MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 2, 2015
CBJ Assembly Chambers -- 6 p.m. to 7:50 p.m.

1. **Call to Order at 6:02 p.m. by Chris Mertl, Chair**; Members Present: Josh Anderson, Odie Brudie, Lindsey Hallvik, Gerry Landry, Eric Ouderkirk, and Tom Rutecki;

   Members Absent: Traci Gilmour, Frances Dowd;

   Assembly Liaison: Maria Gladziszewski;

   Staff Present: Kirk Duncan, P&R Director.

2. **Agenda Changes: none**

3. **Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items: none**

4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 5, 2015; Motion from E. Ouderkirk to approve the minutes of May 5, 2015; Hearing no discussion and no objection, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.**

5. **P&R Director's Report – K. Duncan:**

- Parks and Recs roundup: At the last meeting there was an update on the Whale Project. You all have a copy of the initial project. This project is going to bid. There was some recent conversations about putting the whale downtown and that is not going to happen. The Skate Park and the Maritime Center are not in the Plan. There was a proposal of an island constructed at high tide but there is not enough room to house the whale. This new Park will improve this whole area. .
Discussion
Mr. Mertl: Have you had a discussion with the Whale Committee on the maintenance of this facility?
Mr. Duncan: no. It is being designed and turned over to us. If the PRAC wanted to make a comment that it is deeply concerned about the maintenance of the water feature that would prompt me to go and make sure that conversation is more in- depth.
Mr. Mertl: We have been talking about that for two years; PRAC is uncomfortable that P&R will be responsible for the maintenance without strategies that it is kept in good working condition.
Mr. Landry: Yes.
Mr. Duncan: I would expand that to Seawalk maintenance. We are being asked to maintain what you see here; cleanup and long term replacement.
Mr. Landry: You will be maintaining the entire Seawalk? It sounds like cruise ship fees are needed.
Mr. Rutecki: this is another project that requires more money, is the head tax a way to help that?
Mr. Mertl: We support you having discussions with Docks and Harbors, Engineering, and City Manager to find out how P&R takes on the maintenance of this great facility. Only a great facility if we can maintain it and the waterworks will take maintaining.
Discussion regarding Maritime building.

- You will hear us talk about the National Recreation & Parks Association's 3 Pillars (http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/) as we talk about long term planning you'll hear us talk about conservation, health and wellness, and social equity. Senior management is going through planning what we look like in a year, what we look like in five years with this in mind. It will go along with the Comprehensive Plan and we can get into this in detail down the road.

- I have been on Perseverance Trail quite a bit. I am concerned about the high speed mountain biking that is going on. I am concerned about bicyclists going over, or bicyclists causing a hiker to go over. We will be posting signs and we need to look at this. The lowest number of bikers is about 5; it is a very popular mountain biking trail. It is amazing how quickly that hill sloughs off. That trail improvement was a $900,000 project.
- Some of us went over Treadwell Trail to the other Glory Hole on a rudimentary trail. There are places where the trail has sloughed off. When mining the Glory Hole miners would find an ore body, drill underneath and then up and open pit mine this area. They threw the mined stuff in the tunnel that was carted to the mill for crushing. There are tunnels that drops several hundred feet. If you fell into the tunnel now that would be problematic. It would be our liability. We are talking about traffic calming action, maybe signage making people aware that there are unseen dangerous areas.
- Parks and Recreation is considering becoming the lead in the after school program for middle school between 3:30 and 4:30. The coalition's lead is retiring and we've been asked to take that on. Senior staff looking at is more of a focus on youth. To some Parks and Recreation may be looked at as a luxury, that we may not be able to afford at times. From a public relations standpoint, Parks recreation and youth activities may make us more valuable to the community. We are not abandoning anything else we do, we have resources to be more involved with youth programs. We now have possession of the Eagle Valley Center and are looking into doing something this summer on a limited basis. Questions arise: should we go out and write a grant, remodel, tear down? We are looking at the niche for that facility.
- In the minutes it said I would be providing a Parks Assessment. That could be one of the things that the Parks Foundation could take on.

Ms. Hallvik: what would a Park Assessment include?

Mr. Duncan: That is a good question and I don't know. Looking at facilities, saying what condition, how old, how long would they last? A consultant could come in and do this assessment and we would have to agree what that is.

Mr. Anderson: Back in Nov/Dec we were worried about the budget, especially talk about added responsibilities. Money-wise, how are the current projects going - how did they end up after the entire budget was decided. Can we get an update on projects – like Cope Park, OHV?

Mr. Duncan: There seems to be a need for greater understanding of what is happening at Cope Park and money available. I will get more information and get back to you at the next meeting. There is the operating budget, and then there is the capital budget. P&R has a history of carrying sums of money from one year to the next and not spending all the money in the budget. I am asking P&R managers to spend budget money wisely. For example, the hot tub isn't open because we don't have staff; however, we have lots of money in the budget for staffing. It appears in the past managers didn't manage the budget once it's created. We will talk with AFAB and the empowered board. There is no money slated to do the $4.5M improvement at Augustus Brown. We have $330,000 this year for mechanical controls. But the major development I vision as 1% Sales Tax.

Mr. Anderson: Is there still money for the OHV Park?

Mr. Duncan: I will have to follow up with you on that.

Mr. Mertl: Mr. Fischer had a spreadsheet that we were working through with him (on the 1% that was set aside two years ago for various projects) that had line items. Then we talked about budgets and things got moved around and there was a lot of “maybes”. And we didn’t know what was going to shake out as a result of the budget. It would be great to know what those final numbers are and what projects commitments to the community are realized. If things have changed it would be good to get an understanding.

Mr. Duncan: I’ll have those for you at the next meeting.

Mr. Landry: The topic you started off with stating Senior Management was working, what senior management is that?

Mr. Duncan: Senior Management team within Parks and Rec (Brent doing Maintenance and Landscape, Myiia doing Recreation, Jorden doing Zach Gordon, Lauren doing Treadwell, Lindsey as Administrative Officer, Steven doing Centennial Hall) is looking at what we envision being in a year and being in five years. What do we look like; are we properly staffed; do we have the right people in the right places doing the right thing?

Mr. Landry: The bicycles - I put on as a potential item for tonight’s meeting - Perseverance bicycle-pedestrians conflict. There was quite a buzz in the social media and emails, from freewheelers and nameless people who got worked up and then calmed down. Bicyclists are worried about closures. I think this is a future item to discuss.

Mr. Duncan: At no time did I talk about closure and would not do so without a public process. I talked with John McConahey about my concern. I asked him to ask around, do we put up a traffic calming mechanism or what can we do? If there is a fatality up there we may have to close it. I am trying to be proactive so we don’t have to close it.

Mr. Landry: By the time someone talks about it and it works its way through the chain of social media it was interesting to see everyone discussing it. There was talk about bicycling being closed in other areas and bicycle-pedestrian user conflicts that have evolved in other towns. This youth activities you might be taking over -- who is that doing that now?

Mr. Duncan: There was a coalition formed four years ago with school district representatives. Kevin Ritchie is the driver of this. Volunteers will take kids to teach cooking, the police come in for Junior Police Academy, and someone does quilting. There is a menu of programs. I got involved because of interest in the hour of most police activity is the hour after school lets out. Zach Gordon is about kids at risk. Any kid that doesn’t have something to do is at risk. This program has a high likelihood of not continuing if someone doesn’t pick it up – and that is not good. The Zach Gordon manager can manage this program. We will hire someone to do the after-school program, and Jorden will manage it. Also at the Zach Gordon Center is Catholic Community Services’ Young Parent/Health Teen Center and that is closing (CBJ P&R gives them $48,000 and they were operating on an $80,000 budget with additional fund raising). We are picking up that with existing staff.

Mr. Rutecki: Didn’t they take over for the Boys & Girls Club when they folded?

Mr. Duncan: What makes this program different – the BGC had a facility – in this program call Body and Mind (BAM) happens in the schools, so it makes it easier to do that after school and take activities bus home. We would look at the program to get them into our facilities as well. We deal with kids that are in our facilities rather than outreaching to where the kids are. Trying to be of more service to the community.

Mr. Rutecki: That could be a way to expand the "learn to swim" program because the schools, like Harborview and Riverbend, that are right next to the pools, kids could go at no cost of human resources and do it as a pilot program and see how that goes.

Mr. Duncan: We will expand our aquatics instruction program. We are actively getting aquatic instructors because our programs are full all the time. We could do a lot more.

Mr. Landry: Eagle Valley Center – that is a gem – very unique landscape, very rich in landscape, very easy to get out to – only one in 10 people know about. It would be a good thing for PRAC to get in to.

Mr. Duncan: I look at that as being the crown jewel of Parks & Rec. Two beaches, accessible, you can take a wheel chair from the EVC to the big beach. It's amazing.

Mr. Mertl: FYI: there was a Master Plan done a couple of years ago with P&R and SAGA. Developed for taking that facility to the next level.

6. Unfinished Business

- **Assignment of PRAC Liaison to Treadwell Board - Mr. Mertl:** this is a non voting member and I will fill that role. I will see if Tracy or Odin has an interest.
- **Comments regarding P&R Bench Policy – Mr. Mertl:** Mr. Fischer provided us with Policy and Information. Does anyone have additional thoughts, concerns, desires?

Mr. Ouderkirk: A general comment; having dealt with similar issues in other context I think having a policy is a great idea. There are advantages to specifying a manufacturer and style of bench; it has merits in some ways. The issue you run in to is telling someone they have to buy a "Chevette or Cadillac" – not everyone wants to do that. Good policy, good idea, really support it – the only piece is I prefer that is going to be more a performance base thing for benches. We can say here is the model we like, we recommend, but if you have another model in mind – without asking P&R to do any research – if it has the same dimensions, slightly different look it will be considered. Unless P&R wants to have a consistent look to all memorial benches then the single supplier is fine.

Mr. Duncan: I don't think we want a unified look – this is an example of size, ease of maintenance – this is a template, come back with what you would like to propose is a good idea.

Mr. Anderson: Somewhere in all the specifications, I suggest a statement for stainless steel hardware or galvanized hardware to prevent rusting.

Mr. Mertl: We don't say what the bench looks like; we set up a monetary amount, say $1,500. The new bench will match every bench in that facility – you make a donation for whatever the amount is and it will match that park's benches. Every park has different benches. I think it is up to P&R to approve. Some benches are old and ratty and not performing anymore. It is time to create an updated look, and put something in that is not going to be a maintenance issue. I say we don't specify what the bench looks like – we say it matches the park benches. I don't think that people will care what the bench looks like; I think they care what it says and its location within the park. Mr. Duncan, will you move this to Mr. Fischer?

Mr. Duncan: We will refine and bring it back to you. I heard two approaches.

- **P&R Comprehensive Plan & Mission Statement – Mr. Mertl:**

Mr. Anderson: Our mission is to provide high quality recreation programs and services to local residents and visitors with a focus on safety, affordability and accessibilities to people of all abilities, additionally recognizing that new partnerships, responsible planning and management of lands and resources are key to future recreation opportunities for all to enjoy.

Ms. Hallvik: I wasn't here last month and I looked at the two that were in the discussion and loved one: *Provide high quality, safe, affordable and accessible programs and services, facilities and lands supporting current and future community needs of residents and visitors of all abilities.*

Mr. Ouderkirk: I deleted the last part of Josh's - *Provide high quality, safe programs, activities, facilities and lands in an affordable manner meeting current and future needs for people of all abilities.* Lose the partnerships and stewardship piece. Its not that I don't think those are good, it just reads a lot simpler if you only have 3 seconds to grab their attention to what you want to say.

Mr. Landry: I am curious why you don't want partnerships.

Ms. Hallvik: I think that partnerships are great; it just doesn't fit at the end of the sentence, tacked on in a weird way. I don't know if it needs to be included.

Mr. Anderson: You are having the same reaction we all did last week when we were drafting. It was all punched together and we tried to rearrange the words to get it to flow better.

Mr. Ouderkirk: It's not that I don't think those are important, I was trying to get to a statement that flowed easily and could be used as a quick sound bite and when you get that last phrase you are changing the rhythm of it. It's not that they aren't important, but perhaps it needs a second sentence.

Mr. Landry: It's not that you are against partnerships, it is the sounding. I like those two also. I would like partnership put in this, whether it's the Forest Service, National Parks, State Parks or City Parks it's a trend - making partnerships. Budgets are thin and needs are developing and I think we need the word partnership.

Mr. Rutecki: I like the one that Josh came up with in the minutes, but I also agree with Eric to cut it off at abilities. The partnerships part is next. Way too wordy. First couple sentence of your next paragraph has all that stuff in it. "We are going to accomplish this with partnerships".

Discussion.

Mr. Mertl: We are going to lock this in: *Provide high quality, safe programs, activities, facilities and lands in an affordable manner meeting current and future needs for people of all abilities.* All in favor? No objection, unanimous agreement.

- **PRAC Retreat/Priorities based on SWOT – Mr. Mertl: Tabled.** Please go through the meeting meetings and look at the SWOT list for us to discuss when we are in a full group and on agenda for next meeting.

Mr. Duncan: I will suggest a couple of sub-committees. Not everyone needs to work on the Comp Plan. There is a policy I am working on called "Fees & Charges": It is why we charge what we charge. I think that is right at the heart of what PRAC does. The goal is the highest cost recovery we can have with the lowest entry/no barrier price to use our facilities. Which are sometimes two conflicting goals. I suggest four people work on Fees & Charges and five people work on Comp Plan and we have working committee meetings between PRAC meetings. Someone would report out which each committee did to the whole Board. That is my recommendation. Fees & Charges and Comp Plan are complementary but very different.

Mr. Mertl: Mr. Duncan and I talked about this earlier. We want to be the involved PRAC. Who is interested in Fees? Rutecki, Anderson, Hallvik. For the Comp Plan: Mertl, Ouderkirk and Landry. We will see what the others want.

Mr. Duncan: These are Public Noticed meetings with no minutes because there is no action being taken that would disband when their mission is accomplished and we can take on another task.

Mr. Mertl: We will flush out what needs to be done at the committee meetings. We have a handle on what the Comp Plan involves. We'll do the split at the next meeting.

At the last meeting Michele Elfers talking about the Douglas Island Mini-park Fruiting Forest – reminder on June 4 is a public meeting and the Douglas Library at 5:30.

7. New Business – Mr. Mertl: none

8. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

- Chair Report – C. Mertl: Very good meeting for Park Foundation. We have a lock on our Board of Directors and people who are willing to serve as Board Members and Officers. Jerry your name came up for helping with grants. 8 people, five members and 3 interested in serving on Park Foundation. Internally reviewing draft of Bylaws and updating. Intent is to get names on our Bylaws and submitted within the next month. There will be a follow up meeting with the Community Foundation and our [Park] board of directors, there will be an adhoc committee because they have money to distribution. The expressed interested in having PRAC in the decision making for allocating funds. Everyone recognized was first priority is doing a park inventory and evaluation so we can prioritize what are the highest needs of our P&R parks so we can target and throw money at those. Then how we interface with P&R. Anything to add Mr. Duncan?

  Mr. Duncan: The idea is that I will serve as executive director so there is good communication between the department and the foundation.

  Mr. Mertl: I want to give props (proper recognition) to *Juneau Rides.* They are a local non-profit; they hosted March's Bike Month and crowd-sourced and raised $18,000 for bike maps. Hey took Juneau from a bronze level to a silver level for Bike Friendly Community because this was the missing piece.

  I would like for PRAC members look for success stories of people within our community and outside the P&R, who are doing good things for our community. I would invite them to the next meeting and give them a formal thank you because they are doing good things on the Bike to Work Day, all by volunteers. We could come up with a rewards program or acknowledgement of people who do great things beyond Parks & Rec. If we really want to promote and market Parks and Recreation, rewarding those people and things behind the scenes, under their own mission, might be a great way to do

  I was at the Arboretum two weeks ago. The place is amazing. It was just beautiful. It is maintained spectacular. It was a beautiful sunny day. I could have spent two or three hours here. It is another crown jewel we have that we don't market and get enough people out there. It's beautiful everything is blooming.

- Liaison to the Assembly Report – M. Gladziszewski: Two Park related Boards – Treadwell Board and the Pool Board. There were a few applications for the Treadwell Board that went to the Human Resources Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Assembly. There weren't enough to fill the board and we are hoping to get some more. If you know of anyone who wants to be on the Treadwell Board we are extending [the application period] since there weren't enough to fill the board. Deadline for the Pool board was yesterday. I don't know how many applied – six by Friday and we'll interview on the 15th.
- Youth Activity Board – T. Rutecki: YAB met on May 12. We had $1700 in our fund and we gave it to 10 Juneau Jumpers and 3 swimmers. The fund is at zero.
- Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board – T. Rutecki: We had a Board meeting in May; the plan is to phase out with the new Aquatic Board coming. We discussed the USA Pool. Questions were asked about mechanical at Dimond. Kirk is trying to get information on it.

Discussion on advertising and marketing.

- <u>1% for Art – J. Anderson</u>: This board's work is done. At the last meeting I misunderstood. It was presented to the Harbor Board. In the last weeks it was approved by the Assembly. And now it is in the works.

- **<u>Lands Committee – G. Landry</u>:** There were a couple of things on the agenda, not pertinent. The Staff Report was on Renninger 8 Lot subdivision. right next to Gruening Park by Dzantik'i Heeni. I expressed the pocket park ideas, and park assessment. We have a lot of facilities in the valley, downtown, Douglas, Lemon Creek and they have nothing on them. We should look at Lemon Creek as a whole, if we continue toward high density living maybe we should put in a Park. I emailed Chris [Mertl]. Chris might have more expertise in this committee, if you would like to take this over I would be willing to step out. If not I am happy to do this.

Mr. Mertl: Traditionally the Lands Committee was attended by the PRAC Chair. But we decided to push that aside for a time. Is there any one else that would like to be liaison for this Committee? I will be happy to take it one. Thank you for serving Gerry.

9. **Other Member Business**: <u>Mr. Ouderkirk</u>: I have an unexpected conflict for tomorrow, and have a Jensen-Olson Arboretum Board meeting. It would be a good idea for someone from the PRAC to go, could someone else go?
   G. Landry: I can go or let you know if I cannot.

   <u>Mr. Rutecki</u>: I am looking at this [Seawalk map] a little bit. I can see why you are excited about improving the habitat; they are going to include boulders and make a slope – it will be outstanding for juvenile salmon and other fish habitat and protect the existing tidal channel that will create a standing body of water. It is going to be really nice creating a lagoon.
   Discussion

   <u>G. Landry</u>: City Comp Plan – under the Parks Facility the 2000 Plan Update – the survey from the community says: a new swimming pool in the valley, a performing arts center, dedicated ATV/snowmobile recreation facility. Those were from the current plan.

   <u>Mr. Mertl</u>: In closing, notice everyone taking good care of the hanging flower baskets with tight budget, hats off for doing more with less!

10. **Adjournment: Mr. Anderson motion to adjourn. C. Mertl: Having no further business before this Board and with no objection, this meeting is adjourned at 7:12 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted, Fran Compton, P&R Administrative Assistant June 30, 2015