MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 7, 2015
CBJ Assembly Chambers -- 6 p.m.

I. Call to Order at 6:00 p.m. by Chris Mertl, Chair

Present: Odin Brudie, Frances Dowd, Tracy Gilmore, Lindsey Hallvik, Gerry Landry, Eric Ouderkirk, Tom Rutecki;
Absent: Josh Anderson;
Staff Present: Kirk Duncan, P&R Director; Fran Compton, P&R Admin. Asst.;
Assembly Liaison: Maria Gladziszewski
Guests: John Hudson and Amy Sumner

II. Agenda Changes – no changes, approved

III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items: * Sue Ann Randall., 11346 N. Douglas Hwy. The point about tourism, your comment about becoming a health and well-being department is smart. It is a healthy thing like the Arts that people are first to say, we don't need that. But truly we do need that because it makes our lives so rich. With tourism, all the things in the news, with the Ferry System collapsing, the ferry used to come right down town. It was so different back then. You knew people on the street, you met people on the ferry, invite them home or you went out to dinner and we loved those people. Now we don't want to go downtown with all the cruise people. Thinking about cutting back on the ferries, why do we have these cruise lines all coming to Juneau who are taking so much from us, and taking their money and running? What if you had a ferry, Governor Walker was talking about the good business model of Alaska Brewery – why don't we do that with a ferry? What if we had an option as Alaskan's to buy shares in a ferry, and what if it came to Juneau, hired Alaskans to work on it, that was a 'art ship'. You go on there and learn about Native Arts. I just participated in the giant puppet project and thought it would be so fun to do on the ferry. Sometimes when there are 'way out there' thinking, connect some dots and sometimes you are able to adapt. Maybe that's an idea.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2015; motion from G. Landry and second from O. Brudie, no discussion, no objection. **Motion approved for Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2015**

V. P&R Director's Report – K. Duncan

Handout is a packet with information for retreat. This information includes financials for every operation we have both revenue and expenses and the General Fund support it takes to operate; number of full time employees; cost recovery of each facility. The detail finances show you [FY] 14, 15 and 16 for each operation's revenues, personnel services and other expenses. Narratives from each facility manager, some very condensed, some are more elaborate; Fees and charges policies from Boise, ID that talks about a fees policy that "adults will pay full price of their admission and youth will pay 50%"; actual fees schedule for aquatics in Seattle. This is for your general information and if you will, review before the retreat.

Cost recovery is a major item for the residents of Juneau as well as the Assembly. What is cost recovery? When we look at the expense of the ice arena, my salary is not apportioned in there, no part of administration is in there, and no part of building maintenance is in there. I see it as a duty of the PRAC, to look at that and come up with what are reasonable goals. You are the judge and jury on reasonable cost recovery in our facilities? Eaglecrest pays for support of law, finance, and purchasing, these are things the general fund government does not cover as part of the fees and charges policy – should we be paying for those? I am introducing the concept at this time.

Treadwell Ice Arena Advisory Board was approved last night. The Assembly will approve of 7 members. Their job will be to advise and council staff on the best way to run Treadwell. It is an Advisory Board, and there have been some conversations – well that minimizes role of PRAC. I want to restate my vision: Treadwell and Aquatic Advisory boards deal with issues such as scheduling, user conflicts, and things within a one year timeframe. PRAC is looking at five year time frame, high policy and bigger good to the community. I see no conflict between the PRAC and the Aquatic Advisory Board or the Treadwell Advisory Board. You shouldn't get into the weeds about who gets more ice time. If I am off base, it is a good thing to talk about at the retreat. The Ordinance has been introduced. Committee of the Whole will be discussing, several Assembly members would like for me to comment on what P&R view is about the empowered board, next Monday night. I talked about fees and charges policy, not as daunting as Comprehensive Plan but close. We will hit it at a high level, then dig down and we need to establish things such as do adults pay full boat and what is full boat – full cost allocation, administrative overhead? I will answer any questions.

C. Mertl: Can you provide a 300,000 foot elevation view of all P&R facilities for new folks?
K. Duncan: That is laid out in here and I will do that quickly: Treadwell, AB Pool, Dimond Pool, Zach Gordon, Centennial Hall, Youth and Adult Sports Programs, Mt. Jumbo, Building Maintenance, Park Maintenance, Landscaping, the Arboretum, and Administration. There are some things that aren't in here, like the Youth Advisory Board. It passes through us but I haven't highlighted what it does. This is a very broad view – I don't have Parking in here, I don't think that is something the PRAC needs to worry about.

G. Landry: I am looking at the FY16 Budget sheet with cost recovery percentages – that is going to be a topic of the retreat?

K. Duncan: No, not that level of detail. We are going to talk about what cost recovery is. Down the road we can talk about what is reasonable cost recovery. But we don't know what cost recovery is. Do we want to throw in building maintenance, administration, and all those things? This is an introduction and it will take a while to come up with meaningful numbers.
G. Landry: At the retreat, are we going to get a better understanding of these numbers and costs?
K. Duncan: That is an option, this is background information. How you want to move forward is up to you. I want to introduce the concept and see where the PRAC wants to go.
C. Mertl: I think we all want to take a more active advisory role in what is going on, so what Mr. Duncan and I have talked about is bouncing these ideas off of us; we won't get into the pinching pennies, but conceptual numbers he can work with. We will address lightly at the retreat if that is your desire. There will be several subsequent meetings we'll get into meat and potatoes and understand that.

VI. Unfinished Business
PRAC Retreat/P&R Comprehensive Plan
C. Mertl: quick summary – [The retreat] gives us an opportunity to plot our course of where we will move forward, what recommendations are we going to make to move forward and set goals that we'd like to accomplish as an Advisory Committee. Traditionally, we review what have been previous priorities, the last retreat was in 2012 and the intent is to go back and see what we set as priorities, then come up as a group with new priorities. We will have Mr. Duncan talk about facilities. Please review this material before the meeting. I am open as to what you want to see come this retreat. I want to be a leadership chair not a vocal chair, I want the PRAC to provide the direction and I will help move things, help facilitate discussion. I will voice my opinion but I want you to be leaders of what we do and where we go from this point forward. What would you like to have happen at PRAC retreat?

Input: <u>P&R Comprehensive Plan topics/goals to include:</u>

1. Establish a recognition program to recognize public and local businesses for volunteer work, contributions, donations, participation, etc.
2. Develop partnerships with local businesses.
3. Develop a policy to use social media as a tool to get information to the public and promote or advertise our P&R.
4. Setting a goal to re-establish and include all types of motorized sports in the community.
5. Partnership with other groups- Eaglecrest, Zach Gordon, etc.

T. Gilmour: I want to know more about all our facilities and what can I comment on – what can I say about our parks. I want to talk about our Parks and what our advisory role is on that – when can I say: I don't like what is going on.

E. Ouderkirk: I think one of the things I see at the retreat is – what are the facilities, cost to operate, what is a reasonable rate of return, what is your rate of recovery on each of these facilities. I am happy to go wherever the group goes. The other piece intriguing to me – the P&R Comp Plan is 2006, comments made looking at Comp Plan what has been achieved, what hasn't – a number of things have been accomplished. A look at that is worth the effort.

L. Hallvik: I want talk more about how to make the facilities more user-friendly, everything from website all the way through guest services experience. How are we going to get people into these facilities? Get a good experience going.

F. Dowd: I am not really sure what our roles are; first thing that comes to mind is marketing, listed under unfinished business. Is there a Social Media policy? I would like more knowledge of events. I am seeing more preannouncing of programs. I would like a goal of involvement, more use of the facilities.

O. Brudie: At the meeting before last, we talked about revisiting the role of the PRAC and talked about some of the work we did on Auke Lake Management, that were acknowledge but we didn't see traction on that. Maybe there is time to talk more about that. The Role of the PRAC in planning processes and policy. We talked about Comp Plan and I think we have agreed we aren't going to review the plan at the retreat, but maybe refine what folks want to do there. The list that was on the PRAC Agenda, topic of partnerships with other organizations – summary of who they are, giving a nod to some of those, for example Trail Mix and Field Sports organizations.

G. Landry: There was a prior agenda sent out had more topics for discussion, a few Comp Plan ideas. The Plan has been talked about a lot. I sent some things to you: an Outline, subject matters, brainstorming those. How can we best serve Kirk? Your predecessor had a different concept of us. How can we best serve you and best serve your staff and that could play into the Comp Plan with different ideas. The Comp Plan is an expensive, time consuming project, and we should talk about how it is going to take off, and we seem to be interested. This goes back to '96.

T. Rutecki: I think we can rewrite that thing [Comp Plan], but we do it one step at a time. My recommendation would be to go to community issues, we each take one. I think the community issues really need to be updated. Within that we could look at marketing, volunteerism. One issue I'd like to see go further is litter pick up a couple of times a year downtown. There are two paid people, why can't we have 7 or 8? We could get at a lot of stuff by redefining the community issues. Everyone pick one and get a chapter done.

C. Mertl: I have written down everything you said. Tom, good point on community issues and priorities. What I will do is facilitate, lead the discussion. I want an open discussion. If you aren't honest you aren't doing the process much help. Maybe spend 1½ hour on priorities and another ½ hour on facilities and getting into goals mission. I don't think we are going thru Comp Plan, you can't even correct it it's so out of date. Let's set up the framework and adding to it.

Discussion

F. Dowd: I am curious, being new, when was the last community survey done?
K. Duncan: there hasn't been anything like that for a while. We are starting to do that now on line and hard copy. A facility survey is much broader; it is difficult to talk about Parks because it is different than going to the ice arena. That could be a PRAC topic, do we want to do that, dedicate resources and what would be the scope of that kind of survey? We are doing facilities surveys right now, but we are not asking residents, what is your priority? Are trails are more important than ice? We need to establish baseline of where we are, what is the level of satisfaction and where we want to go?
M. Gladziszewski: League of Women Voters survey may have asked some of these questions.

Discussion

VII. New Business

USFWS presentation Habitat Restoration program - John Hudson:16445 Lena Loop Rd.; with **Amy Sumner**, 9354 Lee Smith Drive, Juneau Watershed Partnership. (hard copy summary and Power Point presentation follows)

Storm water and Jordan Creek. Power Point presentation shows map. Very good shape until it gets to Egan Drive where it changes dramatically. There is a lot of storm water when it rains. Picks up a lot of nasty things. Jordan creek is an important stream, supports 26K Coho smelts migrated there. Pollutants can have serious impact. FW Service is concerned because their mandate is to protect and conserve. Where does storm water come from and where does it go? Several years of research developed a map from Nugget Mall, storm drainpipe, Jordan Ave and downstream to Jordan Creek. This report we produced, and combine with city's storm water best management practices to make recommendations. To work with City, other land owners, to address this issue. To improve water quality for fish in this area.

A, Sumner: From the Airport shopping center there is runoff from parking lot, along TH property and into stream; adjacent to the property is a truck driving school. JWP put a proposal for DEC's aqua grant program to build a bio-swell to treat runoff. A grassy area where the water will flow and vegetation will slow it down.

J. Hudson: Parks and Rec has 10 acres that convey and contribute to outfall to Jordan Creek, this ditch that has heavily laden sediments/pollutants. This area has potential to build a storm water feature. Right now water enters a retention basin: wetland .6 acres in size to adequately treat watershed from this area. Looking for permission to build a wet pond to treat the storm water. We would do design this year and construct next year.

A. Sumner: Right now there are user created trails in that area, as well as a harden trail back there, and we would like to enhance this greenbelt and make it more attractive park land with signage. There is a beaver lodge. Saint Vincent dePaul has the last undeveloped land next to greenbelt, but they are going to construct soon. This is an affordable housing development for senior citizens, if we enhance this greenbelt area it would be a great place for walking. Spoke with Dan Austin is supportive of enhancing this area, fixing the bridges, better lighting. This could be a good partner for P&R with JWP and USFW on.

J. Hudson: Funding for survey and design and may be easy to acquire special grant for this type of work. Wet pond will be a nice amenity to this green space.

Discussion.
C. Mertl: Does P&R have planned use for this land?
K. Duncan: No
O. Brudie: **Motion to request P&R work with the Juneau Watershed Partnership and F&W to look at options for creating storm water management and interpretation and recreation trails for this habitat known as Jordan Creek Greenbelt.** F. Dowd, second.   Our write up should make a recommendation with enthusiasm, for an extremely beneficial project to the community and environment, for habitat, visitors, residents and businesses in the area. No opposition. Motion approved.

B. 5 Mile Park – K. Duncan: the Peony Farm on N Douglas has approached us to put in a parking lot around 5 mile creek area. Meeting with Lands and CDD to talk about project and will give you an update at the retreat.

C. Joint Meeting w/ other groups. C. Mertl: We want an open discussion to support other like-minded groups, start reaching out to those groups if they would like to hold joint meetings, to facilitate partnerships.

O. Brudie: I have discussed that with Eaglecrest Board, and there is definitely interest on the part of the board. The question is how to make it happen with everyone’s busy schedule. It is a positive thing and how to make it happen?

C. Mertl: To follow up on your question, in the past, we met a couple of times, it’s a matter that we change our schedule to meet Eaglecrest or they change to meet with us for one month – I imagine if we do two of these a year that is probably good enough? Or we hold a special meeting; we could attend an

Eaglecrest meeting as a special, as long as we advertise far enough in advance and we would develop a joint agenda.

G. Landry: Are you talking about our board meeting their board. I don't know how they worked in the past, but could they discuss it and have a couple of people attend one of their meetings? Little bit different, might work better?
C. Mertl: It almost becomes little retreats; where you have these two groups talking to each other, but you are talking about issues, how we can help each other, support each other, where we are going, and opportunities.

O. Brudie: Maybe sometime in the summer when Eaglecrest isn't so focused on running the ski area. It might be once. I will go again.
C. Mertl: Same with your group Eric, Forest Service, SAIL. Let's just look for ways to meet with these people and support each other. Just start asking and if someone says we are ready to meet right away, let's set something up.

G. Landry: We don't have anyone going to Trail Mix right now, I can see where we have commonalities to discuss – so the idea would be for our whole PRAC to meet with the Trail Mix Board? I could put something together and send it to the Trail Mix Board and start getting feedback from them. I used to go to their meetings, but haven't been there in a year. I know everybody so I could initiate something.
C. Mertl: Just because you aren't listed in Section 8 that doesn't mean you can't go to these different boards, committee meetings and report back to us. You are the eyes and ears for the community and for PRAC and for Parks & Rec. By all means go to everything and anything that your time and schedule allows, or that you are interested in and report back to us.

T. Gilmour: What I propose to do with softball association, I would say, we would love to have a couple of you to attend our Parks & Rec Advisory Committee meetings, and then would go back and report "this is what happened; would you like a joint meeting"? Is that going to be all right?
Mr. Mertl: OK, I think every board and committee is going to be slightly different on how we interact with them. I think face time will be most beneficial.

Discussion

F. Dowd: I am definitely open to bringing it up at the next [AFAB] meeting. Put some feelers out there and see what people are thinking. That is an earlier meeting, at 4:45; those guys want to get business done at the end of the work day and then go. I am not sure whose schedule that would work.

D. Exploring new revenue generation for P&R: C. Mertl: this is a larger discussion and we can hit on it somewhat at the retreat. Gerry do you want to kick this one off for discussion?

G. Landry: It's with budgets, money situation and how Parks & Recs generates revenues. I was in some tourism meetings recently and listen to a lot about ideas about user fees. As far as generating more revenue, I would have to get more direction from Kirk and if that was even a feasible idea. After looking at this cost recovery, it seems generating revenues through other means, whether its park user fees or something we are already paying for.

O. Brudie: Might an example be, question for Kirk, the Idaho resolution on fees and policies, is there thinking there that P&R and PRAC look more at where to adopt new fees and set policy on that, as possibly expanding revenues, or is that the idea behind the Idaho example, just revising what we have?
K. Duncan: The Idaho example is there just to give you an example of a formalization of a policy. I am being requested to complete that sort of fees and charges policy. This is not a template saying that this where we should go. There are two documents. A philosophical document of what is the purpose and then there is the actual document of how much we are going to charge for two hours of pool use. : It's not intended to: let's take Boise off and put Juneau, it's just a template of a place to start. Yes, I am being asked to come up with some specific answers to questions. This is a longer range view.

G. Landry: Idea came up when I heard Forest Service talking about how much money they get from guided on the West and East Glacier trails. I assume we are getting guide fees for out North Douglas, are we generating revenues for those things? Another concept: What is out there we can flush out ideas, or maybe it's not the best use of staff time.
K. Duncan: It is interesting. It is a fine line between how much it costs to get the revenues. It's a voluntary system and we get something like $1.25 per head, not significant but it is revenue. We will be talking about this in the fees and charges policy
C. Mertl: Mr. Duncan, in a couple of months, can we have a quick summary of outside revenue that comes into P&R?

T. Gilmour: I encourage you two to talk about it and see if is a good use of our time – I think it is critical discussion.

K. Duncan: I have been mulling around the idea the name Parks and Recreation is a luxury… there are people who consider Parks and Recreation as a luxury – we need police, we need fire, we need water, we need sewer, we don't need Parks & Rec. When things get bad you don't need Parks and Rec -- parks, recreation and youth activities. And that is how far outside the box I am looking -- There are clearly people that say "ah just shut 'er down we don't need Parks & Recreation" and we need to be aware of that and be looking at that.

Discussion
*

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. **Chair's Report – Chris Mertl:** Chair philosophy I really want you to be as active and provide just as much direction, insight and voice. I see myself as mediator, facilitator, and referee. I will provide my input. But I want to hear from you first. Mr. Duncan and I have been working on the PRAC Retreat, stuff in the background of what we are going to do. Getting your input is important. Would like PRAC members report in to PRAC on what is going on.

B. **Liaison to the Assembly Report – Maria Gladziszewski:** No thank you. And I cannot attend retreat.

C. **Youth Activity Board – Tom Rutecki:** Met on 3/10, gave out two contingency grants and we meet again tomorrow and have half dozen to review, mostly swimmers. We still have money for science fair. Meet week of 3/20 to meet with Annual Youth Activity Grant applicants and the following night calculate out the annual grant awards.

D. **Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board – F. Dowd:** My first meeting with them was on the 3/19. CBJ Engineer came and gave a report on DPAC. How a lot of problems were fixed and we should be thankful for the facility. AFAB questioned whose responsibility of the problems that still remain. Are these are problems that can be fixed? Are they contractor issues, and so forth. He indicated they are just problems and no one's fault. R. Hagevig was working with group tasked with empowered board questions that went to HRC on 3/16 and now they have asked for the proposed ordinance to be introduced at the next meeting. I asked if there was anything for me to bring back here. There wasn't any indication that they needed anything at that time.

K. Duncan: If any Assembly members (the COW meeting does not take public testimony) have specific questions I will answer those questions and make some of my own observations. Then it will go to a vote on the April 27 to the full Assembly. I am crafting a document at this time.

G. Landry: so with the empowered board and this document coming forth, I think the PRAC has been pretty quiet. We didn't generate an opinion whether we thought the empowered board was good or not. Maybe that is beyond the scope of us as an advisory board. Are we going to formulate an opinion as to whether this is good – do we stay out? I am bringing this up as a discussion point.

K. Duncan: It's my personal opinion that the PRAC should have a comment about that. That being said, the horse has left the barn. At this point in time, I don't think the PRAC weighing in one way or the other would make a significant difference, but I am going to ask Maria. Not because the PRAC isn't significant, that is not what I am saying, it's just the timing. I'm not even sure that my comments are going to make a lot of difference at this point.

M. Gladziszewski: A couple of meetings ago we talked about this. I asked, I thought you had taken a position, Mr. Duncan thought you hadn't. It's a big issue and you should be informed and I was surprised you hadn't taken a position. I agree with Mr. Duncan, it seems that is what the PRAC could do. But I also agree that if you don't have an informed opinion, you could all vote on it now. You can do whatever you want - It is completely up to you. I think the Assembly would have appreciated an opinion.

C. Mertl: I think there is a little frustration from a year ago that we were never a part of the process. Whether it was done intentionally or not, we were not part of the process. We were told our involvement was to go to an Aquatics Board Meeting and that was about the limit of our involvement or participation. We didn't have any formal presentations. I think it was the political attitude of the people at that time, when this first arose. I think we should have an opinion, but I think that our opinion is only slightly more informed than the general public as we hear bits and pieces. We've never had formal presentations to us other than small updates from the previous director. I have an opinion, I have gone to Aquatic Board meetings, and I know Tom has, but I think that is the limit of it. Going, listening, and testifying. The horse has left the barn, but can we chase the horse?

M. Gladziszewski: The Assembly has not voted, the Assembly is not going to vote until the 27th. So you have until the 27th. I think there are people still undecided. I don't think it's a done deal either way. Because you didn't get information and I think the Assembly only has slightly more than that. The voters voted to have the Assembly have that debate and discussion and by all means, if you have opinions, the Assembly would like to hear them.

T. Rutecki: If the PRAC wanted to do that we would have to vet both sides of the issue. The Aquatics Board did that and they took public testimony and arrived at their decision based on public testimony. So the PRAC we could have Kirk give his side of things and we'd have to bring in Max Mertz or somebody like that to give their side. The Board would have to be informed before we could go anywhere with it and it should be open to public comment as well. As was when the Aquatics Board was vetted on it. There is no interest in the PRAC in getting involved until way after the fact. The PRAC was invited twice to come to meetings and you [C. Mertl] are the only one who ever came. The PRAC Chair was supposed to invite the Aquatics Chair to PRAC meetings and never did. I saw him multiple times on the street. There just wasn't any interest, until the horse got out of the barn. I think if you want to do it, no problem, but you need to have it vetted thoroughly like any process that goes before the Assembly.

G. Landry: I have wanted to discuss this since it first came up, but it never seemed to be a PRAC agenda or priority. Aquatics are not my forte or interest but I think it is significant enough to the Director and to Parks & Rec that us as an advisory group should form an opinion. I would like to hear what the Director has to say about it, or staff, and then we could form our own opinion. It is really not that hard, advisory board or management we can weigh that ourselves, as to what we think. I think given this late stage that I would be unbiased towards hearing staff or management. I am only discussing this, we haven't discussed this.

T. Gilmour: We probably should have talked about this. The problem is the meeting is April 27 and we do not have another board meeting prior to that. It would take up 3 hours at the retreat, just because we don't have enough information and we'd have to invite somebody. I don't have a problem either way. We talked about this two meetings ago. I have a personal opinion. It is difficult to get that organized in order for us to give an opinion prior to April 27. If the horse has left the barn and if we don't have time then we take this as a lesson learned. Or is the City going to be truly angry with us if we don't come up with an opinion?

M. Gladziszewski: I don't think anyone will be angry with you. I brought it up two meetings ago and you didn't bite.

T. Gilmour: We talked about and we didn't put it on Agenda because we were in transition. It's nobody's fault. I think it is difficult to get the information we need all in one place in the next 20 days.

C. Mertl: Mr. Duncan, do you think you can scrape something together for next Saturday or is that just way too soon?

K. Duncan: I will certainly have the document prepared and I can share with you because it will be public on Friday. I am in a very unique position, having been the director of an empowered board and now sitting as the Director of Parks and Recreation. I think I see both sides of the equation, and if asked I will certainly give you my considered opinion. An empowered board is really effective because it is really singularly focused on "we are going to run aquatics". Eaglecrest is a very complex organization. Hanging people from cables and blowing up snow and avalanches and driving buses and snow cats and everything else – it's very complex. Running an aquatic center is not as complex. That is what Parks & Recreation does. So it is really a value call on whether – granted Parks & Rec hasn't operated the aquatics facilities to the maximum benefit of all involved, it really is a value call – where do you want to put your energy. I can lay out both sides of that. That is what I will attempt to do.

O. Brudie: I wanted to voice as I mentioned earlier maybe the Auke Lake example, but I don't have a feeling that at this point we can influence this decision. In my mind at this point is not worth a lot of time.

C. Mertl: I think you bring up a good point. That we were tasked for three meetings to come up with regulations for Auke Lake and we made great recommendations, a lot of time, a lot of public testimony, boxes of Kleenex going around and then when we made recommendations, 6 months later they were ignored. I don't think they were ever considered when that motion was made for developing regulations for Auke Lake. So I think that left a bad taste in our mouth for us old board members. But I don't think that should preclude us from doing what our job is.

F. Dowd: Kirk is going to be presenting his end of the deal; we should also have somebody else reporting from the other end as well.

Discussion.

T. Gilmour: I make a motion that we ask Kirk to give us a presentation to become informed and report back to the Assembly.

T. Rutecki: I think we need to have public comment. I want to make sure that it is procedurally correct that we do that. We should have public comment, like we had for Auke Lake and for the OHV thing. And we did have it for the Aquatics Board. So the public should be able to comment on – influence us – even though we advise the Assembly and the public.

T. Gilmour: I understand that. I am trying to give us an opportunity before the 27th to form an opinion because we have an opportunity to do that and we have to go to public comment, we are having a whole other public meeting. We are just being asked, like Gerry said, to form a small opinion.

T. Rutecki: No, it's not a small opinion.

O. Brudie: I don't think we want to set up an expectation at the retreat that we are going to be making a recommendation. I would welcome being informed and I will form my own opinion.

G. Landry: If it is procedurally correct that we can form an opinion we can make a 50 minute block and do it at the [retreat] if it procedurally ok. I support your motion.

K. Duncan: The meeting has been public noticed. The agenda has not been public noticed and I think Tom is right; it would create the appearance of not trying very hard to make the public aware of what the PRAC is doing.

T. Gilmour: I would like to change my motion: I move that we get more information from Kirk at the retreat and not expect to form an opinion.

C. Mertl: We want to put that on the retreat agenda.

T. Rutecki: You have to get Max Mertz or someone from the Advisory Committee to make a presentation, or I will complain.

M. Gladziszewski: Somewhere on the record, the last month or so, there is a Power Point available that Max Mertz made at a Human Resources Committee meeting.

C. Mertl: Sorry we haven't been as supportive – we have been handcuffed and it has only been the last two months we seem to have more freedom. It seems we have missed the boat.

C. Mertl: Could the new members please introduce yourselves to our Assembly Liaison.

E. Lands Committee – G. Landry: Went to my first meeting, Lands Committee oversees all CBJ lands and my job will be to carry PRAC interests on different lands issues. I would like to hear anything you folks would like to say get your opinions. I think like what Kirk talked about a couple of weeks ago – Tee Harbor P&R property. I think that is something Lands would be interested in. I don't know how that plays into the Comp Plan. I would like to carry any messages. Like the Storm Water presentation, as the liaison I will probably bring that up.

Discussion

F. Other Member Business –

T. Rutecki: I would like to thank Kirk for Departmental Report; it's the best thing I have gotten since I have been on the PRAC.
K. Duncan: Thank you Tom that is my role here. You can question anything at any time. I want to be as transparent as possible. The Advisory Boards are a huge asset to the Department and we are working on fostering that relationship.

G. Landry: I will go to the next Trail Mix meeting and see what to do to get involved. Is Brent attending those meetings, maybe he has insight as to whether we can get our Boards together - get ideas about what we can do.

O. Brudie: I have a liaison quick update on Eaglecrest. Eaglecrest has not formally closed yet, but some weeks back stopped using lifts on weekends including the Porcupine Chair. It is probably not going to snow to reopen it. I won't make their board meeting this Thursday. They won't talk about refunds, there won't be a hue and cry and they've had a few good years. It is a slow ending to their winter.

L. Hallvik: I will check in with SAIL Board and see if they are open to a joint meeting.

T. Gilmour: We have registered softball teams, registration two weeks ago – online registration and came up with 60 teams. Two questions: Are we doing the parking lot and is P&R building the bathroom/concession stand?

K. Duncan: You are talking about Dimond Park? Savikko Park is planning on using both fields. My understanding is we are planning this year for Dimond Park and construction next year. I met with Bob on Thursday and my understanding is he was good to go; we are going to do a trial game. Sandy Beach has a very unique problem, it is on a sandy beach and the Taku winds put 3 or 4 feet of sand on the fields. In addition we didn't have any snow cover this year. We sprayed water on the fields to try to get them to freeze, but that didn't work. So while the wind was putting sand on the beach, it was also taking the top soil off the fields. We end up with a material that just doesn't work – too soft. Two years we put bentonite in the material, that didn't work. So last year we didn't use Savikko. We are trying hard to make it happen – it's the same materials as Cope Park but with the wind and conditions at Savikko we are having issues. I talked with Bob; we met along with Dave (Pusich) and Colby (Shibler). Bob indicated he was good to go for a trial. We want as much feedback as possible. The one closest to the road is ready to go, the one farthest we still have some sand to take out of the backstop.

C. Mertl: Looking forward to retreat – it is an open discussion, no right or wrong, draft up some goals and mission statement. Like everyone to tackle one project, one something that is P&R related task to take our involvement an extra step. I did get an email at 4:30 from the Juneau Roller Girls: they need to put down a new surfacing to use Centennial Hall next year and will cost $20,000. They are going through a fund raiser. They cannot hold another bout until they get the new surfacing.

K. Duncan: I know what you know about it. I have heard about the sports court before. We have no issue with them buying a sports court and setting it up as needed. But they stated "we have a verbal commitment from Centennial Hall stating they will donate up to $5,000 for a sports court. Centennial Hall has offered to store the sports court and will use it occasionally." Both of those statements are not a true reflection of the current situation. It is a very important organization and we want to see it succeed. I have to check with the manager of Centennial Hall, we have a hard time storing our own stuff, and I can't imagine where we can store a sports court. There is nothing in the budget right now for $5,000 to support this. This is a staff issue.

C. Mertl: Looking ahead for next meetings: Lots of exciting things going on for parks – I don't know if anyone attended the Front and Franklin Streets event last week they had on re-visioning downtown? I think there are some opportunities that Parks and Recreation or even PRAC might play a role in that process. There was a public meeting the Mayor was there, most of the elected officials were there, City Manager was there – fairly well attended. Might be something you might want to attend on your own, or PRAC might want to get involved – we will get an update in the future from Michele Elfers. "Complete Streets", more art, open space, not just parking and sidewalks. Our friend the Whale is moving along – down at Under Bridge Park. We'll get an update on that next month. Cope Park is moving along in terms of design; we are submitting 65% drawings for $1M Park improvements next week, with construction after June.

G. Landry: There is a new Foundation being started up. I was on a conference call, on Tourism Operator and Forest Foundation. Amy Skillbred was there. They are starting up just for trails throughout the Tongass and certainly will be Trails throughout CBJ. Eric from Trail Mix was there. Mary was there and I a lot of brainstorming with Amy about the endowment they are going to set up specifically for trails. I could see some cross over with the Parks Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:23 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, May 5, 2015 – CBJ Chambers