

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 2nd, 2018
City Hall Chambers– 6 p.m.

I. Call to Order at 5:59 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: J. Anderson, E. Carrillo, B. Farrell, T. Gilmour, C. Mertl, E. Ouderkirk (t), C. Prussing, T. Rutecki

Absent: G. Schaaf

Staff Present: Kirk Duncan, P&R Director; Alix Pierce, Project Manager

- II. Agenda Changes** – K. Duncan would like to move Eagle Valley Center SAIL Contract from Directors Report to Unfinished Business. J. Anderson moves to approve agenda changes, no objection. **Approved.**
- III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items** – None.
- IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 5th, 2017** – B. Farrell moves to approve the minutes, no objection. **Minutes adopted.**

V. New Business –

A. ARPA Lifetime Achievement Award:

K. Duncan: We have Helen Clough here tonight who has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Awarded by the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA). A letter highlighting Helen's achievements is included in the minutes.

VI. Unfinished Business –

A. Treadwell Historic District 2008 Master Plan:

T. Rutecki: I was curious why this was not brought up at our last meeting and through this would be a beneficial piece for the Treadwell discussion. I stated that the trail was dark and dank and if you look through this report it is. It is not a rainforest; it is a heavily industrialized area on the rebound. One of the reasons they want to keep the trail dark is so stuff does not grow on the trail. Treadwell is a well-used and diverse park.

C. Prussing: I remember a number of years ago the City decided to revegetate some around in that area because of the subsurface contamination. Where is that plot of ground?

K. Duncan: I'm not sure where that plot of ground is.

C. Mertl: Is this plan approved and adopted plan?

K. Duncan: I will let you know the next meeting.

B. Eagle Valley Center SAIL Contract:

K. Duncan: SAIL approached us about them operating the Ropes Course for their clients and any other paying guests out at the EVC. This would be a lease between the Lands Department and SAIL for just the Ropes Course. The Lands Department would like PRAC to make a recommendation that the Assembly follow the procedures that are laid out in this memo that would lease the property to SAIL. There is some grant funding they need to apply for that is time sensitive. There have been no competing inquiries in this.

T. Rutecki: I move the PRAC recommend to the Assembly to authorize staff to commence lease negotiations with SAIL to lease the EVC Ropes Course.

No objections; motion passes.

VII. Director's Report – K. Duncan

A. Master Plan Update:

A. Pierce: Committee meeting is next week to discuss the Parks Inventory and Chapter 3. I'm holding facilitated work sessions with Parks & Rec staff to talk with them about operating facilities and programs and how they would like the Plan to look. There will be a public review of the draft plan once it is ready.

B. Project Playground Update:

A. Pierce: Corvus partnered with Leathers is the designers for the playground. The design team is redesigning about 10% of the playground. The Steering Committee has suggested a few additional elements that we're looking at including that have a theme of increased inclusive play: poured in place surface (potential for a grant), small turf area and zip line (likely need to be funded with raised funds). Major changes to the footprint are suggested changes to the plaza (between the restrooms and shelter and entrance to the playground), a memorial to former playground and potentially moving the shelter from the top of the hill. The contractor would start in Juneau with a smaller scaled community build in August. Based on the cost estimates of the final design and insurance company negotiations, the steering committee will come up with a fundraising goal.

C. Aquatics Board Sunset Discussion:

K. Duncan: The Aquatics Board sunsets May 28, 2018. There are four different options in the memo; if nothing happens, the pools go back to P&R, option one. Second option, continue on with the hybrid board that we currently have. Third option, creating an empowered board. The fourth option, have a non-profit running the pools.

T. Gilmour: What does the Aquatic Board want?

K. Duncan: The Aquatics Board is dedicated to providing cost effective operations of the pools with a high level of customer service and employee satisfaction. They're looking at all these options and will make a recommendation for those goals. Ultimately, it is the Assembly who makes the decision.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— None.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None.

C. Liaison Reports—

YAAB – T. Rutecki: Tomorrow is our next meeting.

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: None.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum—T. Gilmour: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: None.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Treadwell Arena Board – E. Carrillo: None.

JNU Urban Forestry – C. Mertl: None.

Eaglecrest – E. Carrillo: None.

TrailMix—B. Farrell: None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: None.

Other Member Business – None.

Adjournment – 6:40 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 1/12/2018

Lifetime Achievement Awarded by the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA)

Helen Clough

Helen Clough worked for the Federal government in a variety of positions for almost 40 years until retiring in 2013. Her early interests in recreation were developed as a high school student in Juneau, where she enjoyed camping and hiking (usually in the rain).

A graduate of the University of California, Helen began her career with the Bureau of Land Management in California as part of the first group of Desert Rangers. Each ranger had a resource specialty (archaeology, in her case) and was assigned to patrol an area of the desert, meet with visitors, and find out “what was happening” in the local area.

In 1981, Helen moved back to Alaska and was hired by the Forest Service as manager of the Admiralty Island National Monument, where she completed the first Wilderness Management Plan in Alaska, and began the Forest Service’s Alaska Wilderness Ranger Program. A move to Sitka saw Helen in the forefront of much media when the Hubbard Glacier advanced and blocked off Russell Fjord near Yakutat, leading to major concerns about changes to the Situk River, a world-class clear water fishing stream. Later in Sitka, Helen took over as head of the Sitka Ranger District and was involved a wide range of activities. She still enjoys her annual fishing trips to Sitka, and regularly visits some of the incredible recreation facilities that now exist but were only in the planning stage when she left.

Helen began working for the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1990, where she continued to work the rest of her career, working in Dillingham, King Salmon, Juneau and Anchorage. Helen’s early accomplishments include river management planning, addressing conflicts among users along several premier Western Alaska rivers, and establishing a River Ranger program to get refuge staff on the ground and in contact with visitors on-site. Helen was involved in a number of refuge planning projects in and outside of Alaska. Notably, she was also the lead trainer for the National Wildlife Refuge System, which involved teaching biologists how to address conflicts with wildlife and with people, with the goal of allowing people to continue to enjoy national wildlife refuges while still protecting the important resources of these areas. Helen continued her work with the National Wildlife Refuge System until her retirement in 2013.

Helen joined ARPA in about 1990, after attending her first annual conference in Fairbanks. Her early involvement with ARPA was through the Wildlands Section, where she served as chair for several years. Helen then became the ARPA board secretary for almost 20 years. During this time, she also became involved in the River Management Society. Upon retirement, Helen joined the River Management Society national board, and continued on as ARPA secretary until 2016. She is still involved with ARPA, currently serving as chair of the ARPA nomination committee, and still maintains involvement with the National River Management Society, serving as President.

Helen continues to live in Juneau when she and her husband are not out fishing and traveling on their boat, or visiting friends and family around the country. They recently acquired a new puppy, and in his first month with them, he has been in two Canadian Provinces and ten states, traveling by car, plane and boat.

ARPA has honored Helen with the Professional Award in 1998, the Bob Robertson Service award in 2002 and the ARPA Appreciation award in 2012. We are pleased to add Lifetime Achievement Award recipient to Helen’s impressive list of accomplishments, and appreciate all her efforts to promote and improve recreation and protect our beautiful natural resources. Congratulations, Helen!