

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 6, 2014
CBJ Assembly Chambers, 6 p.m.

I. Call to Order 6:05 P.M.

Present: Chair Jeff Wilson, Josh Anderson, Traci Gilmour, Gerry Landry, Christopher Mertl, Tom Rutecki, Kate Walters. Absent: Odin Brudie, Eric Morrison. A quorum was present

Staff and others present: Bruce Botelho, Kathy Ruddy, and Jim Clark of The Whale Project; John Pugh, Juneau Parks Foundation; Brent Fischer, P&R Director; Myiia Wahto, Recreation Superintendent; and Fran Compton, Administrative Assistant II.

Absent: CBJ Assembly Liaison: Randy Wanamaker.

II. Agenda Changes – none, Motion from Josh Anderson to accept agenda, no objections.

III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items – none.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 1, 2014 – Motion by Mr. Mertl to approve the Minutes of the April 1, 2014 meeting. Hearing no objection, the PRAC Meeting Minutes of the April 1, 2014, were approved by unanimous consent.

V. P&R Director's Report, Mr. Fischer: Much to do in the Budget process, the Finance Committee will be meeting again tomorrow to discuss additional budget reductions and those items on the pending list. Meeting at 5:30 in Chambers and packet is online. What the assembly has accepted at this point: elimination of mechanic I in building maintenance, elimination part time landscape positions, closing of Mt. Jumbo in FY16, elimination of travel for rec coordinator II position, and discontinuing of portable restrooms in remote and low use locations. There are additional reductions that were presented to the assembly and the finance committee on April 30, which included increasing the vacancy factor by 100 thousand. The vacancy factor is basically when someone leaves a position; we leave the position open, to 1% of our total budget, so basically we will be responsible for \$158K in vacancy factor. I also included rec coordinator I position and reducing Treadwell to a 10 month facility. The closing of AB Pool is still on the pending list. At next month's PRAC meeting I will give you a full update if they get it adopted. Any questions?

Mr. Rutecki: Wasn't the adult basketball program considered?

Mr. Fischer: That is the Rec Coordinator I position. We have 3 positions in our adult and youth programs and when we looked at service reductions for eliminating positions there is only so much we can do. We have all our youth programs; we have adult basketball and adult volleyball. When we looked at

what remaining work was left between two people the easiest thing was to keep the adult volleyball, and we also have games officials for youth programs. It does impact our service programs, quite a bit. If you have opportunity, go on line, look at the packets and go to the Finance Committee meetings.

Mr. Rutecki: So if that happens and they went to an arrangement like JSA has for softball, if JSA would do it or a new organization would take over adult basketball, would that organization deal with Parks and Rec for gym time that Community Schools control? Would P&R work with them to get the gyms for adult basketball?

Mr. Fischer: What we would probably do is step back completely. The final details will have to be worked out. We still have an agreement with Community Schools to FY15 next year. Whether we would help schedule that – the problem is we won't have the personnel time to do that. What we would like is to have a clean break, in that whatever organization it is - they would deal with Community Schools. Our five year agreement with Community Schools, having paid them \$65K in support of the program, we get 3100 hours of gym time on that. Next year we will renegotiate a contract, which may impact the cost of what we are paying Community Schools and what hours are available to us for our programs in the gyms.

Mr. Wilson: Tom, have you heard whether any adults want to form any adult program?

Mr. Rutecki: No I have not; I don't think the folks that play would not want to not have a season.

Mr. Fischer: We did have an inquiry on that.

Mr. Wilson: keep us posted on that.

VI. Unfinished Business - none

VII. New Business

A. Whale Sculpture Project update –Bruce Botelho:

Joined by Directors Kathy Ruddy, and Jim Clark. Brief History: Started by Bill Overstreet as a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Statehood. In his visit to Japan's Museum of Science and History in Tokyo, he saw a 40' Bronze Blue Whale and thought Juneau needed one. He approached Skip Wallen. As a side note Skip had thought about doing a sculpture, had a concept on paper and put on a shelf and disappeared, then uncovered 13 years later when cleaning up his files. Bill Overstreet was excited and approached several about the idea including Skip to see if he was interested and he was. Not sure how many of you know Skip; among others he did the Windfall Fisherman in front to the State Capitol, a Memorial in Fairbanks (12 feet high), the Sightless Among Miracles at Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta. The Whale Committee organized in 2007. The first effort was to approach the Assembly to accept the Whale as a gift and site it in downtown Juneau. Assembly directed the City Manager to accept the whale and place it in Marine Park. The specific site we had in mind was "wedding cake"; however, things changed. We realized we needed to look at another place, weighs 5 Tons, with extensive fill as a support structure, the cost was projected at \$2.5 M; far beyond what we thought was reasonable. The Infinity Pool was integral, when people look at the whale would have a sense that the

whale was bursting from the water. Two things to consider were the Fisherman's memorial relocation/potential competition and this was going to take several years to complete. In 2009/2010 we looked at potential site, with Rorie Watt and made a recommendation. The board adopted the site near the bridge. In 2012 the Assembly formally designated the "Bridge Park" site as the site for the sculpture. The University of Southeast Alaska was willing to support the sculpture. They have an 8 foot whale, "Spike". The project in progress has 15 to 20 separate panels to be welded together and shipped in three pieces to Juneau. One other element is the water works, equipment create sensation of humpback breaching. The structure will have to be in the form of underground vault. In our timeline the next step is the Corp of Engineers Permit by 4th quarter this year. We now project the summer 2015 for installation and dedication.

Mr. Mertl: Congratulations to the Committee this project is the crowning jewel on Juneau's water front. Who will do the maintenance?

Mr. Fischer: That will fall under our department.

Mr. Mertl: I love the infinity pool, however, it is very difficult to maintain. I suggest a saucer and allow the water to fall; it would allow people to interact with whale.

Mr. Botelho: The concern about maintenance has been a concern to us as well, we expect to substantially meet those costs and we've been told the, money that gets thrown into pools is not inconsiderable. We will also be licensing the image and a portion of the royalties directed to ongoing maintenance, which would be periodic touchup and repatination of the whale.

Ms. Ruddy: The Windfall Fisherman requires waxing every year. The big fountain in Rome collects \$30K a year. The trademark/service mark is to direct the funds from that to the City to use for maintenance.

Mr. Pugh: The whale is exactly the same as the trademark we have with the university.

Mr. Wilson: Has there been a casting for the main piece?

Mr. Botelho: Casting underway, approximately one-third done. Pieces will have to be welded. One of our delays is a shortage of welders because of North Dakota mining.

Mr. Wilson: Skip, pool, controls, CBJ engineering, P&R – a lot of different players to bring to fruition, we are very excited. There are a lot of things to think about further down the road – want to keep talking and keep sharing ideas. These discussions need to keep going.

Mr. Botelho: Your concerns are not new to us. We do not want to have that as a project so complicated that it takes an expert. There is a risk management concern with standing body of water, primary goal of piece of art that distinguishes itself – as are: Little Mermaid, Sydney Opera House or Space Needle – in that class. Westco Fountains is working on the waterworks. There are communications ongoing with the CBJ Dept. of Law, Engineering, and P&R discussions.

Mr. Landry: The Infinity Pool - I think it is a good thing, it will create much more effect – will make it stand out.

Mr. Wilson: I would like for you come back to the PRAC at the end of the year to update. Mr. Fischer can you share the Plans with PRAC? PRAC would like to look at those Thank you very much, very informative.

Discussion

B. Juneau Park Foundation – Chris Mertl: Update on the Juneau Parks Foundation, a non-profit that I have been working on with local community and what is happening with this group. Do have Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and a draft Agreement to work with Parks & Recreation. Quick update on this project. [Reading from Articles]: Main mission is a local nonprofit is to work with CBJ P&R to provide funding resources, volunteer hours, and local community/business support for CBJ park lands. The Park Foundation is working in partnership with CBJ P&R to deal with mostly park facilities. The purpose is to receive gifts, legacies and other devices to provide future park lands and facilities and specific recreation park programs that may not otherwise be available from other agencies or government units. Basically, CBJ P&R cannot receive out outside funding. This nonprofit will allow that. Promote and publicize better understanding, appreciation, and support for CJB P&R. To provide financial support and assistance to CBJ P&R Dept. to improve and increase stability, of existing and future services and facilities. To provide increased educational awareness of function and mission of the P&R Dept. within the community, as well as the services provided by the P&R Dept. Provide support and assistance wherever needed to maintain and improve professional skills and abilities, services, and facilities offered by the P&R Dept. To receive full title to administer, sell, lease or otherwise dispose of real and personal properties. Transfer any real property or other assets that it may hold from time to time to any government agency or suitable agency for the same purposes set forth above. Do any lawful activities which may be necessary, useful or desirable for furtherance, accomplishment and attainment of the foregoing purposes either directly or indirectly and either alone or in conjunction or cooperation with others, whether such others be Persons or organizations of any kind or nature. This is the mission and purpose of the Park Foundation. It would be managed by a Board of Directors, have Annual Meetings, Monthly Meetings, and Special Meetings. Developed from the successful Anchorage Foundation, there would be two programs the JPF would institute – one would be a challenge grant, which would allow local groups (Boy Scouts, University) to organize a grant application for improving a park. Typically require 50-50 match, the local groups fund them with sweat equity and local donations (Fred Meyers, Don Abel, etc.). Generally they go to Park Foundation for money for actual costs of materials. Every year applications would be reviewed by the Board and those most worthy will be funded. This instills and creates partnerships with the community and the public creating a strong sense of ownership in the Park, sometimes lacking due to vandalism. If you get a local neighborhood group that puts a lot of time and effort into a park into restoration or improvement, it really helps, and we have found this nationwide, in creates ownership in the Park, which reduces the maintenance and vandalism issues in the park. The Park Foundation can assist with maintenance. A lot of challenge grants also include maintenance as part of the agreement. The local nonprofit or organization, whatever made the application may say they will maintain the park for two years as part of their gift in kind for the match. The other would be a Parks improvement program. That requires taking a look at the parks; look at facility, finding deficiencies, safety issues and coming up with a hierarchy of the parks' needs. Those would be

utilized and prioritized and then find ways to provide grant monies to improve and enhance those parks. Basically those are two programs currently, The Anchorage Parks Foundation does a student employment program I think we are quite a few years out before we can do that but we could do in the future. One challenge is determining if the Park Foundation would be a stand-alone non-profit. Ultimately what we would like the executive director as a P&R employee because of a lot of improvements are either maintenance or improvements of facilities that are managed by P&R. That is how APF started -but they have become their own nonprofit into themselves. This is our next focus. The other thing we need, since this nonprofit is going to directly enhance and benefit CBJ P&R Department, is for the Borough to get some "skin in the game" to back this up somehow, other than bless it. CBJ needs to stand behind this non-profit. We hope to get \$75K a year to finance/support an executive director or the program to back the Park Foundation. A lot of people are saying with a \$12.7 Million deficit right now, I am optimistic the timing couldn't be better for setting up a Park Foundation, because if we look at Anchorage they are getting 5 to 1/6 to 1 return on their initial investment. Anchorage put \$75K and their return is \$3.7 M per year – that is fantastic leverage amount in terms of dealing with budget, dealing with maintenance, how do we maintain our P&R - which we all heard has taken a significant hit right now. We need to talk to City Manager and see if they feel the same way and are as optimistic as myself. John Pugh is helping championing this project. We have been trying to meet with the Deputy City Manager. Budget was an issue so we are meeting with Rob Steedle next week and get a sense of where this might be supported from the City Manager. Budget pushed their meeting off to next Tuesday get the City Manager's perspective.

Challenge Grant Program in Anchorage – every \$ is returning \$6; in their Neighborhood Improvement Program every dollar is returning \$5.50.

In terms of what the Anchorage Park Foundation is doing: improved 136 parks in 9 years, managed 11,000 acres of municipal parkland, 103 teens employed through the youth program, created 81 challenge grants, created 83 playgrounds and four community gardens. I am not seeking to replicate this, I am hoping we can do something similar. The next hurdle is to talk with Rob [Steedle] and see if this \$75K is going to work. In talking to Rasmussen says they have a six figure check with our name on it; has had for 5-6 years waiting for us to get off the ground. I don't see that check coming out of the drawer unless CBJ puts some skin in the game. I think there are a lot of people in the community who support and endorse this but we need to find ways to leverage the City and Borough to support this, because ultimately they are the ones that are going to benefit from this, not just this citizens and youth and neighborhood and everyone else fighting obesity and all the other issues that we are trying to deal with keeping kids fit and outdoors and one of the reasons we live here. I hope to give you an update at the next meeting or meeting after. I am optimistic that we will be up and running and Bylaws submitted, but the hurdle is CBJ financial. If we can overcome that hurdle that would be great, I encourage you if you have connections with Assembly members please talk it up, please help support because in the end its the Parks and Recreation Department and the community that is going to benefit. Mr. Wilson: Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Merti? I will start \$75K to pay for full time director is that correct?

Mr. Mertl: It wouldn't necessarily be full time in talking with Beth, Brent, and George because we are not Anchorage but we are looking at being 2/3 time. We need to figure out those details. I don't see it being it full time CBJ employee.

Mr. Wilson: Is that a deal breaker for us? We need 75 or could we deal with 35, is there some magic number you came up with?

Mr. Mertl: In talking with Mr. Fischer that is basically what it is going to administer the program from the CBJ level.

Mr. Wilson: Which brings me to another point quickly, part of the Parks Foundation I am assuming is to be able to go out and visit with the legislature. If we have a city employee does that stop us from doing that, can the city employee lobby the legislature?

Mr. Mertl: The Board of Directors for the Park Foundation would have that power. As a point of reference, Anchorage Park Foundation is waiting for a signature from the Governor for \$800K from the State for their foundation. We need a board of directors who is charismatic and has good connections. And we are looking for other board members who are equally cool and hip as John and in well connected. But the idea is that there is that separation. The Board of Directors in the Park Foundation can lobby, can receive money, but no, the person who would be Executive Director with Parks and Recreation could not do that lobbying. One of the bonuses with a system like this is we need to create that connectivity between what the Foundation is doing and how the Parks and Rec Department operates. One thing that we also want to do that we have been talking with Amy at the Juneau Community Foundation is they will be happy to be the custodian of funds. So that if someone writing money, making a donation to the Juneau Park Foundation, it is going through the Juneau Community Foundation - not writing a check to CBJ Parks and Recreation. You are still benefiting it but it creates that psychological connection that I am writing a check to the CBJ and I think that is a big strength. In talking with Amy at the Juneau Community Foundation she says that she does not have a non-profit and there is a desire for people to give to a non-profit similar to this so she would welcome having a Juneau Park Foundation under her umbrella of the Community Foundation. We see additional funds coming in that route as well.

Mr. Wilson: Mr. Pugh you have your hand up? Could you come up?

Mr. Pugh: What I want to say to your questions and a lot of questions about the Executive Director, based on questions at the Rotary presentation I think there is going to be a heavy negativity about creating a new position with layoffs, etc. There are other ways of doing that the executive director might be a half-time person at the non-profit, and what we are looking at, and what Rasmuson is looking at is would there be half of a person with the facility that is working with the Foundation, there is a really tight MOA that says that. That is what Rasmuson, I have worked with them on a lot of things, and they were very happy with the tight tie between the City, ourselves, Parks was in on that as well as the community. That is just something they are very big on and going to the Community Foundation will score some points with them, they are big supporters of the Community Foundation, and no creating new infrastructure for support. That is our plan, they would do our books. So I think we have a lot of the pieces, It is one to work out, it is not a deal breaker to say it is impossible to have an executive director under there – there are some advantages to having the

executive director in non-profit can lobby. Those of us working with Chris we haven't completely worked that out – the feedback we are getting is that they are not very supportive of another position – we are laying people off how the heck can you create a positions? We need to figure that out the tight tie and how that comes about. It could be the dedication of a certain amount of time that person works directly with the Foundation.

Mr. Wilson: What about sharing, Trail Mix has ties? They work closely with the City but is not an employee of the city -- is that a shared position? You would want your own ED? Can we share with another group?

Mr. Pugh: Anchorage Park Foundation was shared -- half paid by Rasmuson half by the city.

Mr. Landry: Trail Mix gets \$40K a year from the City, is that correct?

Mr. Fischer: Yes, to work on our trails.

Mr. Wilson: Is it a deal breaker if the city doesn't step up?

Mr. Pugh: I am not as tied to "has to be money" but there has to be some really tight language in an MOA of the support and dedicated hours from the facility to say they were going to work with the foundation doing assessments with the Foundation. There are things we can do. Rasmuson is big on in-kind stuff in MOA. We could document that in-kind piece and in the MOA. I don't think it HAS to be there, I do think it has to be that they are clearly tied to it. Otherwise Rasmussen and others want to know some support; the City has some commitment to maintain.

Mr. Wilson: Director Fischer, I am assuming you and your staff have been working closely on this? It benefits everybody, the P&R staff and community to see this come to fruition, and it is a political move we need next, manager, then assembly for approval – how do you see this moving?

Mr. Fischer: The first step, we 100% support these efforts, and totally agree there has to be skin in the game. Where it goes depends whether there is cash or a budget item that supports it. Ultimately it goes to the Assembly, but it is part of the budget process we would have it itemized and they would adopt the budget. Don't think we have to have an appropriation for that. It is political. We want this Foundation desperately, and all the more when we are looking at times of cuts, how can we get those 3-1, 4-1, 5-1, 6-1 returns. We are foolish not to look at this opportunity. The \$75K or commitment of time, we are short sighted if we don't look at this seriously. We need to go upstairs and then to the Assembly.

Discussion.

Mr. Mertl: I am optimistic that I can report back at the next meeting.

Mr. Wilson: I think we can start talking to the Mayor and Assembly members about this.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports

A. Chair's Report - Jeff Wilson: I have asked the director to give us a report on the Chicken Ridge Driveway easement.

Mr. Fischer. I can give you a little bit of information. I was surprised, when I looked into the records in the Assembly meetings almost 30 years ago, they went to address it and took no action and left the agreement in place. I went to the assessor's office and found it was sold 20 years ago. I am

not sure what that means, but property is for sale now, with a sale pending they may have an understanding would mean they would have the ability to drive through the Park and that could create a problem. Action should have been taken 10 years ago.

Mr. Wilson: I disagree we cannot take action now since there is no legal written agreement. I would like to ask you to talk with Law Dept. and find out. I want to make the Park safe. Thank you.

Discussion.

Mr. Wilson: What is happening, any movement on the OHV?

Mr. Fischer: No, I went back to Goldbelt, they did not want to enter into negotiations, they wanted a holistic approach of their property at Echo Cove with the Tram and the Tram property is not under my purview. I could not enter into those negotiations and we are at a stalemate. They were told to resolve their issues with the Tram lease and then I can come back and negotiate the OHV Park.

Discussion.

Mr. Wilson: Docks & Harbors is finishing cruise ship staging area and Franklin Docks, is Parks & Recreation maintaining all that?

Mr. Fischer: They pay for those services. If there is something new then George is working with them. That has not been turned over to us.

Mr. Mertl: There is a one year contract for maintenance.

Discussion.

Mr. Wilson: I am frustrated with the Aquatics Board not coming to the PRAC to discuss their concept of having an empowered board for the two pools. I want to voice my displeasure with the Aquatics Board not coming to PRAC and discussing with the PRAC and looking for support. I would like you to bring that back to the Aquatics Board. It is disappointing that we are not working more closely together. I think everyone wants to see the pools operate more efficiently and anything we can do to make them work that way. To have the Aquatics Board bypass the PRAC and go directly to the Assembly to ask for an empowered board is not a message of our teamwork.

Kate Walters: I have previously asked the Board if they wanted to have a joint meeting with PRAC before there was the Budgetary stuff and there really was no interest. The Aquatics Board did also have a special budget meeting which we were invited to – I was unfortunately out of town and no other members attended – it kind of goes both ways.

Mr. Wilson: My feeling is that if the Aquatic Board wants to go with empowered board that we should have some public hearings through PRAC and the public have the chance to comment. Get public comment.

Mr. Mertl: For clarification, does the Aquatic Board -- are they below PRAC, or equal to PRAC? We all work together for Recreation, understood.

Mr. Wilson: But we advise the Assembly on Parks and Recreation. Why wouldn't they come to us and ask for our support for this move?

Mr. Mertl: I think it is a good strategy but I don't think they are required to.

Mr. Wilson: Except they operate a Parks and Rec facility and we are Advisory for Parks and Rec -- they are managing part of the Parks and Rec domain.

Ms. Walters: I think that in their opinion that what we do is not programming and not facilities, but the actual Parks and trails. They look at us as Parks and Trails not overreaching to all areas of Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Wilson: Except that we are Parks and Recreation not Parks and Trails.

Mr. Landry: What does the Director have to say about this?

Mr. Fischer: What are you asking specifically?

Mr. Wilson: Just the fact that the Aquatics Board bypassed PRAC and went right to the Assembly asking for the empowered board, they didn't bring it to the PRAC.

Mr. Fischer: My take is that I would hope committees would work together and there would be good communications back and forth with one another. There are also discussions and recommendations and motions that were put forth for an empowered board to oversee the pools and Treadwell Arena. They are an Aquatics Facilities Advisory Board - has nothing to do with Treadwell. If you are interested in Treadwell and want to be a part of it and that same thing with Aquatics that is something you should look in to. I don't understand their take. They wanted be empowered board from my perspective over three facilities. Tom and Kate can interject as Board members, one is not an aquatics.

Mr. Wilson: My take, we have an empowered board at Eaglecrest and I think they have years of experience and shown success but that has been years of experience and to have a board coming from aquatics board into an empowered board at the gitgo without experience or management -- it is a big jump. I wish they would have come to PRAC and explain it to PRAC and their concept. I would like to hear their thoughts and explain why they would do a better job than staff. That is my unknown.

Mr. Mertl: A quick follow up since we are hitting on this topic. I did go to the last Aquatic Board meeting and testified in support of keeping Augustus Brown open. I was personally frustrated that their solution was to become an empowered board and not look at management and ways that they can save money. To me becoming an empowered board wasn't a save-all for Augustus Brown and to me that didn't seem like a good solution given all the public testimony, saying that you need to find a little bit of give and take so that you can at least keep the facility open by making some cuts and finding some ways to make budget cuts rather than we want to become an empowered board. For me I find that very frustrating.

Mr. Rutecki: At that meeting the Aquatics Board took public comment on what would be ways to cut the Budget and meet costs. The idea was to listen to the public and that is where the idea for an empowered board came from. You weren't there – you could have come. You blew it off. So I can say the opposite that this body hasn't supported the pool body. Over the years where was the PRAC writing letters not to close the Valley Pool on Mondays, I never saw any of those. Anyway, Mr. Mertl didn't listen very well either, there were letters. Glacier Swim club submitted about a 9 step proposal about \$1M could be saved. \$200K, I'm sorry. So the approach that the Aquatics Board took was to present the comments from the public and let the Assembly and the Managers how to decide how to do this. The move to create an empowered board was from the public and the recommendations were from the public. The aquatics board did not want to tell the Assembly or Management what to do. All the Aquatics Board did was compile what the public said and pass that on, nothing more. So everybody is free to comment. The history of the Aquatics Board was originally proposed to be an empowered board along with the Ice Rink. That goes back to the Matsil regime. There was great resistance by some to that proposal, so what turned out was the Aquatics Board became an Advisory Board with just the pools. I think the public rekindled that idea; the downtown business community and the Juneau Chamber of Commerce are in support of the proposal. One of the things that frustrated me personally was Eaglecrest, they could advertise the snow town throw-down, it did wonders for them, and we can't even use Facebook. To me it was really frustrating to have this free advertising, and I have made many suggestions how we could have dovetailed with Eaglecrest with no cost, personnel or money to the pool managers and they never took me up on it. I think one of the comments was (Kate was there), the former President of Chamber of Commerce says: the aquatics board has no teeth. There you have it – and we just talked about how our board has been disregarded, the whole time we spent on Auke Lake where did that go. As you mentioned earlier, out of the blue we get something changed. That kind of stuff happens.

Mr. Wilson: The point I am making – the two groups have the same common ground and interested and we would be stronger working

together than separately. I think we all want to see the pool succeed and I think for Facebook PRAC as a body has some power. We could write letters and talk to the Assembly. We could support you and the group. We want to see this, in this time of budget cutting, we want to see our Recreation succeed and survive. Working together I think is the key, not working opposite. It makes me feel pretty bad if you don't come up to me as Chair of the PRAC and ask. Do I go to the meetings? No, I expect that if there is something happening for us to know about, we have Kate and you to know about – I don't follow the meetings – I am a busy guy and if there is something that needs to be done at PRAC or if there is something we need to be aware of that I expect to hear. It is not like we there, visiting their meetings, and commenting – maybe we should do that, we have a liaison to do that for us.

Mr. Rutecki: This is was open to the public. People could have attended as members of the public. Just keep in mind, it would not be the same people – they wouldn't just take the Aquatics Board and make those people the empowered board. There could be people with all sorts of experience that were on empowered type boards that it would take a year probably so see the new empowered board.

Mr. Fischer: Three things: One, that is why you have liaisons to that board, so whether or not you attended or not, it is the expectation is that what their job is, is to keep this body informed of their actions. Second: Facebook has nothing to do with the Aquatics Facility Advisory or PRAC or myself, that is the decision of the City Manager – I have been harped on this for years since I have been director. If you want to take action you can ask the Assembly why I can't use it, the Library uses it, Eaglecrest uses it, the Police Department uses it, why can't I use it? It is a tool. I am frustrated that I am held back from doing what we want to do and had nothing to do with the Aquatics Board wanting it. Third thing is that an empowered board -- the Aquatics Facility Board can get into the details of the Budget, get into the recommendations – they don't have to be empowered. We are fools if we don't take good sound recommendations – so you don't need to be an empowered board now if you will take the time to understand what the issues are, take the time to go through how we can resolve it, look at our efficiencies, you will do the same thing. But none of your folks have done that. The GSC wrote a letter and made some good comments on that – we are looking at those and we are going to make some changes. Some of those are not going to be well liked because we are trying to be more efficient and more effective. That is my thing about an empowered board.

Mr. Wilson: I am going to move on – on this. I have asked Kate to let the Aquatics Facility Board know we would like to work together. We are stronger together than we are separately.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report: Randy Wanamaker (absent)

C. Lands Committee - Jeff Wilson: We had had cell phone towers, Peterson Hill subdivision looking at and commenting on open spaces and designated parks.

D. Youth Activity Board - Tom Rutecki: This is the one I am the liaison to. We had our main event to give out \$350K that comes from the 1% Sales Tax. [Handout] You can see more money requested than what we have to give out. What is interesting is the number of kids benefitted, for example, if you look at Juneau Jazz & Classics 2300 unique individuals benefit from that money; add up sports about 1,000-1,500 kids; it is a lot kids that this money goes to. For those of you who may not be familiar, where it says "contingency funding" there is \$17,500, that is if you make it to an event you didn't know you were going to for example, a tournament for basketball and won state championship and had to go play regionals, you can be funded for that as unanticipated event. We have SE Science Fair and the placed and will be going to Atlanta to compete – they can get money to help support their group. All of the boards I have been on, this one requires the most work, especially if you get 12 proposals, academic and sports you have to score every one. You put in 40 hours in scoring the proposals and 3 days of meetings to meet everyone. Fun to meet another segment of the community that you wouldn't normally meet. We don't know if 5% will be taken off to help with the Budget.

Mr. Wilson: Thank you Tom. That has been an incredible program. I hope the CBJ keeps that program, it provides a lot of opportunity for youth here.

Mr. Fischer: We still have \$100 scholarship for youth to participate in any program.
Discussion.

E. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board - Kate Walters: It has not been until the last couple of months that we have talked about fund raising and there is limited because the Board cannot do fundraising. We get monthly update from the Aquatics Manager. It hasn't been until the first meetings with Bob Storer as Chair, we have had action items. I went to several meetings last month for the Budget and it is hard to be a liaison with the PRAC, because there is a definite bias against the PRAC. As far as discussion -- asking them to meet with us or to have us meet with them it has not been welcoming environment. If someone else wants to do it, they are more than welcome to.

Discussion

Ms. Walters: There were a lot of public comments in one of our April meetings, people from many aspects showed up to provide good public testimony. I listened to the Assembly meeting. There was a packed room with public testimony asking for Augustus Brown Pool not to be closed. Jon Kreiss-Tompkins came to the April Aquatic Board meeting. They

have asked Assembly not to close and asked the Law department to look into a creation of an empowerment board.

Mr. Wilson: I would like to extend an olive branch to them and ask them if we can work together since we are looking at all recreation activities and we should work together.

Discussion

F. Other Member Business

Ms. Walters: Arboretum's regular board meeting was cancelled this month, but the Friends group is having a Plant Sale this Saturday, at Safeway and a Wine Tasting Fund Raiser on Saturday, 5/31 at Glacier Gardens. I have tickets if you would like to go, \$35 per person.

Mr. Landry: State Park Advisory Board. Legislature kicked in money for State Parks and increased user fees went up. Juneau Parks Foundation – if you can't get \$75K from the CBJ how about getting \$37.5 and we can get other agencies to kick in the other \$37.5 as kind of a user fee? The State Advisory Board members are coming to PRAC next month, going to discuss the Green Zone agreement. It is a Memo of Understanding between State and City to manage Amalga to Echo Cove.

Discussion.

Mr. Landry: Didn't you have an idea of cabins – because the State is putting up more cabins. Trail Mix: Draft of Juneau Trails Plan 2014 being looked at by Board and I will withhold comments because it is not a public document. I will see if we can get a copy for PRAC.

Discussion.

Mr. Fischer: If it is a city plan it should come to PRAC and the Lands Dept. I will talk with George and get information on what he knows.

Mr. Mertil: Having done Trail Mix, I want to emphasize that you need to get support from all your different land agencies. Tie it in with non-motorized transportation because if this does get adopted and moved up and you have big gaps in connectivity it is not a very usable document. It seems a document that is growing on its own please take your time to do the job right.

Mr. Landry: you are singing to the choir, I have brought this up several times at meetings. The Sitka Agreement has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Forest Service, Park Service, State, the City, the Tribe and that means they get multiple millions. It is lacking that MOU and that is why I was holding back my comments.

Mr. Wilson: We have been waiting a couple of years for this.

Mr. Fischer: If you are hearing about the inebriates in the Parks, specifically Marine Park and Gunakadeit Park. It prevents residents and tourists from using the Parks. If you are hearing about this, we are working with the Police Department who have been great in helping us to resolve this. I am working with Legal Dept. next week. A trespass notice; if someone is inebriated and doing something wrong the police can give them a citation; they take the citation and never pay it. We are going to

implement a graduated trespass policy much like Seattle's. The police can site, we ask them to leave, and if they say "no" then the Police can arrest them and take them away. We are looking at 24 hour, then a 7-day notice and up to a year notice in our parks and facilities. It is very involved. We are taking back the park and this is one of our measures.

Discussion

Mr. Mertl: Update on Urban Forestry Partnership – they did Earth Day and on Arbor Day on May 9th will be a program at Evergreen Cemetery with Montessori and Charter schools. Thanks to P&R for helping with that. They are looking at setting up a Community Rewards Program from Fred Meyers and you can donate your "cash back" to a local non-profit and Juneau's Urban Forestry Partnership is going to be one of the first receiving that. They have teamed up with AEL&P go paperless -- will donate to Urban Forestry Partnership. Urban Forestry Partnership is doing good things.

I am asking Mr. Fischer to send the PRAC an email of the cuts you are being asked to make on the Budget cuts made by P&R.

Mr. Fischer: We can send the [website] links of where the packets are located; there will be FTE and other cuts that the Assembly will see. Just a reminder, they don't do public testimony at Finance Meetings. As a private citizen you can go to the "Tell it to the City Manager" email and make your statement there.

Mr. Mertl: I went to the statewide Alaska Trails Conference: the pushed/drove home the economic and marketing boom of trails. I think Juneau doesn't do a good job of marketing their trails system, Park City is now saying their trail system is the most popular point for recreation in Park City, developers are putting in trails. We might be missing a great opportunity in marketing our city, working with Juneau Economic Development and Juneau Convention Bureau and finding ways with Trail Mix and Forest Service. Sitka markets their trails. This was the take away from this conference. We could do that marketing piece better.

Discussion

Mr. Rutecki: Brent any chance for the \$10K from Delta could be swim scholarships/busing – is that a possibility or could you consider?

Mr. Fischer: The intent from Delta was \$10K was to go toward helping save the pool. In my conversations with Mike Medeiros of Delta we discussed some ideas about how to make that \$10K go farther. I also spoke with Rob Steedle about it today. We will get back and see what ties Delta wants to put on it. The intent is not necessarily to benefit users; it is in perpetuity how to sustain the pool. He wants to present the check on the Delta inaugural flight in on May 29; we have time to figure out what we are going to do the money. I think it will be appropriate to come to the AFAB and PRAC with information.

Mr. Anderson: At the last meeting, we talked about tasks. I reached out to motorized groups and told them if they have anything they want to do to get in touch with him as a group and put something in writing and he will pass information along.

Discussion

Mr. Mertl: Brent, what is the name of the park up by Lena?

Mr. Fischer: Aant' iyeik

Mr. Mertl: How many days a year does it get used?

Mr. Fischer: Not a lot. What I want to look in to is the reason why those were built by the State and I have to see if there is any obligation of what the use is. There is always something with a gift. If there are no strings attached then we will take to user groups; what will it take and what use and how do we do that. It is a dirt field, easy to make that a motocross park.

Discussion

Ms. Gilmour: I have one question, should Juneau Softball Association come before the PRAC. We are at crossroads with city and school district and I don't know where the Board could take the problem we are having at Dimond Park. As the largest paid user group, we pay to use it. We are feeling disrespected; we are sharing with school district. A certain person has created a ruckus and we have decreased usage of a park with three fields. Is the refurbishing of Savikko going to be cut with the recent Budget cuts?

Mr. Fischer: No.

Discussion

Mr. Fischer: There is no disrespect, there is a clear policy: first is P&R; second is school district; third is non-profit youth and the last priority is non-profit adult activity. I know that they pay a lot of money. There is a Policy in place. If the Assembly is approached, they will look at the Policy and school district will always get the priority.

IX: Other Board Business - none

X: ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

NEXT MEETING – June 3, 2014, Assembly Chambers