

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 7, 2015
CBJ Assembly Chambers -- 6 p.m. to 7:18 p.m.

I. Call to order by 1st Vice-Chair, Josh Anderson at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Odin Brudie, Frances Dowd, Traci Gilmour, Lindsay Hallvik, Gerry Landry, Kirk Ouderkirk, Tom Rutecki;

Staff Present: Kirk Duncan, P&R Director; Brent Fischer, P&R Facilities, Maintenance & Landscape Supervisor;

Assembly Liaison: Maria Gladziszewski

Member Absent: Chris Merti

Quorum Present

II. Agenda Changes – none.

III. Public Participation in Non Agenda Items – none.

IV. Approval of Minutes from June 2, 2015: motion to approve O. Brudie, second E. Ouderkirk, no objections, motion approved.

V. Director's report – Kirk Duncan: In addition to my report Mr. Fischer will have some follow up.

- Successful 4th of July. Douglas had an active presence of P&R staff on Saturday, sent out a thank you to Colby Shabler, Parks Maintenance Supervisor.
- First Aquatics Board will meet on Thursday, July 9 at 5:30.
- Saturday is Rotary Day at DPAC, with 3 free sessions paid for by Rotary, starting at 11, 1, and 2:30 for 210 people each session. You are all invited. This year will have two lanes open and swimmers will be timed. There will be prizes, with free hot dogs and soda.
- Next Monday, I am speaking to the Committee of the Whole, giving them an update on P&R:
 - o P&R focus on increasing participation in our facilities and our programs that will lead to a greater revenue and increase cost recovery.
 - o Make residents aware of services by improved website and use of social media.
 - o Buy a new point-of-sale system (cash register) which captures participation data. Use of this data to determine which programs are working, which programs are not, and how facilities are being used.
 - o Enhancing P&R focus on youth includes after-school program. There are plans for a summer camp Event in mid-May 2016, we plan to bring all summer programs for youth providers together at Centennial Hall,

allowing parents and youth to register. We can use this as an opportunity to observe if there are possibilities for other P&R camp programming.

- o We are looking at Anchorage based program called “youth employment in parks”. In the summer bring in 16-20 year old youth to help with Parks and Landscape maintenance.
- o We will look at how to become more business-like, using information to checking our revenues against expenses with more advertising and community outreach.
- o User feedback program using HKM Dowl. There is an electronic (survey monkey) survey available on our website and at the pools and Treadwell. The early results were 86% positive response rate at pools and 92% positive response rate at Treadwell. Information, comments and suggestions are available. We are doing things well just not to enough people and that will be our focus.
- o Working on fees and charges with PRAC, Treadwell Advisory group, and the Aquatics Board to develop what is a reasonable cost recovery for what we do, and how do we charge youth/adults. Not an easy process and may take us a year.
- o Eagle Valley Center possibilities for youth and outdoor programs.
- o National Recreation and Parks Association tie-in with their Three Pillars concept (Health and Wellness, Conservation, Social Equity) as guiding principles in our decision making process.

Discussion of summer camp event, Aquatics Board meetings, Treadwell, Juneau Economic Council.

Mr. Fischer: Mr. Chair [referring to handouts] the first handout is another draft of the memorial bench policy. I took the comments from PRAC’s last meeting, requesting more of a product choice. I don’t expect you to read it now, but if you can take it and if there are any more comments, or anything you’d like to change, send your comments in and I will prepare for next month’s meeting to ask for a motion of approval. The last page won’t be included in the policy itself; it is page of examples for you to see style of benches.

Discussion of bench product and costs.

Mr. Duncan: I want to point out that in your packet is the memo to the Airport regarding the watershed area we talked about in a previous meeting.

Mr. Fischer: The next handout is a one page status update for the 1% Sales Tax in the General Bond projects that we have slated for FY16:

- For Centennial Hall repairs, interior is complete, the roof is under final inspection this week, remaining is the Atrium area stabilization.

Mr. Duncan: I had a tour of Centennial Hall today and we want to look at hardscaping the old entry which is the Atrium area. It used to be grass, not very practical; we need more parking and we want to use that more as an entry. Looking at a hardscape of combination concrete that grass grows through and some asphalt – we don't have a plan or money. If we have residual money coming out of the project, a lot of the trees will be taken out because they are dying or the root system is getting into the building foundation.

Mr. Fischer:

- Cope Park is at 95% design submittal for this week – Parks crew and Engineering will look at it. It is scheduled to begin in early August with construction to begin this winter through next summer.
- Twin Lakes Park repairs and ADA compliance – the RFP is going out in the next few weeks with a push to get the ADA path done this fall. Because it goes out for bid, we want the weather in the Fall to cooperate to get that path laid out and the other repairs completed next summer.
- Trails work that will be completed in FY 16, the Paris Creek Bridge engineering work for installation in 2016-2017 with Trail Mix. The Auke Lake to Montana Creek Trail connector preliminary design and layout to start construction will be in 2016 with Trail Mix.
- Dimond Park and Adair-Kennedy restroom/concessions and Melvin Park concession - all in design with Jensen, Yorba, Lott. The bid will go out this winter with construction starting in the spring. We will work around the user groups.

Discussion

Mr. Fischer:

- Capital School Park Master Plan is complete and funding for the rest of the construction is scheduled for FY17 along with Riverside Rotary Park repairs and safety improvements, Chicken Yard safety improvements, Treadwell Mine Historic Park, Horse Tram Trail, and Auke Lake/Montana Creek connection.
- Jensen-Olson Arboretum parking lot is in the design phase right now, working out details with DOT with funding for FY17. Parking there is terrible and unsafe. If we have funds that we can start that project early, we are going to. As we move forward with project I can come back and give you status updates.

Discussion.

Unfinished Business – Mr. Anderson: These items were being driven by Mr. Mertl and I proposed that we table these to the next meeting. We were going to divide into work parties, one on Comp Plan items and another on fees and charges for P&R services. Discussion of sub-committee work groups and Comp Plan project.

Mr. Duncan: I would like fees and charges work; for reference we are looking at how other small towns justify their fees and charges. Ultimately PRAC could provide develop the outline, which would lead to an RFP, part of the RFP has the desired result of the Comp Plan by working in sub-committees and coming back to PRAC to report. A consultant could do the body of work. Maybe some PRAC members want to be involved in that work.

Mr. Anderson: For the Comp Plan we did the mission statement. Chapters 3, 5, and 6 are for our sub-committee work. Because we will bypass working on Comp Plan fees and charges tonight, for homework let's spend a few minutes looking at Mr. Fischer's Bench Plan and get our comments turned in prior to the next meeting so we can act on that.

New Business – Seawalk – Bob Janes: This is a project that has been in the concept stage for the past eight years. I am a tour operator in Juneau, Gastineau Guiding. We do a lot of whale watching. I am working with a group of people interested in putting in an Oceans Interpretive Center because of all the issues with oceans, climate change, water temperature changes, and species moving. It is a great time to bring it with the Humpback Whale being taken off the Endangered Species List. The plan is approximately 14,000 square foot building, open year round, with visitation by Juneau visitors in the summer, as well as connecting to K-12 classrooms and different community events. The advisory board is working with me, including Linda Nicklin, who has been working with Gastineau Guiding for 20 years, a certified guide, and her husband, Flip Nicklin is a National Geographic whale photographer who lives in Juneau. They run a similar program in Hawaii in the winter and here in the summer with Susie Tearlink, UAF graduate working at the NOAA lab. She has done a lot of Humpback Whale studies in Juneau. Our goal in this center is to connect it to the community, UAS, High School for employment for Marine Science and Oceanography interest to work in this facility during the year, particularly the summer. The facility will be very current in displays. We are working with Disney and they can help us with displays. Over the next year or two we are looking for corporate and individual funding of \$7.5 to \$8M to build. One of the things this center can do is connect with citizen science activities throughout the country. Visitors could look, see what we are doing here and in Alaska. Then go home and connect with citizen science activities in their own homes, whether ocean, stream or lake or in the middle of productive farming country because water is water and it all ends up in our oceans. We are looking at ways that people can look at the cycle of water and rain and connect it to our oceans and our oceans health. I met with the Whale Committee; I met with Assembly people and have looked at this site. (Maps being shown) Volker's Plan shows the footprint of the building, with a waterfront viewing area with a park that starts at Egan Drive and tapers to the top of the roof with a large viewing area over the waterfront. We have invited the Whale committee to place the Whale Sculpture in this location. We don't want to offend the Whale Committee. It might be the Whale gets put under the bridge and then moved to this Park eventually. It might never go there; it will be a playground and City Park and other marine related sculptures, all kinds of options. That

is all I have, if I understand it right – it is now within you to decide what part of the Seawalk you want to approach next. Rorie could come in to talk about this section, and he feels this is a logical section of Seawalk to continue with in the next edition. Are there any questions? Within a few years – 10 years - we could have a true world class research oriented and interpretive groupings that would bring people to town hopefully more frequently for longer stays, with use of Centennial Hall. We could have three major attractions coming on line within walking distance from downtown, with connections with the University and research going on, as well as interpretation. I know JCVB is very interested in marketing Juneau as a “come, stay, learn about current research and find out what is going on in Juneau”. This would be a great addition to visitation both during the summer and during non-cruise ship months, when we try to get conferences here in Juneau. It is going to be an amazing area once the SLAM opens up, and mental health decides what they want to do with their property. Once things get rolling at the sub-port, it will move fast.

Questions and discussion.

VI. Reports

A. Chair Report – none.

B. Lands Committee - none.

C. Assembly Liaison, M. Gladziszewski: Nothing to report. I want to comment regarding the Seawalk. I think what you did tonight was a good thing. There is a lot more information to get. It sounds like a great project, but there is a lot of committees and discussions on what is the next phase of the Seawalk. Everyone agrees it should go from the Bridge to the Cruise ship docks and bits have been done over the years. The next phase being done is from Gold Creek to the Bridge and then the question is which things should happen next. What has been happening is the easier pieces have been done and the PW and CIP planning process and you will be one that could say “I support this phase” but you need to understand what the other pieces that could go and what should go next.

D. Other Member Business

Youth Activity Board - Tom Rutecki: YAB is looking for two new members and a youth member, not 18 years of age. We’ve had outstanding kids over the years, if you know anyone, please encourage them. [Applications due for the YAB by August 24.]

Mr. Duncan: If you have questions about fees and charges or Comp Plan, please feel free to reach out to me and I’ll give you my vision of what is happening. Hopefully we can divide up at the next meeting and start the process.

Having no other business before the Board, **T. Gilmour made a motion to adjourn, Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.**

Handouts: Airport Memo, Bench Policy Draft, List of Current Parks and Trails projects.