers & pedestrians on the path. Also, I would like to encourage the board to consider the wintertime and how little light we have and how Twin Lakes is one trail that gets the most light.

C. Member Projects/Priorities

C. Mertl: For the new board members, I encourage board members to pick a pet project that would be good for the community and is recreation related.

VII. Director's Report – K. Duncan –

A. Aquatics Board Update

K. Duncan: The Aquatics Board presented to the Assembly Finance Committee back on March 14th about the four options for the future of the board; from becoming an empowered board to contracting the pools out. The Aquatics Board and the Treadwell Advisory Board has been very effective over the past four years and that being said, the Department needs to take a stance on where we think the Aquatics Board should go. The Aquatics Board had a clear mission to assist the Department in turning the pools around and that has now been accomplished; the finances are strong, customer and guest relations are strong as well.

B. PRAC Development Plan

K. Duncan: I believe after 3 ½ years as the Director, the PRAC could be an incredibly effective board and is often an effective board. I would like to see it be more encompassing and taking on the task of the Treadwell Advisory Board and Aquatics Board. This should be a singular board that works with the public and the department on recreational issues rather than splitting the tasks within multiple boards within the Department and diminishing the impact the PRAC has. The PRAC should take a look at this and think about it in the future.

T. Rutecki: I just came from an Aquatics Board meeting where the City Manager spoke to us for over an hour. He was unequivocal about how inappropriate it is for an advisory board opining against an Assembly decision to extend the Aquatics Board for another year. The pools are the purview of the Aquatics Board and not the PRAC.

C. Director Transition Plan

K. Duncan: George will be starting on April 30th and I will be leaving on May 11th, so we will have a two week overlap.

D. P&R Master Plan Process & Special Committee Update

A. Pierce: The Special Committee is working through chapter 7 of 10 with George being the Chair of the committee; the group has been incredibly effective and useful with their input. They have really strengthened the process and the product we currently have. Given that George is soon to be the new Director, the PRAC has two options: (1) replace George with a new PRAC member as the chair or (2) delegate oversight of the committee to George as the Parks & Rec Director. The staff recommendation is option two for the consistency in the process that is already 70% complete.

C. Mertl: Since we are 70% through the project, George should continue as the Chair of the special committee as the Parks & Rec Director. **PRAC approves.**

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— Welcome Emily Palmer & Kirsten Shelton to the PRAC.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— Rutecki's term on the YAB has expired and it's up to the PRAC to reelect or choose another member to serve on the YAB.

Josh makes motion to reelect Tom to YAB; motion passes.

C. Liaison Reports—

YAB – T. Rutecki: Working on grant scoring.

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: None.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum—T. Gilmour: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: Talked about cellphone towers. PRAC and Lands will have a joint meeting in the coming months.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Treadwell Arena Board – VACANT

JNU Urban Forestry – C. Mertl: Arbor Day coming up.

Eaglecrest – *Emily Palmer will be new liaison.*

TrailMix— *Kirsten Shelton will be new liaison.*

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: Met with Mr. Jones; the \$50,000 still has not been appropriated.

Other Member Business –

Adjournment – 7:37 p.m. Having no other business before the board.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 4/19/2018