

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 7th, 2017
City Hall Chambers– 6 p.m.

I. Call to Order at 6:03 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

Present: J. Anderson, B. Farrell, T. Gilmour, C. Mertl, E. Ouderkirk, C. Prussing, T. Rutecki, G. Schaaf

Absent: E. Carrillo

Staff Present: Kirk Duncan, P&R Director; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison

II. Agenda Changes – Approved.

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

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 3rd, 2017 – J. Anderson moves to approve the minutes, no objection. *Minutes adopted.*

V. New Business –

A. Greetings Tour Mural Committee:

Dana Herndon: I am a member of the Greetings Tour Mural Committee, representing the DBA. To give some background, the artists from the Greeting Tour reached out to one of our committee members with an exciting opportunity. These artists have been going around the United States and installing large scale murals that highlight various aspects and themes of the cities they are in. We would love the opportunity to have them here in our Capital City. We're interested in this beautification project because it speaks to one of our missions which is to increase public art downtown. Their murals are collaborations with local artists, which we stressed the importance of in our community and plan to do a call for artists. The location we're seeking is the south side of the MPG, which is a large wall that is in plain sight and it can be seen by visitors and locals alike. This mural for Juneau could potentially be a popular backdrop for visitors here to take pictures in front of. For the murals longevity and maintenance, the wall would need to be power washed and primed correctly and have a UV sealant on top of the mural. Typically, the artist said that their murals last around 10 years before they will need to be retouched. But since this specific wall is wind facing, they think it will last around 7 years. In fundraising efforts, we're keeping that in mind and raising enough money to cover future touchups when needed. We're aware of future development plans for the lot next to the MPG. Our idea is to have this placed higher on the wall to not be blocked. In terms of sponsorship, the entire mural will be privately funded and will cost around \$12,000. We have verbal commitment that covers 50% of the costs so far. As far as timing, we're hoping to have the wall primed and prepped by spring 2018.

C. Prussing: Since the proposed site is a public building, I see problems with that. Why isn't a downtown commercial building not been proposed?

D. Herndon: As a collective effort within the committee, we were thinking of a wall that would get the most impressions and views from both locals and visitors alike. The MPG is ideal since it would get at least a million views throughout the summer and because it's in the core of downtown.

E. Ouderkirk: Is the JACC represented in the committee?

D. Herndon: We reached out to them but there are no JACC representatives on the committee.

E. Ouderkirk: You're also considering the maintenance of this in the long term so it doesn't become a financial responsibility on CBJ. How are those funds going to be preserved? How is the financial side of this going to work?

D. Herndon: We're still working on defining it and we will get back to you.

T. Gilmour: The limited involvement by the community until a project is done is my biggest concern. I would really encourage more conversation with the town.

D. Herndon: We could come up with a promotional plan and get back to the board. This committee is comprised with people from Travel Juneau, DBA, local business owners, local citizens, so we can put our heads together and spread the word more.

C. Prussing: We have an indigenous art tradition. I think before we hand out commission to someone who rolls in with a project, the usual procedures for public art should be followed. There is potential here to work with the JACC and local organizations,

G. Schaaf: Will there be an opportunity for the individual components within each letter to be reviewed?

D. Herndon: Yes.

G. Schaaf: What are the PRAC's role in the request and the Assembly's role in the request?

K. Duncan: The Managers Office requested this be brought to the PRAC and the PRAC making a recommendation to the Assembly on how to proceed.

C. Mertl: I'm excited about this; everything I'm hearing is there is collaboration with local artists. We have artists that are willing to come up here that has done multiple of these. We already have a mural on this building. When visitors come, they're always looking for photo-ops to identify where they're at. If we have an artist that is willing to take the lead and a local group willing to champion this and we can include local artist, I'm all for it. One thing to consider is having them on panels in case if they need to be moved.

J. Anderson: I think it's a great idea. It needs a little bit more polishing.

G. Schaaf: The PRAC recommends to the Assembly approving the Greetings Tour proposal for the mural on the MPG and encourages the city to reopen the discussion on a mural ordinance in the future.

Yea: J. Anderson, B. Farrell, T. Gilmour, C. Mertl, E. Ouderkirk, T. Rutecki, G. Schaaf

Nay: C. Prussing

Motion passes.

B. Quarterly Engineering Report:

Michele Elfers: *Chicken Yard/Capital Park*: Hired PND Engineers to look at the wall and drainage issues in Capital Park. They're also looking at wall structural issues in Chicken Yard Park and adding a hose bib. They're doing a cost estimate and structural assessment. The most pressing issues in the parks are public safety. *Auke Lake*: Can't afford a shelter or restrooms but looking at creating a hardened area, picnic tables and grill. *Adair Kennedy*: Doing a cost estimate of Phase One of the master plan to see how much more money we will need; moving the restroom/concession area and doing some work on the entry. *Overstreet Park*: In Phase Three; working on the plaza, fountains and foundation of restrooms. Completion is May 31st, 2018. *Kax Trail*: Assessment of entire trail; some sections need to be relocated because of the erosion. *Rotary Park*: Finalizing construction documents with Corvus Designs. Early spring construction, Rotary will install the playground equipment and the contractor will prep and clean up the site. The park should be open in early July 2018. *Arboretum Parking Lot*: Construction started this fall, currently in winter shut down. They have until May 15th to complete the work. *Project Playground*: Corvus Design in partnership with Leathers was the successful proposers. Steering committee is running public outreach and going into the schools. Looking at 10% of the original design changing. Will be completed Summer 2018.

T. Gilmour: With insurance paying for 100% of this rebuild, why are we not replacing the original pickets?

K. Duncan: We will look into that.

C. Mertl: Any help PRAC can do to make these projects a reality?

M. Elfers: From the last 1%, the Lemon Creek Plan and OHV Park projects were not funded. I would suggest discussion and value of those projects and revisiting them.

C. Knotweed:

C. Prussing: There is a knotweed problem throughout the borough, especially in the Twin Lakes area. John Hudson has extensive experience with invasive species control through his work with the Forest Service and Southeast Watershed Coalition. Knotweed isn't something you spray and get rid of, it's a multiyear eradication. What would be helpful for residents that are concerned about knotweed invasions on their property is having a tutorial on how to deal with it on CBJs website. I would like the PRAC to recommend to the Manager's office to have something put up on the website.

K. Duncan: I will talk with the Manager's office; as much as people want knotweed eliminated, people will say chemicals are not the way to do it. With the City giving out information, it would be an appearance that the City is backing this concept. Parks & Rec does not use pesticides. We're aware of the Knotweed problem, we have dedicated the amount of resources we have to it, and we're doing what we can do in the areas top priority.

VI. Director's Report – K. Duncan

A. Master Plan Update:

K. Duncan: Currently writing chapters, once written it will go out for public comment in March/April. In May will be brought to PRAC for comments and adoption, then to the Planning Commission and then finally to the Assembly for adoption into the CBJ Comprehensive Plan.

B. Indian Point Land:

C. Mertl: This land might be turned over to Goldbelt or Sealaska. Lands Committee is currently collecting information on the history of Indian Point. Desire to return it to some native cultural use or foundation.

K. Duncan: The Department does not promote use of the area, it is culturally sensitive. There is a trail out there but it is not well maintained.

C. SAIL Ropes Course:

K. Duncan: The ropes course is a technical thing to manage; together with SAIL we're putting together a lease. They will manage the operation under a 5 year contract with a 5 year extension. They will pay us per people who use it. It is available for their clients or any other person that wants to use the course.

D. Eagle Valley Center – CBJ Finance Committee:

K. Duncan: Looking for \$1,500 in general fund support to operate the EVC. Our rentals are strong and we will absorb that in our own budget. Kristi West is managing the operation and we're notifying the Assembly we're adding a permanent position at the EVC.

VII. Unfinished Business –

A. Turf Field Proposal:

K. Duncan: *Continued discussion with Larry Johansen is included in the minutes.*

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

- A. Chair Report—** No proposed changes to Marine Park in the D&H Master Plan. Proposed change to put restrooms and visitor center off the north side of the MPG. Intent of Master Plan is to create open and public space.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— Welcome Gregory Norton.

C. Liaison Reports—

YAAB – T. Rutecki: Have not have been able to meet; don't have a quorum.

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: 1% of 5 million was approved for the AGB maintenance. Four options being considered by the Aquatics board on their sunset deadline.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum—T. Gilmour: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: Been talking about Indian Point land and CBJ driveway standards.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: Aquilean sculptures are up.

Treadwell Arena Board – E. Carrillo: None.

JNU Urban Forestry – C. Mertl: None.

Eaglecrest – E. Carrillo: None.

TrailMix—B. Farrell: None.

Park Foundation— C. Mertl: Going between Law Dept. & Managers Office.

Other Member Business –

Adjournment – 7:40 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

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Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 11/28/2017