

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 7th, 2017
CBJ Assembly Chambers – 6 p.m.

I. Call to Order at 6:00 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair

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

Absent: F. Dowd; Maria Gladyszewski, Assembly Liaison; Skye Stekoll, Assistant Engineer

Staff Present: Kirk Duncan, P&R Director; Brent Fischer, FP&L Superintendent; Alix Pierce, Project Manager; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison; Dan Bleidorn, Lands & Resources Deputy Manager

II. Agenda Changes – None.

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

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 7th, 2017 – J. Anderson moves to approve the minutes, no objection. *Minutes adopted.*

V. New Business –

A. Project updates from engineering: *Skye was unable to attend the meeting. Pushed to April 2017 meeting.*

VI. Director's Report – K. Duncan

A. Master Planning Update:

K. Duncan: We had 516 people respond to a demographically represented telephone survey. We divided the survey into two sections: values & uses. 77% of the people think Parks & Rec programs are very important or somewhat important for their choice to live in Juneau. 76% think afterschool programs for youth is high or very high value to the community which supports our approach to increase our youth activities and afterschool programs. 77% believe CBJ spends too little or the right amount on Parks & Rec. The special committee will be going through the What We Heard book in great detail.

B. Special Committee:

A. Pierce: I wanted to go over common themes that came out of our consultation process and where we're going from here. The main themes that emerged from the survey, public meetings, online engagement through PlaceSpeak and from 32 community group meetings are:

- Affordability
- Augustus Brown Pool (52% rated it as a high community value)
- Bike trails & paths connectivity
- Community value (94% of the residents thought that Parks & Rec is an important use for public funds)
- Dog parks & off leash areas
- More ice in the community
- Indoor recreation space & city owned gym space
- Lemon creek was identified as an underserved area with transportation issues for youth (CDD is currently working on the lemon creek area plan and we're working with them)

- Maintain current facilities
- ORV park
- Improve/strengthen relationship with community partnerships
- Pipeline Skate Park which is heavily used (in the survey, it is the park most frequently visited by the people who use it)
- General comments about restroom services in parks
- Senior programs
- Support for underserved residents
- Values its trails (89% of residents use trails in Juneau)
- Turf fields are strongly supported by groups who use the fields
- Youth activities (affordability, after school programs, pre-kindergarten programs and noting the ounce of prevention from youth getting in trouble)

These are the main themes we have heard from the community. We will be moving forward with forming the special committee which will be vetting the mission, vision, values, and recommendations for the Master Plan. We will conduct a parks inventory which will include a review of existing park facilities, an evaluation of its physical condition and functionality of city managed parks and an analysis of the park system to determine whether Juneau has the right parks in the right places with the right equipment. We will come up with a list of priorities for improvement and be able to cite the Master Plan when putting our CIP lists forward to the Assembly in the future. We will identify trail systems in larger, broader projects. In late May or early June, we will come out with a set of recommendations which will be vetted by the special committee and go to the public for review. Recommendations will be categorized by required actions (things that need to happen to keep the system functioning), recommended actions (solid recommendations for future upgrades and programming that have been identified as a community need or desire), and long term visions (things the community has identified as wanting but would need more financial support). Understanding we're in difficult financial times now but this is a long term planning document.

C. Mertl: What is the timing for the park inventory?

A. Pierce: It will be one of the last things discussed before we go out to the public in June by the committee. I'm working with engineering, CDD and park maintenance on it.

O. Brudie: Does that include city trails?

A. Pierce: No, it doesn't. We're not going to do a full trails inventory because we have an existing trails plan and we will be recommending updating that trails plan as part of the Master Plan.

K. Duncan: For the special committee, you have a list of 9 people with Mr. Schaaf as the Chair. Alix did a great job of rounding out a good demographic representation of the community. I would appreciate the approval of this committee.

C. Mertl: Can we get more info on how Mr. Schaaf became involved in this?

A. Pierce: Mr. Schaaf applied to the special committee before he applied to PRAC; he was one of the first applicants. He has a very strong parks and recreation background. When he made the decision to join PRAC, because he already applied and expressed interest in the committee we asked if he would be interested in chairing it.

T. Gilmour: This looks like a great list of people. I was under the impression that the PRAC was choosing these people though.

A. Pierce: We only had 9 applications.

B. Farrell: I move we approve the special committee membership list provided on page 9 in our packet and ask for unanimous consent. No objection, ***motion passes.***

C. Tentative 1% Sales Tax CIP List:

K. Duncan: I asked Mr. Fischer to put together a very, very tentative CIP list. All of these projects, with an exception of 2 have been included in the CIP. The two that have not been included is a million dollars in unspecified trail improvements and a million dollars for a Lemon Creek area facility. They

are placeholders waiting for the Master Plan to figure out what we want to do. This has not been approved by the city manager. This is the general direction we are heading.

B. Fischer: We have split them in 3 categories, facilities (\$15.77 million), parks (\$2.08 million) and trails (\$2.52 million), with a grand total of a little over 20 million.

O. Brudie: The Lemon Creek area recreational center will cover the planning?

B. Fischer: This will be seed money to move forward with the project.

C. Mertl: Is there CIP money needed for Capital School Park for upgrades and not just the retaining wall?

B. Fischer: We're actually working with a student in the schools who is coming up with playground recommendations from his classmates about playground equipment. This information they have gather hasn't been formalized. The retaining wall is a big issue right now.

C. Mertl: Anything on finishing up Cope Park?

B. Fischer: They'll be finishing off the tennis courts this spring.

C. Mertl: What's your timeline on getting this list finalized? How can the PRAC be involved?

B. Fischer: We have to go through the manager's office with a preliminary plan in the next few weeks.

K. Duncan: The CIP list will be part of the FY18 budget. The 1% will be discussed after the budget process is completed. What you might want to do is form a subcommittee to be involved in it. We don't want to put anything on the list which will be partially funded.

T. Gilmour: You have presented us with something that we have no input on? And if we want to have input we would need to put together something before the next meeting, is that correct? I don't know if I would have any changes to it, it's a great list but I don't have all the information to make that decision tonight. I'm disappointed. I want to finish Cope Park and it is not on our radar.

C. Mertl: Would we like to create a subcommittee?

Subcommittee Formed: T. Gilmour (heading), J. Anderson, G. Schaaf, C. Mertl, E. Ouderkirk

E. Ouderkirk: It looks like a lot of money is going into Centennial Hall and AGB. What other facilities were considered for the 1%? Should we putting our money into the facilities the public values instead of putting it into deferred maintenance?

K. Duncan: It's a combination of both. We have to take care of Centennial Hall. We have to take care of AGB. This list is what the staff has come up with as the highest priority items for Parks & Rec.

C. Mertl: Our CIP subcommittee will meet in City Hall, Wednesday, March 22nd at 5pm.

D. Eagle Valley Center Update:

K. Duncan: Pricing for the EVC is \$250/day and \$375/night. That is the pricing we have sent to the City Manager.

E. Airport Sand Suppression Research:

K. Duncan: We looked into the sand suppression the airport uses. They use a really good chemical but it's just too expensive for us to use.

F. Land Disposal:

K. Duncan: There is a piece of land near Treadwell that is seeking a lot line adjustment and the properties on both sides already have had lot line adjustments, we're not sure why this lot has not been adjusted.

D. Bleidorn: This lot line adjustment doesn't go as far north as the properties around it and this would correct that matter. There would be a straight lot line around Savikko parks parameter. *History into this lot line.* This would go to the planning commission from here, they will send out mailers to local property owners who are adjacent to this lot. They will review that is fits all adopted plans. From there, we will draft an ordinance that goes to the Assembly, an appraisal will be completed and then two public meetings will also be held. Between these two properties, there was an undeveloped right away that property owners acquired from the city, the adjacent property owners (504 St. Anne's) would have the opportunity to acquire that land and eliminate the saw tooth property line.

B. Farrell: I have a conflict now, since I am the adjacent property owner at 504 St. Anne's.

C. Mertl: Is this going to have a ripple effect with other property owners wanting to correct saw-tooth property lines?

D. Bleidorn: This has a lot of history and hasn't been resolved in the Lands Office for a number of years. This is probably the second or third time we have talked to these property owners over the generations of land staff.

C. Mertl: Who gets the money?

D. Bleidorn: This will go to the Lands Fund. City code dictates that any property disposal will go to the Lands Fund.

C. Mertl: Do we know what the property owners plans are for the land?

D. Bleidorn: They didn't indicate that they will be adding onto their home once they get more property. It's a steep slope in this spot. They're looking to correct this now, so they can sell the property in the future. That encroachment currently will make it difficult to sell.

T. Gilmour: I move the PRAC support the disposal of Park property along the rear of 522 Saint Anne's Avenue near Savikko Park so the rear property line matches the adjacent lots. I seek unanimous consent. **Motion passes.**

VII. Unfinished Business –

A. OHV Revitalization Update:

J. Anderson: Rorie has assigned Alan Steffert (CBJ Engineering) to help with looking into options. We have also been working on insurance and who would be responsible for leasing the property. Insurance is obtainable for OHV but hard to pinpoint a price at this time because it depends on the size of the property, uses, etc. The first public meeting will be in the next few weeks.

C. Prussing: This public meeting, will it be a Juneau Motocross meeting?

J. Anderson: No, this would be a subcommittee that anyone in the city could get involved with. To start gathering ideas, try to locate a piece of property, etc.

K. Duncan: It will not be a public meeting; the initial working group will be a bunch of self-selected group of ATV, OHV people getting together. Currently there is no plan, they need to put together a proposal that will come to the City and then the public process will start.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair Report— I want to welcome Mr. Schaaf and thank Mr. Brudie for 6 years on the PRAC and for all your time and effort. We should organize a retreat with our new board; we could have it at the EVC. It's generally on a Saturday and takes around 4 hours. What would be a good month for the board?

T. Gilmour: Maybe April?

C. Mertl: Staff please let us know what weekends are available in April and early May for the next meeting.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report— None.

C. Liaison Reports—

YAAB – T. Rutecki: Applications for the annual grant were due March 1st. We received 24 or 25 of them. We have about \$325,000 to give out and almost twice that has been requested. We will get together in April to give out the awards to people.

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: We're getting new play features (fountains and buckets). We're also looking into corporate sponsors for the pools.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum—B. Fischer: We have \$120,000+ in an account that came from Merrill Jensen who is the caretaker of the Arboretum and that money is his rent money. We're using the funds for maintenance for the home and creating a parking lot.

Lands – C. Mertl: None.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: 16B at the new docks is still on schedule.

Treadwell Arena Board – C. Mertl: None.

JNU Urban Forestry – C. Mertl: Getting ready for the Home Show.

Eaglecrest – O. Brudie: Matt Miller's last day was the end of February. The job posting is up. Nate Abbott is the acting general manager until a new general manager is hired.

TrailMix—B. Farrell: None.

Park Foundation—C. Mertl: Met with the City Manager and talked about the next steps. There is a desire from Legal that the Park Foundation become its own non-profit.

D. Other Member Business –

O. Brudie: Thank to the staff and everyone on the board.

Adjournment – 7:47 p.m. *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 3/23/2017