

*MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 4, 2014
CBJ Assembly Chambers, 6 p.m.*

I. Call to Order at 6:05 p.m. by Chair, Kate Walters.

Attending: Josh Anderson, Traci Gilmour, Gerry Landry, Chris Mertl, Tom Rutecki, and Kate Walters. Eric Morrison attended via teleconference.

Randy Wanamaker, Assembly Liaison

Staff Members: Brent Fischer, P&R Director; George Schaaf, Parks Maintenance and Landscape Superintendent; Myiia Wahto, Area-wide Recreation Superintendent; Fran Compton, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Jeff Wilson and Odin Brudie

II. Agenda Changes – Mr. Fischer and Mr. Wanamaker presented City and Borough of Juneau's Certificate of Appreciation to Dixie Hood for her service to the PRAC over the past 12 years.

Ms. Walters: Also want to acknowledge Mr. Anderson, our new PRAC member.
Mr. Anderson: Thank you for having me, looking forward to serving.

III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items –

- A. Mr. Bob Loiselle, 981 Lone Wolf Dr; CEO of Goldbelt Inc. Late last year it came to our attention some property we own out by Echo Cove, a rock and gravel quarry, might be a suitable location for an off-highway vehicle park of sorts. We are hopeful to engage with the City in a discussion in the possibility of some sort of exchange that would meet both of our needs. I am here tonight to tell you Goldbelt is still interested in this; we view it as a holistic solution to a problem that Juneau has with regard to recreational vehicles and their use - and the problem we have had with respect trying to obtain title to that property. We understand that this body does not have the ability to make that happen but to the extent that you can continue to be an advocate for this type of solution we would appreciate it.

Discussion between PRAC members and Mr. Loiselle.

- B. Joan O'Keefe, 2008 Creek St. Douglas; Exec Dir of Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL). Thank you for this opportunity to address you this evening. My purpose in testifying tonight is to make you aware that I requested the accessibility upgrades to Project Playground that are currently slated for FY17 being moved up to the first year that P&R is set to receive sales tax funding, FY16. I have been working with Brent [Fischer] and George [Schaaf] and I very much appreciate their

willingness to work towards pushing the timeframe up further. In my opinion it is a crowning jewel in Juneau's crown – Project Playground was an amazing community coming together to make it happen. \$502K were raised; it was an amazing community effort that I know a lot of you were involved with. It was built in two weeks – Phase I was completed in May 2007. So the surfacing of Project Playground was sold as ADA compliant, and maybe it was technically at the time but the problem is that it does not work. Joe Thompkins, para-Olympian, cannot roll through the surfacing – it does not work. So we have accessible features – swings and some great features folks can't get to. For the Phase II the accessibility upgrade – SAIL received \$25K from Crossett Fund in Seattle. Chris Mertl and I met with Brent [Fischer] and George [Schaaf] to brainstorm. We came up with adding it to the 1% Sales Tax initiative - part of the Parks and Rec Plans coming up. At this point I have been holding the Crossett Fund people off and I am eager to spend it and make this project happen. Just for the good of the community, we would like to see that Playground become more accessible to folks of all abilities. We are continuing to push the project to be implemented as soon as it is feasible.

Discussion between PRAC Members, Ms. O'Keefe and Mr. Fischer.

- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – February 4, 2014. MOTION by Mr. Mertl to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2014 PRAC Meeting minutes as presented. Hearing no objection, the minutes of the February 4, 2014 PRAC Meeting was approved by unanimous consent.**

V. Unfinished Business

PRAC's Annual Report to HR Committee, Mr. Mertl: Last week I presented our Annual Report to the HR Committee I summarized what was in the report we saw at our last meeting. The HR committee asked about Auke Lake management – they had some questions about that and what is currently going on, and what was going to happen in the future. Which I was able to answer and then they then got our relationship with different enterprise boards: such as the Pool and Eaglecrest which I deferred to our Director. They thanked us for all our efforts and thanked us for all our hard work. Mr. Fischer: He did an excellent job of representing the PRAC in your absence and Jeff's [Wilson] absence.

VI. New Business

- A. Goldbelt Heritage Institute Proposal – Ms. Walters: Mr. Wanamaker would you please introduce our next speakers?**

Mr. Wanamaker: It is my pleasure to introduce to you tonight Mr. Paul Marks and Mr. Richard Steele of the Goldbelt Heritage Foundation and on behalf of several other organizations. They will give you their remarks and presentation. It is respectful for me to introduce them correctly – That is: I

will start with myself, My name is Randy Wanamaker I am a Juneau Assemblyman, my real name is Tsaaw Eesh. I am an Eagle, a Kaagwaantaan from Shee Atika , Diex X' awooth Hit the two door house and Deisheetaan yeti, child of a Beaver. We welcome you here to the Juneau-Douglas house of all people. And look forward to hearing your words and considering them carefully. Welcome.

Mr. Steele: Thank you all for serving, I really appreciate it. I am Richard Steele, I moved here in 1979 when I was a ranger in Glacier Bay, I moved to Juneau 1981 and lived here ever since. I am a retired teacher from the Juneau School District and now working as a grant writer for the Goldbelt Heritage Foundation. I am speaking on behalf of Goldbelt Heritage Foundation, but I am not a shareholder. This is Paul Marks, he is my colleague; he is a cultural specialist with whom I work and one of the 85 who was born and speaks Tlingit, one of the remaining 85 people whose first language is Tlingit. There are three that work with me at Goldbelt Heritage Foundation. This project is called "A Time for Healing".

Mr. Marks: *A gaawóo áyá yéi shtoosnéixhji*

Mr. Steele: This is the Arts, Cultural, and Educational non-profit of Goldbelt, Inc. I have submitted a letter of inquiry for a grant project that represents the 3300 shareholders. If we are invited to apply we know by June [2014]. If this grant agency doesn't fund it we'll probably seek out funding elsewhere.

Presentation by Mr. Steele and Mr. Marks: *Kháa yáa ayatulik'éí*. [Honoring the People]. House Panel with the totem poles, the history of the clans who settle and occupy Douglas. Interpretive signs will be at Gastineau School and Savikko Park, they will both Tlingit and English, both languages. This is the rationale for the House Panel: [slide]

- To commemorate the historical village
- To provide interpretation for primary students
- To celebrate and interpret through Native art
- To honor the original inhabitants
- To remember the Douglas Indian Village
- To enhance a destination

A khwáanx'ee yeeyí [Where the People Live]. There will be two poles, one a traditional pole that celebrates the migration of the T'aaku Kwáan and the other a contemporary pole is to reflect the interaction and the positives and the negatives. The value of the project:

- To help the community know the history
- To enhance Sandy Beach for locals and visitors
- To provide a gathering place for events
- To provide a destination for visitors, Native people, and others
- To enhance Douglas and Juneau as destinations and to their Native inhabitants.

Mr. Marks testified in Tlingit and in English: Thank you for giving us this time today to present something that has always been important for Tlingit people. We commemorate certain events through totemic design, using certain items when we do ceremonies, like hats, or Chilkat blankets – it would be good for people to know, not only ourselves but all people of the world, know that Tlingit were here and Tlingit are still here. We want it to be done in good taste; we want to be working together. Mr. Steele alluded to my time in Douglas. My father, his brother and my grandfather staked a claim on North Douglas and several of you know where that is at, it has been called Marks Trail, and we have been there over 100 years, and we seen a lot of changes. My oldest brother, that is living now, was born when the first Douglas Bridge was made, so my father, mother, older sister, and my oldest brother, who is no longer here, used to row across the Channel to go to the Orthodox Church. We have spent a lot of time here in Juneau; probably more so than anyone here – I don't think there is anyone over 100 years here? I have been here all my life. I was raised in North Douglas. I am 64 years old and the youngest in the family. It will be good to see two large totem poles representing not only our history, but our whole history and encounters. Working together would be my suggestion. This would be a welcoming thing when people come down the channel - they see these two large totem poles. I believe it would also create more people who want to visit Alaska or Juneau just seeing those two large totem poles in the forefront. Thank you for your kind attention, Thank you for allowing us here tonight. Gunalchéesh.

Questions and Comments from the Board members.

B. Park Foundation – Chris Mertl: Update on Juneau Park Foundation, non-profit that myself and others have been working on. Pushing forward and getting to the point where this foundation will become a reality. Background: P&R cannot receive outside money for parks improvements until this foundation is activated. This foundation is modeled after Anchorage Parks Foundation. I anticipate two programs, a challenge grant, ask local groups to put together grants for park improvements, and parks assessments. For the next step I am going to meet with Deputy Manager and to get the details worked out. Articles are written need to be signed, as well as an memorandum of agreement with CBJ. A relationship between a Parks Foundation and CBJ is going to be advantageous. I hope I can provide you of more news soon.

Board members discussion.

VII. Election of Officers

A. Ms. Walters: Are there Nominations for Chair?

B. Mr. Mertl: I nominate Mr. Jeff Wilson. I have verified his willingness to serve.

No other nominations. Votes unanimous for Mr. Wilson.

C. Ms. Walters: Nomination for first vice chair:

Ms. Gilmour: I nominate Kate Walters. (Accepted)

No other nominations. Votes unanimous for Ms. Walters.

D. Ms. Walters: Nomination for second vice chair:

Mr. Rutecki I nominate Chris Mertl. (Accepted)

No other nominations. Votes unanimous for Mr. Mertl.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and/or Staff Reports

A. Chair's Report: Kate Walters – none

B. Director's Report: Brent Fischer – I would like to announce Greg Smith, the Building Maintenance Superintendent for three years, is taking a position in CBJ Engineering. He has done an excellent job and will be greatly missed. I will be out of town for the next meeting and Myiia Wahto will sit in for me. I request Committee members to decide when your May Retreat will be -- on Tuesday meeting night or during the day during that week of the scheduled PRAC meeting?

C. Liaison to the Assembly Report: Randy Wanamaker: Assembly held a special meeting with school and airport; capital projects for school renovations asking for bond issues for this fall. Airport status update and described need for runway regarding. Funding sources are being worked out. Monday's Assembly COW to receive update on budget matters from CM and Finance.

D. Youth Activity Board: Tom Rutecki: YAB met tonight – 3 contingency grants, Juneau Ski Club didn't get their 501C(3) paperwork so we may have \$12K to apply to contingency fund. Applications for Grants were due yesterday and distributed.

E. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Kate Walters – special meeting to talk about budget. Received a budget narrative, the board asked Brent Fischer to request an increment to open up the DPAC on Mondays and what steps to take to open the pool for private rentals.

F. State Parks Board/Trail Mix: Gerry Landry – Seasonal leave. Trail Mix no regular meeting.

G. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership: Chris Mertl – nothing to report.

H. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Board: Kate Walters – nothing to report.

I. Juneau Sports Association: Tracie Gilmour - Registering teams in two weeks. Hoping for fields early this year because of the weather.

IX. Other Business –

Ms. Gilmour: Curious, whether there has been a meeting to introduce the community to Floyd Dryden's proposal for new/improved fields? Mr. Fischer: They have had a school meeting; I don't think there has been a public meeting. Engineering is working with the School District.

Mr. Landry – I express my support for the Parks Foundation. Quote Rasmussen grant information: Eaglecrest received \$700K to improve the current winter visitor experience and create a year-round community venue.

Mr. Mertl: Thank you and farewell to Ms. Hood. Welcome to Mr. Anderson. Last weekend I hosted the 12th Annual Rain Forest Old Timers Hockey Tournament. We received many compliments on the rink, a first rate rink and we are fortunate to have it, quality of facility and friendliness of community. Anchorage won the Tier I tournament. Petersburg won Tier B. I am doing design work on the Statter Harbor with a park component through D&H with Mr. Gillette, a sea-walk promenade between boat ramp parking and waterside and replace Rotary shelter. Create an amenity for Auke Bay neighborhood.

Mr. Anderson: I am not just here because of the OHV. I am very active with other groups around town and plan to participate fully.

Ms. Walters: Thank you Dixie, we will miss you.

X. ADJOURNMENT -- Hearing no objections the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted March 19, 2014, by Fran Compton, Administrative Asst.

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, April 1, 2014, Assembly Chambers