

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 3, 2015
CBJ Assembly Chambers

Call to Order at 6:27 p.m. by Chris Mertl, Vice Chair;

Present: Chris Mertl, Josh Anderson, Odin Brudie, Traci Gilmour, and Tom Rutecki;
Absent: Gerry Landry, Eric Morrison, and Jeff Wilson;
Staff Present: Kirk Duncan, P&R Director, Fran Compton, Administrative Assistant II;
Assembly Liaison Present: Maria Gladziszewski.

C. Mertl: Are there any members of the public here to testify? Mr. Schaaf is testifying for Parks Foundation. Is there any objection to move New Business-E: Parks Foundation up to B on New Business? No objections.

Changes to Agenda: C. Mertl - Any other Agenda changes? **Mr. Anderson motion to approve with change; and second by Ms. Gilmour; no objections; approved.**

Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items: none.

Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2014: **Motion from Mr. Brudie to accept Minutes of the Meeting of December 2, 2014, second by Ms. Gilmour. No discussion. No objection; Approved.**

Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2015: **Motion from Mr. Anderson to accept Minutes of the Meeting of January 6, 2015, second by Ms. Gilmour, no comments, no objections; Approved.**

P&R Director's Report – Kirk Duncan:

A couple of items to talk about as I enter my fifth week of employment as the Parks and Recreation Director, and I will be happy to take any questions at any time. Centennial Hall and what PRAC thinks about Centennial Hall; Advisory Boards and their relationship to the PRAC; PRAC issues; a Guest Survey that we are going to be rolling out; Goals of P&R; and Marketing Plan. This overlaps with Jim Hall's Consultant Report which we will talk about later in my report, as well.

One of the things I have run in to recently, an age-old issue, Centennial Hall and Community Center vs. Convention Center – no action needed but making you aware of some of the things we are looking at. The relationship between the Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau (JCVB) and their ability to sell conferences, and then you get someone who wants to put an event in the middle of the week, which might bring in 200 people doing something valuable to the community but it doesn't fill heads and beds – and that is what JCVB is about. You will be hearing things as we go down the road about how we are going to try to merge – make everyone happy with the concept of what Centennial Hall is doing. I have nothing in particular to report tonight this is just something for you to be aware of. And the relationship with the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council Center (JAHCC)

and Centennial Hall is something we need to work on as well; trying to formalize and improve the relationship as much as possible.

In sort of the same line, one of the things the Hall Consulting Report brought out was in interviewing people, the PRAC is somewhat confused about its role in terms of how does it relate to Advisory Boards – and my take on this is that the PRAC is very valuable – takes a more long term look about policies and procedures that exist in Juneau Parks and Recreation. The user groups, Advisory Groups, are more involved in day-to-day activities, week to week, maybe yearly scheduling of a facility – so I think that the two groups – the PRAC and the Advisory Groups can work very well together. I was involved in Dimond Park Field House when it was first being created and it is really good to get the user groups together and then one of my roles is make sure the general public who pays for the facility is adequately represented as well. That will be my take on how the PRAC and the Advisory Boards work together.

Sea Walk - I was presented with three things happening from Engineering: this project is moving forward, there are a couple of changes, [referring to PowerPoint Map]. There was originally a skate park right here, that has been dropped out. The Marine Exchange has been dropped out. The alignment of the Whale so people can see the Whale from Egan Drive has been moved to make that more visually pleasing. This is moving forward at this point. If you want an update on that I can ask Engineering to stop by and give you an update.

There are three things happening with the 1% Sales Tax and the Bond Issue - \$400,000 improvement to Adair Kennedy Memorial Park bathrooms and concessions; Dimond Park bathrooms, concessions and paving \$650,000, and Melvin Park bathrooms and concession \$250,000 – those projects are moving forward as part of Engineering's workload. I want to touch briefly so you know that there is a request to take out trees [referring to Power Point Map] at Adair Kennedy between the football field and baseball field allowing more sunlight into this area. The school district has ask for these trees to be taken out because they don't like the activity going on there – that will be going through our Tree Policy – Ben [Patterson, P&R Landscape Supervisor] will go out and inspect the trees and be moving forward. I wanted to let you know that was happening.

Cope Park is moving forward, will it be phased or will it come together as one? The first phase: the ball field improvements have been made, the tennis court is the first phase and the remainder is the second phase. I will keep you updated as that moves through the process.

One of the things in the Hall report is that we are not getting good and timely feedback from users of our facilities. This is an example [referring to PowerPoint projection] of Dimond Park Aquatic Center feedback; what we will do is take a step forward and have one of these available for every facility that we operate and people can go online and do a Survey Monkey and then we will tabulate and get a report in two months to see how we are doing and then we will get an annual report to see what is going on.

One of the things I will be working with staff is the Goal of Parks and Rec which is “To enhance the quality of life in Juneau Parks and Rec will deliver a high level of guest services with cost effective operations and highly engaged employees.” Something that came out in the [Hall] Report was that there is some negativity within the department and sometimes we don't excel at the Guest Services

that we offer in our various facilities. That is one of the things that I think is a high priority for us to move forward. Part of the Plan is we need to make sure we fill up our facilities with paying guests. In doing that we will come up with a Marketing Plan and will use a variable pricing model to figure out how to fill the various timeslots in our facilities and we will improve the website. We definitely need to get the word out about the value of Parks & Recreation. We think we have told the story over and over again but as you know we need to tell the story over and over and over again. That is a major focus as well. That is a quick run through of my four weeks on the job, I will answer any questions anyone might have.

Ms. Gilmour: I have a comment, you may have told the story over and over again and I think it is a really good point, it needs to be told.

Mr. Duncan: Thank you that is a great comment. I was at Zach Gordon recently; I have only been in there twice in the 11 years I have been here. I was in there because I try to get out once a week to every facility and heard about a kid that was in foster care and graduated from high school which meant he graduated out of foster care. He was homeless and didn't have a job. I did not know that you can always get a hot meal at Zach Gordon if you are an 'at risk' kid. The staff worked to get him a place in transitional housing and worked with employers to find him a job. What a success story!

I was telling that to the Juneau Empire and that resulted in the Sunday article in the paper. We have really good stories to tell and we have to tell them. If you are in that mindset it is really fun to do, but if you are not in that mindset it is a real pain to go out and continually tell the story – but that is what we need to do.

Mr. Brudie: In general, how are [surveys] distributed and what kinds of incentive or enticement are there to getting more survey responses?

Mr. Duncan: They will be available in every facility and you can drop the card in the box, and then the staff will enter the information into Survey Monkey – or people can go online and do that. At this point in time there are no inducements planned. Hope to see that up and running in the next two months.

Mr. Mertl: We need to market and promote our Parks and Rec facilities. I think that on a ledger sheet Parks & Rec doesn't look good on a balance sheet, always coming in on the negative, but now you have to play up the quality of life and the wonderful facilities we have. We really do have great facilities and we can really market our community with those facilities.

Mr. Duncan: And part of that is developing a matrix of success. We know we will never make money, but what is acceptable payback for [facilities]? We will never have a positive balance sheet but we will have a positive effect on the life in Juneau.

Mr. Mertl: And the economy, we get a lot of people who move and live in Juneau because we have the ski hill because we have a rink, a lot of facilities the smaller communities in Southeast don't have. Of course they are providing economic opportunities and tax base.

Unfinished Business – none.

New Business

A. Montana Creek Bridge Safety Improvements – Mr. Brudie: I have reported to the PRAC in the past about the trail grooming that the Juneau Nordic Ski Club does at Montana Creek. With recent years of low snow fall periods; Montana Creek Road has been groomed by the Nordic Ski Club for about three years. The consistent snow and grooming has increased the popularity out there. Last year it

was estimated that 300 school kids went out there as part of school programs. On a recent Sunday the Forest Service, who manages the land beyond the Montana Creek Road and the Montana Creek Trail, counted 100 people; I think they do period counts. It has become a really popular area. Fellow Juneau Nordic Board Members recently looked at making safety improvements to the Montana Creek Bridge. We have a couple of Board Members here from the Juneau Nordic Ski Club to talk about some potential funding and safety improvements that can be made to the Bridge. Mike Hekkers and Del Carnes, one of the groomers, are here to answer questions. They will give an overview and answer any questions. There is a visual aid (handout) in the packet tonight.

Mike Hekkers, 423 3rd St.; from the Board of the Juneau Nordic Ski Club. You are looking at a photocopy of what the bridge looks like, taken in the past couple of weeks. You can see there is no railing on the bridge. It is a fairly narrow bridge especially when you are coming from further up the trail and you have to do a turn to get on the bridge. There are bulwarks, side rails, during bigger snow times those can be completely covered. Snow on the bridge can be domed and even narrower than it now - under 8 feet wide. We are looking for a letter of support from the PRAC because we are looking to get state grant funding. We will submit for that funding later this week through Senator Egan's office. The cost for repairs would be about \$14,000, we estimate, and includes \$4500-\$5000 in volunteer time. The big concern with the bridge is the narrowness. Our snow groomer that we pull behind our snow machine currently hangs off the edge and has been broken a couple of times trying to get it up and over the bridge and bulwarks. A lot of our volunteers have done some interesting padding to help prevent damage to the equipment. Obviously the biggest safety hazard is no railing – a major concern. We have kids going out there at night headlamp skiing. There is a 10 foot drop to the water surface - it presents a major hazard not having a railing. The repairs would address the railing and we would widen the bridge to a little over 8 feet by adding some decking on top and adding railing. We have done work patching holes in the bridge, so ski poles, skiers, or dog walkers don't fall through. We think it is a very high priority and that is why we are seeking State funding during this legislative session. We would like a letter from the PRAC supporting that. Any questions?

Mr. Anderson: If your groomer (machine) fits on there then you will keep it flat and won't be domed, is basically the idea?

Mr. Hekkers: Right. We would build it a little over 8 feet wide which would allow our groomer to have six inches on either side and allow leeway too. Right now the approach from the roadside is not straight because there are boulders in the way. Our groomers have built some snow mounds, creative mounds to get up there and straighten out. Yes, it would help make a more level surface if we could get our groomer up there.

Mr. Anderson: I think that it is a great idea. I know how it is in the spring when that big dome in the middle stays hard.

Mr. Mertl: Do we hear a motion for drafting a letter of support – you need by the 6th, Mike?

Mr. Hekkers: Yes.

Mr. Anderson: Motion to draft a letter of support from the PRAC. Mr. Brudie second.

Discussion: I support the letter, but I don't know if that is possible. You are asking for support from us for a project that is going to ask the State for money. How do you define whether that is not lobbying?

Mr. Duncan: We ran into the same situation for "Time for Healing" and the Mayor signed the letter. A

letter can be drafted supporting the project, but the PRAC would not be the signer, the Mayor would be the signer. Now the Mayor may not sign [this letter] because the Assembly hasn't been asked for support, at least not that I know of. Traditionally, it would go through a process, through a committee, and then to the Assembly for one reading and support.

Ms. Gladziszewski: Nothing goes through besides the priority the Assembly wants to ask for. Every year there is a large list and we whittled it down to five things. So the Assembly is on record to support these five things. Doesn't mean the Mayor wouldn't sign the letter, it's a small amount of money. We made [the Assembly list] very small because there is not much money available. In these times it is even harder to get a letter from the Assembly.

Mr. Rutecki: It is frustrating for our group to not be able to do what the public wants us to do easily.

Discussion regarding CAPSIS.

Mr. Hekkers: All we are addressing is the bridge and this is a city-owned bridge.

Ms. Gladziszewski: I don't think you should get hung up on the lobbying piece. I think the PRAC can support this and then send it up to the City Manager and see where it gets in the process.

Ms. Gilmour: Let's put in the motion and encourage Mr. Mertl to write the letter tomorrow. If it gets signed, more power to us. If it doesn't get signed and we get told we don't get to do that – then we will know for the future.

No further discussion. Motion approved.

Mr. Mertl: I will draft a letter tomorrow. Thank you for coming in, thank you for your patience.

- B. Park Foundation- Chris Mertl:** Beth Nordlund was here last week, met with Kirk; we got him up to speed with what the Juneau Park Foundation is about. We saw a lot of parallel opportunities similar to the Eaglecrest Foundation; he was fairly positive and excited about the Park Foundation. What I am looking for tonight is a letter of support for Juneau Parks Foundation and to ask that the City Manager to authorize the Law Dept to look at the Memo of Understanding between CBJ and Park Foundation. To give you an update of what has happened in the last couple of months, I have talked to a lot of Assembly members, still need to talk to Maria, and getting positive response from our Mayor. His last direction was to schedule a meeting with the Budget meetings coming up in February and March and get the Park Foundation put on as a request for funding as they go through the Budget process. We are going to stick with the \$75,000 as start-up money from the CBJ to help with the Foundation because Parks and Recreation is going to be the recipient of the money. We have heard there is a six figure check waiting in a drawer from Rasmuson for us to establish our Park Foundation. Whether it's a \$100,000 or more, I don't know. They will not tell us a number, but based on their support for the Anchorage Park Foundation. Fairbanks Park Foundation is at the same stage as us, and they have heard our conversations from Rasmuson. I think that it is a positive indicator. The big thing is the Challenge Grant Fund, which will probably be the main grant and program that would be part of the Juneau Park Foundation and it's where it encourages and activates local groups, neighborhoods, Boy Scouts, businesses to get together and create partnerships for making park improvements and it is a 1-1 match. Rasmuson this year provided \$200,000 to the Anchorage Park Foundation, so they will be giving away grants anywhere from \$500 to \$40,000. In the past they have had a match anywhere from 1-3 to 1-6 just for that one program. Hypothetically,

let's low ball and say that we get \$100,000 for the Challenge Grant that could transform into \$300,000 worth of park improvements. What it does is engages and energizes the community, gets the community to take ownership in the CBJ parks and hopefully reduce maintenance. People will take a lot of pride in our Parks & Recreation – it is really to activate our community at the same time, as well as deal with deferred maintenance. The \$75,000 could potentially come from the new tobacco tax that is being talked about – I have heard \$1.7M potentially. I know a fair amount of that is being set aside for the Housing First. But it seems to me to be a logical, possible source for funding a Park Foundation. I think the follow up is if we take a look at the P&R management report, one of the top priorities listed was to establish a Park Foundation to receive monies from other sources. So I come before you to ask for your support, for a letter of support from PRAC. Also request the Law Department look at Memorandum of Understanding that has been drafted up. All of that is in your packets: Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation for the Park Foundation. That is where we are at. Any questions?

Ms. Gilmour: I am excited you finally have positive support. That is huge, we have talked about this in the past and we were in support of it then. Who will write the letter?

Mr. Mertl: We could ask Mr. Wilson to.

Discussion regarding group decision for board start-up.

Public Comment:

George Schaaf, 1116 B St, Juneau; You might know me from my other roles as a CBJ employee with Parks & Rec. Department and before that with Trail Mix. I am here tonight as a private citizen, which is kind of weird, but also exciting. There is nothing that has held up forming a non-profit, something we talked about doing a while ago. A couple of things: one, the folks we were talking to about being on the board, we didn't want it to launch and fizzle, so we wanted to make sure we had the ducks in a row, I think, as far as the funding goes to make it exciting and really make a big splash, and make people see what it could do. The other thing is that in developing this proposal I met with folks from Anchorage Park Foundation and Austin Parks Foundation and the difference between the two was really dramatic. Both successful organizations, but the dynamic between the City of Austin Parks and Rec Department and the Austin Park Foundation was antagonistic, whereas in Anchorage the Park Foundation and the muni work hand in glove to develop priorities, and to develop the projects. So having that MOU in place with the municipality and non-profit is really important to make sure that everyone is working toward the same goal together. We are not getting out of step as we develop projects. I am a very big proponent of the Park Foundation idea. The quality of life, as Mr. Mertl talked about, is really important and it is an economic priority – you think about why people choose to live in Juneau and not somewhere else. It's not because their taxes are lower, the weather is great, and it is because of where we live like that picture behind you, a really nice Forest Service Recreation Area. To attract and retain young families here the folks that are going to be the tax base in Juneau, I think we really have to meet the demand for the things that make them choose to live here. For a lot of people, why they live in Juneau is the access to the outdoors and the lifestyle we have. Parks are very important about that, before you can take [your child] up Mt. McGinnis you have to be able to take him to park. They have to have playgrounds that are safe and engaging and make a safe growing environment. Forethought many years ago created a great park system here in Juneau. We have the land. We have the parks already – they were developed with oil money. That oil money, I think we all know is gone. All the things that oil money built can't last forever. A lot of those structures are wood. A lot of the playgrounds in Juneau are 20-30 years old.

The standard for playgrounds as times change is to try and get them replaced every 10-12 years. We don't have a full-accessible playground right now. One of the first things Anchorage did was to build a fully-accessible playground for people with disabilities. We can't wait for the city or state budgets to get back to where they used to be to take care of this. To do this the right way, we need to engage the community and that is what the Park Foundation does. There are people out there who want to volunteer in parks, people out there who want to give money – they can't build a playground themselves, and right now there is no mechanism for them to participate. This not only removes those barriers to the community engagement and giving, it replaces it with incentives to give. It will inspire ownership and advocacy for the parks and will build healthy lifestyles in the community. One of the big things for me that makes the Proposition 1 temporary sales tax money and bond money approved by the voters in 2012 all the more valuable is the voters made it very clear that these are things they want. They want these parks to be improved. They all, for their own individual reasons, had something on that ballot initiative that they wanted to see done. This will help make those projects happen. I am excited and I look forward to seeing this come to fruition and thank you for pushing it through.

Discussion about packet information regarding Juneau Parks Foundation

Mr. Duncan: One of the things about the Juneau Community Foundation is that they do not see themselves as a bank. While they are happy to receive dedicated funds that would go to the Juneau Park Foundation, once a year they would write a check to the Park Foundation and the Park Foundation would write all the checks – you go buy a couple of two-by-fours, the Community Foundation does not want to do that. Talking about matching money, lots of times the Juneau Community Foundation will match something coming from another non-profit. I think there is a synergistic relationship between JCF and JPF.

Ms. Gilmour: Motion for Mr. Wilson to write a support letter to the City Manager from the PRAC for Juneau Park Foundation, Second by Mr. Brudie. Discussion. No objection, Approved.

C. Consultant Jim Hall's Report to CBJ – Kirk Duncan: It was a snapshot in time, I think he did a really good job - he left a few things out that I thought would be in there. In general Jim looked at things and I looked at things and we saw the same things in terms of negativity in the Department, encourage positive change, redefine the PRAC and Advisory Board relationships, maintain what we have now before we build new, look at a marketing plan, variable pricing model, develop a feedback tool, create a foundation, JCVB relationship – I could talk about it for two hours, but if there are specific questions PRAC has, that might be more expeditious use of time.

Board comments:

- the maintenance of what we have before we build new;
- the Whale Park;
- P&R will maintain the Seawalk once it is built;
- moving forward on Cope Park but there is a possibility that all the phases are not going to be completed because we don't have the money to complete it;
- I don't think we did very much this past year;
- would like to see the PRAC have more specific roles and responsibilities; to be involved in comments on specifics;
- the chair would meet individually with each members of the PRAC and ask: what do you want to see, what your goals are;

- PRAC have a retreat;
-

Mr. Duncan: Hall's Report Page 29, number one is: move all janitors to the building maintenance division. Personally, I feel that is really minute, I don't think that is necessary to deal with at this point in time, it will be something I will be looking at but there is much bigger fish to fry in this report.

- #2 consolidate all youth recreation programs and activities under the Zach Gordon Youth Center Manager. I am really impressed with what Zach Gordon does; I think that would be a dilution of the mission. I am advocating that does not take place at this time.
- Replace \$150,000 of general government funds allocated to the operation of Centennial Hall with room tax funds. That is moving forward, I am meeting with Finance Director to figure out how we want to break up the 4/7ths and 3/7ths of the 7% Hotel Bed Tax. We are working with JCVBB on that.
- #4 consolidate Park and Landscape Division and Building Maintenance Division to create a new Division. That has already taken place.
- Eliminate the position of Building Superintendent that relates to #4 so that has already taken place.
- Eliminate the position of the aquatic manager. That has already taken place with voluntary resignation and the next couple has to do with what happens to the empowered board.
- Close Mt. Jumbo Gym potential savings to the general fund of \$30,000: I don't have an opinion on that right now; I want to see more of the usage. I was over at that facility just one day and there were only 3 people day – that wasn't a good sign.

D. P&R's Comprehensive Plan – Kirk Duncan: This is the Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan. Chapter 8 was revised in 2007. I thought that it was interesting that only Chapter 8 was refined in 2007, the other part of the document relates back to 1996. If you read the first page it says we don't have an ice arena and it took me a while to figure out what I was reading. This definitely needs to be updated. It is important; it is the bible from which we work. I can't tell you today how that is going to happen, whether we will try to find some funds and go out and do that internally, I don't know the role PRAC will be in that, and I look forward to working with the PRAC to determine what we need to do. We need to bring this [Plan] into the 21st Century.

Discussion Points:

- Lack of resources to hire a contractor to update the plan and work with the PRAC and other interested public and agencies;
- The PRAC has always been willing to review all updates and recommendations, as opposed to initiating specifics and items to update;
- A lot of us have studied and read through it and have marked up copies in some form Maybe we can raise specific changes or updates we as PRAC members would like to see;
- We talked about having a subcommittee of the PRAC to focus extra time on it too;
- PRAC do a generalized version of its vision of Parks and Recreation in Juneau, i.e.: Six page summary. What's important to the PRAC? Is this Park more important than that Park? Is this activity more important than that activity?
- We need to find funding, whether we would hire a staff person to do this, or whether we would look for outside consulting help;
- We need to update this;

- We can talk that under the Retreat;
- Make sure that we aren't losing that institutional knowledge if the people on the PRAC that are leaving. If we can find a way we want to keep those people engaged, to provide a transition;
- Frustration this past year –carrying this thing around but we haven't opened it yet.

Empowered Pool Board update – Kirk Duncan: As you know in October the voters voted to allow the assembly to create an empowered board for the aquatics facilities. There were a lot of people who thought they were voting for an empowered board and it was really just to give the assembly time to consider whether that was the best way to go. At the Committee Of the Whole (COW) on February 9, next Monday night, the topic will come up. At the COW there is no public testimony, the [members] can ask for people to testify. I am sitting with the City Manager on Thursday to figure out what we need to have ready to go. The action item here is informing you. Has the PRAC already voted to keep the Aquatics under P&R, I believe that took place – I am not sure. The Aquatics Board has voted in favor of the empowered board. I am not sure where it will shake out. I don't know, Maria if you want to have a conversation about that?

Maria Gladziszewski comments: If you haven't taken a position on the empowered board, it seems like that is a logical thing that you would do. What does the PRAC do? It wasn't clear to the consultant. I don't know if you all agree on what it is. It would of great service to the Assembly if you could figure out what you want to do. Does the City need all these Boards? What is helpful to the functioning of the Parks & Rec function in the city? We haven't agreed as an Assembly exactly what to do, but for my money, I would like to have input from all. The Assembly is looking for guidance, the voters voted for the Assembly to look at what makes sense to have a highly functioning Parks & Rec function. What should the Assembly do?

Discussion:

- been minimized in the last year;
- want to make a pro-active approach but we haven't been allowed that opportunity;
- frustration especially with the Auke Lake ordinances;
- feel optimistic with new Director;
- very relevant;
- want to do more;
- energized to do more;
- work collaboratively and in partnership with different groups;
- craft an opinion on the pool's empowered board?

Ms. Gladziszewski: I don't mean for you to do it now. It is kind of a big deal. My larger point is we have an opportunity with different leadership and possibly more boards, possibly fewer boards, to do something differently. If you want to be part of that you can help lead the way on that.

Comments:

- support an empowered board;
- how do we sit and talk about how we feel about the [empowered] board;
- talk about why we are voting for something;
- see an org chart or something that shows me what the umbrella is and what is under it;

- get pros and cons from informed people,
- question regarding statement \$115K needed for an empowered board if Treadwell had one, when CPA argues that is not true;
- the concept of full cost allocation: All the enterprise funds pay full cost to cover transactions coming from Law, Payroll, Finance, everything else;
- The decision should not come down to whether full-cost allocation is relevant or not. It is much more philosophical than that;
- get involved in a lot more decision making if it concerns Parks and Recreation;
- frustration with Treadwell and the pools - the management hasn't been responsive to the users;
- Assembly used the budget issue as a catalyst;
- not all just about economics and maximizing your occupancy of your Rec facilities at all times;
- Treadwell has been positive: a group now that is going to work with P&R. May be a great model for the pools;
- 62% of the voters vote for an empowered board;
- the Assembly can put a sunset on empowered board;
- not prepared to vote one way or the other;
- didn't discuss dollars and cents at all as a PRAC;
- I liked the idea of having an advisory committee work with the Parks and Rec director and resolve their problems;
- distinctly different situations between Treadwell, Eaglecrest and the pools;
- have somebody come in from each point of view and give a talk on it;
- difference between an empowered board, enterprise board and advisory board;
- inappropriate time to come up with an opinion.

Ms. Gladziszewski: I don't know what information we will have by then, we expect to be getting information from the Managers Office. You can say anything you want. You can request time to do it. Whether you'll be granted it, I don't know. We would like to engage but we haven't had the opportunity. I am just making up possibilities here. You don't have enough information. What information do you need?

- We will wait to see what happens on the 9th of Feb and if we have the opportunity to comment toward the March PRAC meeting, we perhaps get people in here so we can form an opinion.
- I don't want us to be misinformed and provide a bad opinion.
- I don't want us to lose out on providing insight.

Ms. Gilmour: We table for more information.

E. PRAC Retreat – Board Discussion: Mr. Mertl: I want to pick a date and time. I know we are going to be challenged. With a new board coming next month, it is good timing, but bad timing. If we do a PRAC retreat we invite some past members to help with the rollover. I don't know who is reapplying, but we are going to have three people replaced. We need to maintain that institutional knowledge.

Discussion:

- do it this month;
- timeline?

- traditionally been a half day;
- look at previous goals and to gives us a framework of discussion about our priorities;
- how do we want to move forward, what have we accomplished, what haven't we accomplished, what we need to do to be the most effective group that we can be;
- short executive summary of the Comprehensive Plan;
- spend two hours on this, then spend an hour or two talking about our goals and what we can do to support facilities: taking care and meeting the needs;
- make an informal unified vision about what are our priorities. What are the things we want to tackle in the next year?
- invite past PRAC members for historical knowledge;
- New board members at the March Meeting will provide a unique perspective on things that are important;
- we can educate the new folks and get their input, with the institutional knowledge work on goals and priorities with the new group;
- Let's do it, plan April;
- other topics besides the Comp Plan for a retreat;
- discussion of the Comp Plan would certainly feed into any discussion on empowered board or roles of the PRAC towards that level of policy;
- what our priorities are for the coming year: short-term, mid-term and long term priorities. loose planning document; framework for us; priorities feed off the Comp Plan. They support each other.

Discussion of dates.

Mr. Mertl: Why don't we put item on the next Agenda to make a decision on a date for the Retreat? We will set up a meeting in March to talk about Comp Plan with new and old Board members. We can do a "Doodle" vote.

Discussion of board vacancies.

Committee and Liaison and Board Members Reports

- **Chair Report – Chris Mertl:** The PRAC Letter draft is in your packet; Jeff put that together last week. It is a snapshot of what we have done in the last year that is presented to the Human Resources Committee. It summarizes what we have done. No comments. The HRC meeting is 2/23, I am in Wrangell and cannot present. Who can attend? Thank you Tom for doing that.
- **Liaison to the Assembly Report – Maria Gladziszewski:** Encourage you to get in the game, clarify whatever is unclear about your mission. Help the Assembly who are not experts, and who have a broad sweep of things to do, figure this out. It has been a contentious issue and we could use your help. All everybody cares about is proper management of our Parks & Recreation facilities. We are going to have fewer dollars than we have ever had and we don't want to waste them on anything. If a good way to spend those dollars is to have a bunch of empowered boards then that's the way we should do it. We are looking on help on that, money is just going to get tighter. I know you have a lot of Parks supporters, but the Assembly is the one charged with keeping all the balls in the air about everything we need. How many of the things can we afford? Do you stay engaged, are you engaged in budget discussions, I don't know. It gets back to what do you do, that

you have to decide on. Look at your Charter, see what it says. Are you doing that thing, or are you doing something else? Do you want to do something else? There are periodic reviews of these charters, I don't know how long it has been since you had one. If you want to recommend looking at it, you could do that. It would go to the Human Resources Committee and that is who looks at those kinds of things.

- **Youth Activity Board – Tom Rutecki:** We had a YAB Meeting in January and gave out one contingency grant for \$1,100 to send a High School young lady to a music competition at Carnegie Hall. We had a February meeting cancelled, because there are no requests. Solicitation for Annual Grant has been sent out and due by the end of this month.

Mr. Mertl: I would like to ask in the next meeting when you make your Board reports you can summarize what these boards do that we serve on, so the new members can understand our interaction with those groups.

- **Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board – Tom Rutecki:** We have a meeting coming Monday 2/9 before the COW meeting. We haven't met since the last PRAC meeting.
- **1% for Art – Josh Anderson:** I went my first meeting a couple of weeks ago, it was very interesting. Still in selection process and narrowed down; are not ready to reveal anything. April timeframe for selection. This is for the Dock 16B, for \$450,000. The group wasn't specific on what the scope of the offering was; I think they took all submissions. I am not at liberty to talk much about it.
- **Lands Committee – Mr. Mertl:** I did not go, but I read the Minutes from the last Lands Committee Meeting. I spoke with Mr. Duncan briefly. There was one issue; the Montessori School was requesting the use of the city RV parking over in Douglas. Docks and Harbors manages them. The Montessori School will take it over for school parking.
- **Other Member Business – Board Recruitment:** We don't have the new applications for PRAC. Individually we can look at the applications. The PRAC board cannot make recommendations for who we want on the board. I would like a committee discussion on what type of people we would like to round out our Board, so Mr. Duncan can get an idea of what we are looking for. You are welcome to go to the City Clerk's office and look at the applications, there were three there. What type of people would best serve PRAC in terms of qualifications, background, and knowledge - what are we lacking, what would help to make us a well-rounded board? Discussion.

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| • Past Board Work; | • Community minded; |
| • Truly interested/committed in sport or activity; | • Open minded; |
| • Recreation as an economic engine; | • Ready to work together; |
| • Tourism; | • Marketing Knowledge; |
| • Business background; | • Some insight with Fiscal, finance matters possible with another board. |

Mr. Mertl: Josh I am giving you a compliment because I went to Jumbo Gym this weekend and those lights are wonderful. I am thrilled Kirk is with us. Feeling very positive and reenergized.

Mr. Duncan: We certainly in for some interesting times. While the PRAC is not part of the Parks Foundation, I think the Parks Foundation is tremendous asset to us. Josh you could help out through the Parks Foundation – that is part of it, the neighbors that come together. I think there is real good opportunity. I think one of the things I am concerned about is that it took a couple of years to turn Eaglecrest around. It is not a quick process to turn some of these things around.

No other business before the Board, the meeting is Adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Fran Compton, Administrative Assistant II; February 25, 2015;

Next Meeting Tuesday, April 7, 2015.