

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 3, 2015
CBJ Assembly Chambers -- 6 p.m.

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

Present: Josh Anderson, Odin Brudie, Traci Gilmour, Lindsay Hallvik, Gerry Landry, Eric Ouderkirk, Tom Rutecki;

Absent: Frances Dowd

Assembly Liaison, Maria Gladziszewski, present;

Staff present: Kirk Duncan, P&R Director

Agenda Changes – C. Mertl requests Correspondence after approval of meeting minutes; Motion from J. Anderson to accept Agenda as presented, no objection, Agenda approved.

Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items – None

Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 6, 2015 -- Motion by J. Anderson to approve; no objection, Motion approved.

Correspondence – Letter from school nurse at Thunder Mountain – Maureen Hall concerning P&R vending machine contents.

O. Brudie -- what kinds of drinks in vending machines at schools?

K. Duncan – no carbonated beverages in schools. Suggests same for P&R facilities – no junk food, carbonated beverages, energy drinks. Take financial hits associated with eliminating unhealthy items from vending machines at P&R facilities.

O. Brudie -- Which facilities do we have vending machines in?

K. Duncan -- Treadwell, both pools, Centennial Hall. We'll probably leave Centennial Hall machines the way they are. The issue is that kids from schools come over to the pools during off-campus times to use vending machines. It's good revenue, but the wrong message to have P&R supporting that.

Discussion.

T. Rutecki – Treadwell, Aquatics Board should do the heavy lifting on machines, forward letter to boards. It gets complicated when dealing with sporting events/snack shack, etc.

J. Anderson – I agree. Snack shack creates income. I support the letter re: vending machines.

T. Gilmour – I support the vending machine policy change too, events governed by boards can only encourage.

C. Mertl – General support to work with P&R and two advisory committees on the general recommendation that we put healthier food and drinks in vending machines.

L. Hallvik - I'd like to support C. Mertl's position.

P&R Director's Report – K. Duncan:

- *Douglas advisory group – status of Mt. Jumbo Gym.* Not closing gym, \$250,000 in FY 16 budget to repair roof of Mt. Jumbo, not spending that money at this time. Committee discussed whether we're better off putting a million dollars into creating a multi-purpose facility at Treadwell arena. The costs to repair Mt.

Jumbo Gym equal \$2.5 million, cannot justify that cost for the use of that facility. A true multi-purpose facility would probably get more use.

- *Savikko Park* – notice closing park at 11 due to neighbor complaints about late night noise, will probably start that in April. There will be public meetings about this.
- *New Point of Sale System* – eFaxPlus. Will allow us to track usage at pools, ice arena, Centennial Hall.
- *Fran Compton retiring as of January 22, 2016.*
- *Auke Lake Wayside closed until June for construction (redoing parking lot and putting in the access trail next to the lake, extending bike path).*
- *Treadwell Advisory Board meetings* – looked over financial review of financial history, energy saving audit that came out. Next review covering marketing. Baseline of information for Board to figure out where they want to go from there.
- *Aquatics Board* – Introducing new rate structure. 80 percent of people using facilities pay daily fee, would like to encourage them to purchase monthly, annual passes. Looking to move daily rate up and monthly/annual rates down to reward loyalty.
- Held first P&R staff meeting for all P&R supervisors and lead people (28 people) at Eaglecrest, we talked about increasing participation, revenue, cost recovery, and youth engagement and how we are going to do that. Meeting quarterly here on out. Want to establish seasonal orientations for all P&R divisions.

J. Anderson: What would be life expectancy of Mt. Jumbo Gym be without any additional repairs done on it?

K. Duncan: Three or four years.

O. Brudie: Gym only? Is the school in good shape? Interest out there from any organization interested in purchasing the facility?

K. Duncan: The Mt. Jumbo School is in good shape, the gym is the problem. We would put out a request for proposals.

Conversation.

T. Rutecki: What is the status of Pocket Park with the new proposal for Gastineau Apartments?

M. Gladyszewski: Money put down but deal not done. It is up on the assembly agenda on Mon. Nov. 9 whether to go ahead with demolition or not. Mr. Coogan put money down. No consensus on whether or not it has to be torn down. If demolition happens, Pocket Park will be used as a staging area for that process. Nothing else has been committed to that piece of property. Just being used to help demolish building, on the table for what will happen after that.

Conversation.

C. Merti: DOT is doing work on Auke Lake, any follow-up conversations about them pulling out of their commitment to make improvements to Auke Lake Wayside. Previously we made the deal that we would give up property by Brotherhood Bridge, lose the trailhead for Auke Lake Trail, with the understanding that there would be improvements made to Auke Lake Wayside by DOT. DOT then turned around saying they don't have the budget for it, so they are not going to do Auke Lake Wayside. PRAC felt like we had been deceived to a certain degree. Now that DOT is working on that area of Auke Lake, they may be under budget and may have money to make the Auke Lake Wayside improvements that were once promised.

K. Duncan: I can make that phone call.

O. Brudie: Auke Bay Parking. Is University a player in the Wayside?

K. Duncan: Parking lot will be assigned for no student parking. I am unsure how that gets enforced. Number of parking places is greatly reduced. Not suitable for student parking.

C. Merti: Updates on Whale Park and Seawalk?

K. Duncan: No update. Bids went out. It's overbid, so it has been pulled back. Regrouping at this time. Trying to determine why bids are so different in various aspects. Design remains the design.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

Kaxdigoowu Heeni Dei Trail Proposal – K. Duncan:

Met with folks from SAIL and Bob Janes. SAIL would like to use Bob Janes' electric bicycles and start at the Wayside at Brotherhood Bridge, go along Montana Creek Trail to the end of the trail, go up River Road then go up to Backloop, stay on shoulder of Backloop, cross at Montana Creek, and go all the way up to Skater's Cabin. Could be sold on cruise ships as ADA accessible tour, no requirement it be used for ADA folks. I asked the law department – that trail is not allowed for commercial use. In mid-90s the Assembly said that anything farther than Montana Creek Bridge could not be used for commercial use. Can the Director change the designation of a trail from non-commercial to commercial? The answer is generally, yes, however, the Assembly prohibited commercial use of the Kax Trail north of Montana Creek. The process would be that SAIL would come to the PRAC and make a presentation and the PRAC would vote either to recommend to the Assembly that the Assembly reverse itself and allow commercial use, or not. Second question to ask, are motored assisted bikes that can be peddled considered motorized vehicles, and the answer is, yes, they are. The bicycles used are motorized bicycles that can go up to 15 MPH. But we could ask for an amendment to the code to allow motorized assisted bikes on the trail. The back story to this is that in the late 90s the folks on River Road were very opposed to having any commercial activity and sued the city and the result was the city said they won't have commercial use north of Montana Creek. This is just giving some background information on something that's going to be coming down your way.

....

If you walk the trail about 200 yards from the parking lot, KAX Trail is disappearing. The river is down to four feet from the asphalt. So the long-term plan, assuming that that will wash out, will be informing the neighbors of this and getting their comments, and putting in a 5-foot trail back to Meadow Lane, that parallels Meadow Lane and then install a hardened trail at the end of Meadow Lane that has a gate across it that goes back to the KAX trail. That is the long-term solution for this. We put up a fence to monitor the distance between the trail and the riverbank and are using good judgment to establish when the trail needs to be moved. I'll bring a map next time and we can take a look at that.

Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

Chair Report –

C. Merti: Invasive Species workshop in Juneau last week. It's something that has come up before us. Does P&R or CBJ have an invasive species policy? It seems a lot of our park land is slowly being taken over by invasive species. Twin Lakes is the poster child with the Japanese Knotweed. Don't see a lot in terms of control.

K. Duncan: Will get back to you next meeting.

T. Gilmour: Doesn't a guy from Lands at the state come and present and tell us what they're doing with the invasive species?

C. Merti: That was John Hudson with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, he had made a presentation to us probably two years ago saying he had grant money.

Discussion.

C. Merti: I don't know if it fell through but it seemed like Mr. Hudson had grant money for invasives control. So I'm just wondering if there has been any follow-up because I haven't seen any noticeable changes.

Discussion.

Liaison to the Assembly Report - None.

Lands Committee –

C. Merti: Moving on with Wetlands Management and inventory. They haven't quite figured out what management is going to happen but they have gone through and quantified and come up with a new category system for inventory and rating wetlands. It will take a while to come through but we'll probably be hearing something on that.

Lands also just completed a Stream Mapping Project. Mapping amalgamous streams, something that hasn't previously been done by the city. Delineating to figure out where the centers align and which streams are anadromous so that they've got better mapping. There's discussion that what may come from this is better understanding of the value of the streams and what the required setbacks are, rather than just the standard 25 feet no disturbance, 100 feet no development. So they may come up with new management and that would probably trickle back to us because we intend to get stream corridors.

Land disposal – Josh Odin and I made a list of recommendations based on last meeting, cleaned it up and presented it to Lands.

M. Gladziszewski: Has Lands discussed Saga/Eagle Valley Center?

K. Duncan: Desire to use that next summer. Don't know exactly what that means. It could be used as overnight for kids. Could be a great place for weddings, the gambit is really wide. By the first of the year we will have a good idea of that. ABAK still wants to use beach to run kayaks off of. Discovery Southeast still wants to use the facility. We're looking at enhanced summer camps. We would like to get the ropes course back up and running. The property is on the forefront of P&R planning. Next Meeting looking to have a short-term temp employee to assist me in updating the comprehensive P&R plan with all of your input and that will be part of the conversation. One of big problems is it doesn't have any potable water. Long-term I think we could get grant money and revitalize that for extended youth programs.

M. Gladziszewski: Status of Saga?

K. Duncan: Saga doesn't exist, Saga was an extension of AmeriCorps. JEBC has taken over management of AmeriCorps in Juneau. So we're working with them to reinvigorate that program.

C. Merti: PRAC is a big supporter of the facility. We'd love to see it rejuvenated because it is a great facility in a great location.

Discussion.

Fees & Charges Subcommittee Report --

T. Gilmour: Met twice. Met with K. Duncan, came up with a checklist of what do we sell, how much do we charge for each project, why do we charge that amount, should we stop/start selling something and if so, why? We plan on meeting with five facility heads and making plans. We met Jorden Nigro of Zach Gordon and we found that Zach Gordon has already done their own analysis and synopsis of charges versus needs and we gave a few suggestions for creating ways to formulate costs. What it comes down to is that you need a formula. If you're going to come up with a true cost you need a formula. We want to look at each facility, meet with the facility leader, strategize, and offer feedback. Analyze each section with the person overseeing that division. We came up with five different places, going to invite each of them to our upcoming meetings. More information needed for us to play any type of advisory role. F. Compton will ask five groups, heads of facilities, to research and present these suggestions.

J. Anderson: Trails/commercial fees/parking, Centennial Hall, Parks & Rec: Lindsey Brown from administration would be here, Commercial fees, as far as trails...

K. Duncan: Myia Wahto, also in charge of rec. can discuss why we charge what we charge. Brent Fischer is also in charge of ball field maintenance, as well as trail maintenance. Lindsey Brown, as you mentioned, is in charge of parking and other administrative fees. Steven Pfister is at Centennial Hall.

T. Gilmour: We essentially came up with a menu and how to come up with costs under those subcosts for those menus. Hopefully this will become a formula.

T. Rutecki: K. Duncan gave us a list of charges and fees for Parks & Rec and we are going through and seeing what we actually do anymore.

Other Member Business –

T. Rutecki: I think it is a good idea to have the committees.

O. Brudie: Follow-up for K. Duncan – Is it still anticipated that Centennial Hall landscaping will be a public hearing? Will there be PRAC involvement?

K. Duncan: It will be, right now it's tentatively set for the first week of December. A hard date hasn't been set. Looking to be an open meeting but at Centennial Hall, run by the engineering dept. It's going to be about landscaping and flooring. Talking about implementing removable walls. Won't use PRAC as format for that. Will have a well-publicized meeting at Centennial Hall.

Russ McDougal (Public): Where might P&R Holdings of CBJ land be going? Quick wrap-up of where Lands Committee is?

C. Merti: Committee came up with 24/25 pieces of property. Realized a lot of land under management of P&R. That is an issue. If we were strategic in releasing some lands could be logical opportunities for housing and other development. At the same time there's other people who manage land that we are interested in and although it may cause some heartache for some land managers we are hoping there may be some trade, we are willing to give up some prime land for land in other locations. We also identified areas where there's no CBJ lands being managed by anybody that would be good target locations for having some park facilities, within Lemon Creek being a prime example, we did approve those and forward those onto Greg Chaney. There will be a discussion, need public comment. Again, we are an advisory committee so we advise and what happens beyond this we can't always control.

K. Duncan: Comprehensive plan hasn't been updated since 2007, really hasn't been updated since 1997, so we'll be updating that. Right now not a clear vision of when we should get rid of land and when we should keep land. I'm hoping through this process we come up with a clear idea of why we get rid of property and why we keep it.

C. Merti: I want to thank people for getting involved in subcommittees, I think it's important that we are engaged. A desire for me is to get engagement in setting the agenda. What is happening with parking within P&R will probably come up. Cope Park potentially going to award the base bid, demos, new tennis courts, new playground equipment. There are two other bid alternatives. Only enough budget for the base bid, the park would benefit if came up with budget for bid alternate one. Flexibility in getting involved in these discussions?

K. Duncan: Good conversation to have with P&R and Engineering, we're talking about it and we know where the financial limitations are. Also know the intent of the voters. Anybody is welcome to participate in those conversations.

Adjournment – 7:19 p.m. Having no other business before the board.

Respectfully submitted, Lindsey Daniel, P&R Administrative Assistant II 11/30/15