

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

I. Call to Order 6:00 p.m.

Present: Kate Walters, Acting Chair; Odin Brudie, Traci Gilmour, Dixie Hood, Gerry Landry, Christopher Mertl, Eric Morrison, Tom Rutecki,

Absent: Jeff Wilson; CBJ Assembly Liaison, Randy Wanamaker,

Staff Present: Brent Fischer, P&R Director; George Schaaf, Park Maintenance and Landscape Superintendent; Myiia Wahto, Recreation Superintendent; Fran Compton, Administrative Assistant II

II. Agenda Changes – Motion by Ms. Gilmour to accept the agenda as presented with no objections.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – January 7, 2014 - **MOTION** by Ms. Gilmour to approve the minutes as presented. **Hearing no objections the Minutes of the January 7, 2014, PRAC meeting were approved by unanimous consent.**

V. Director's Report – Mr. Fischer: Tonight, I will make the Department Overview Presentation made to the Finance Committee in November. We are starting the Department Budgeting this week, with a full week of P&R Divisions' presentations, followed by the Department presentation to the City Manager later in the month. The Commercial Use application process is open and P&R will take applications for Trails Commercial Use Permits. The application process is being advertised and solicited for the upcoming season.

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. Presentation of Auke Lake Management Summer Summary – George Schaaf: The committee asked me to present some information we acquired this past summer on recreational use of Auke Lake. Last Spring the Assembly asked gather more information on recreational use of Auke Lake. . This [Power Point photo] is an aerial view of lake. In 2007 the Assembly passed an ordinance regarding motorized use of the lake. Key points were: ·no motorized vessels over 16 feet length, ·no use of the lake from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. except during the summer when you can be on the lake as late as 10 p.m., ·areas where vessels

are prohibited, and wakes over 6 inches are prohibiting. The Assembly also prohibited refueling on the water or wayside. Pointing to photo; Mr. Schaaf described the no wake area on map, where vessels are prohibited; 77 acres of the lake are available for unrestricted use. Last year the Assembly came to P&R and asked for better information on use of the Lake. The most comprehensive way to gather information with available staff time was using 3 time lapse cameras. The cameras were not used for enforcement; however the cameras allowed staff to see when violations occurred in a general sense. Cameras were placed 1) near the Back Loop Road; 2) by the float plane dock, and 3) by the long, floating boardwalk. The best location was at the float plane, which gave a good view of the ramp. This location allowed for observation of users as they arrived at the Lake, went in the Lake and left at the end of the day, as well as how much time each vessel spent on the Lake. Cameras were installed 5/11 thru 9/30. The boat launch camera failed from 7/10 to 8/12. A total of 576 vessels were observed over the course of the summer, such as canoe, kayak, jet ski, ski boat, and rafts. Of these, 217 were motorized, 359 were non-motorized. Peak usage was in June with 14 vessels on one day. When the lake was being used, we observed an average of three vessels each day. We counted the number of vessels on the lake every hour of every day. 63% of the total use was by non-motorized vessels such as kayaks, paddleboards, or canoes; 37% of the use was by motorized vessels; this was broken down further into boats/skiffs and personal water craft, using the nationally recognized definition of personal watercraft. We didn't count swimmers because they were too difficult to see reliably. One benefit of using time-lapse cameras is that they allowed us to look at general behavior of Lake users; I will show you some examples of the violations. Over the course of the summer, we observed about 296 violations – primarily violations of the no-wake zones and prohibited areas. There were some violations of the lake hours (e.g. motorized vessels operating very late or very early on the Lake). We found that that personal watercraft accounted for only 57% of the total motorized use, but were responsible for 85% of violations. Ski boats and skiffs, on the other hand, represent about 43% of the total motorized use, but only 15% of the violations. One reason why personal watercraft racked up more violations is that it is easy for a jet ski to commit multiple violations in a short amount of time, i.e., using the buoys for a slalom course in prohibit area. [cited examples shown]. These cameras allowed us to see what happens when no one is looking. Skiffs also committed some violations. The Wildlife Troopers patrolled the lake with their boat several times, and things calmed down while they were there.. When the Troopers left, people became much more careless.

In addition to gathering data, the Assembly asked us to support boater education efforts. At the beginning of season, we issued a Public Service Announcement reminding boaters of the Lake Rules and Regulations. This was published by Juneau Empire. We don't have a budget for advertising and rely on the local media for assistance in getting the word out. One of the things that will be new this coming season will be standard regulatory buoys – white can buoys with orange Coast Guard markings for prohibited areas and no wake zones to replace the fishing buoys we have used in the past. New signs were installed at the entrance to the boat ramp. The most common violations and complaints were the 16-foot vessel restriction, and no flushing or rinsing. We observed nearly 100 vessels flushing and rinsing on the boat ramp. Ms. Hood: were there any speed limits signs? Mr. Schaaf: There is no speed limit on the lake. The new buoys will include “no wake” signs. One problem with the existing ordinance is that it defines a wake as 6” or more; however, a jet ski doesn't create a wake once it is going 40 – 60 mph. We supported the local boater education efforts. We were contacted by personal water craft users who wanted to put together a boater education course. I contacted the State Office of Boating Safety, which didn't have anyone available to offer a course. I reached out to the Coast Guard who were excited to put on a course, and we put them in touch with the interested users. The City offered to host the course and assist with advertising; however, the users preferred to do it themselves and we understand that a handful of people participated in April. Our staff spent quite a bit of time in the Lake. I stopped by often and also responded to phone calls. In August we added a second Park Ranger to our staff, who was able to check on the Lake after 4 p.m. and on weekends/holidays. I personally observed people who were upset at the education and enforcement efforts, and some people showed aggression toward me. The users were upset, frustrated, stating that P&R was trying to shut down the Lake, and most did not understand that the ordinance (the rules) were established in 2007. Because the ordinance hasn't been enforced in the last six years the perception of long time users was this was a recent crackdown. They see recent P&R education and enforcement unfavorably and are frustrated.

Finally, the Assembly asked us to do more to enforce the existing rules at the Lake. We converted a Landscaping position to Ranger position with citation authority to issue citations for violations of lake regulations, park rules, and the parking ordinance.. We received tremendous support from Juneau Police Department. I spoke with every patrol team, attended 7 briefings and briefed their officers about the Lake Ordinance. I explained P&R would need their help. They offered to help anytime and they backed up our rangers and me on several occasions. The State Wildlife Troopers came out and were a

presence with their boat. The Troopers did not issue any citations because they were there to enforce state boater safety laws and boater registration requirements. Parks & Recreation staff issued 8 verbal warnings and 2 written warnings for violations of lake regulations. We also issued over 30 parking violations. The lake violations carry a \$200-\$300 penalty. Since the ordinance hadn't been enforced for years, we wanted to educate first and be a presence. The biggest public frustration is the 16-foot boat limit. Boat length doesn't address safety – all ski boats observed on the Lake are illegal - between 16-23 feet. The use is weather dependent, and difficult to enforce rules. We don't have resources to put someone out at the Lake all the time. When we attempted to contact boat owners, many would yell at us and accuse us of harassing them. . I see a problem with the existing Ordinance because there is a concentration of high risk activity in small area and the wake restriction doesn't address safety. The Ordinance relies on buoys – when the buoys are removed, there are no restrictions. Parks & Recreation staff pull the buoys at the end of the season, but the gate is still open. Staff cannot cite when there are no buoys. Some users object to P&R or the state troopers using their boats on the lake because they are over 16', which they think is unfair.

Committee questions and answers. Ms. Hood: Were there complaints from residents. Mr. Schaaf: There were some, but not many. The folks that use the Lake or Trail will also complain.

Ms. Hood: Did any resident approach or was it phone calls. Mr. Schaaf: When I was doing training with Park Rangers, two residents came out of their houses to thank us for being there. Overall the people who live on the lake said it seemed quieter this year.

Ms. Hood: I don't understand the purpose of removing the buoys. Mr. Schaaf: the Lake freezes and the buoy lines can get pulled out and broken. 25 buoys this year, with anchors and not cheap. Between the ice and the lake level many buoys are lost.

Mr. Morrison: number of users – that isn't individual crafts? Mr. Schaaf: 576 total number of unique vessels – one boat, five times would count as five. Distinction between hours and trips.

Ms. Walters: did you get any sense where this goes next? Mr. Schaaf: asked to collect more data for this year.

Mr. Mertl: do you have a sense of how many different boaters are using the lakes. Mr. Schaaf: I don't. Skiffs can be discerned, but not personal water craft. Maybe 12 to 15 distinct boats.

Mr. Brudie: Do all vessels have registration? Mr. Schaaf: all vessels are required to be registered to be Auke Lake. Not all boats are actually registered.

Mr. Rutecki: Did the triathlete folks use the Lake? It seems there would be a problem with the swimmers and the vessels using the buoys as slalom course. Is there any way to make a swimming area enclosed? Mr. Schaaf:

Last year the Assembly asked us to enforce the rules. Lost buoys to shotguns. Most swimmers come out very early in the morning.

Ms. Walters: Of the usage between personal water craft and boats, is there a typical age breakdown or a good mixture? Mr. Schaaf: can't tell from cameras, from my personal observations – many boat operators are in their late 40s-50s. Many of the personal watercraft users who were responsible for a lot of violations were teenagers. In one case we were able to contact the parents and correct the behavior. It is all over the map – some of the boats were an older crowd as well.

Mr. Mertl: what becomes of all our work, for crafting regulations? If we get a ranger these are our recommendations, if we don't get a ranger these are our recommendations; where does that sit? Anything moving forward? Mr. Fischer: stagnated until we get another year of data and present the PRACs recommendations and the Department's. It will be interesting to see how this summer unfolds once we start handing out citations. User frustration will escalate with citations issued. We will be talking to Assembly and they will talk to Assembly to get resolution changes. We were told to gather data and educate users.

Further staff and committee discussion.

Ms. Walters: any more questions? Thank you George.

- B. Review of PRAC Draft Recommendation Letter regarding the Adair-Kennedy Ball Field Master Plan.

Ms. Walters: In your packet you have the drafted recommendation letter for the PRAC's consideration. Do you have any comments or edits?

Committee discussion. Ms. Walters: We can include mention of safety, planning and snow melting in our letter.

Motion by Mr. Mertl: This letter should state PRAC supports the development of two turf fields at Adair-Kennedy for Floyd Dryden use with additions for safety, planning and snow management.

Ms. Gilmour: second; Ms. Walters: in favor? [All present raised hand] Any opposed? Seeing none **this motion is carried for a revised letter to be issued of PRAC support for the fields.**

- C. Review of PRAC's Annual Report. Ms. Walters: Mr. Mertl would be presenting to HRC on Monday, 2/24. Can we get approval?

Mr. Morrison: I make a motion to accept the report as presented. Mr. Brudie second; no opposition, motion carried.

VII. New Business

- A. Sandy Beach Shelters – George Schaaf: I am here to present for your information, a proposal we have received from the Engineering Dept. regarding the Sandy Beach Log Cabin. Outside overhang covers area over the BBQ grills. P&R Maintenance has scheduled rehab and repaint at a cost of \$15K to paint the two covers over the BBQ grills. I would like

PRAC's input on the suggestion to remove the covers over the BBQ grill to save money. Committee questions and discussion.

Mr. Mertl: I wouldn't want to make a recommendation without public input.

Mr. Schaaf: if you would like to get additional input, we will hold this project until spring. Mr. Fischer: Mr. Schaaf will take pictures and we put as action item for PRAC support? Ms. Walters: Mr. Schaaf, bring this back as an action item with pictures.

- B. Parks & Recreation Department overview delivered to the CBJ Finance Committee November 2013: Brent Fischer: A 19-page Power Point Presentation included: Parking Management; Visitor Services – Centennial Hall; Park Maintenance (including Auke Lake, Thane Campground and Master Park Planning); Park Landscaping; Jensen-Olson Arboretum; Building Maintenance; Area-wide Recreation (including Jumbo Gym; Aquatics – Augustus Brown and Dimond Park Pools; Treadwell Arena; J-D City Museum; Zach Gordon Youth Center; Emergency Operations Center support. Parks & Recreation have 3 values: Economic Value, Health & Environmental Benefits, and Social Importance. This presentation gave the Assembly quite a background on what we do so as the Assembly's budget process goes forward they see their decisions not only affect our programs but affect the community as a whole.

Discussion.

- C. Overview of Budget Process – Brent Fischer: I am meeting with facilities managers and division superintendents in their first run through of FY14 budget projections. We look at projected line items and whether they are on budget or over budget. We are to hold the line on services and hold the line on certain financial aspects. The exceptions: inflation factors. Finance gives us inflation projections of oil, propane, and certain services with what are acceptable projections. We have taken on additional services, i.e., Thane Campground and Auke Lake with suggested reorganized personnel to achieve objectives. Feb. 14 our department budget is due to finance – they will organize into compact presentation on Feb. 25 make a presentation to City Manager and Finance Director and controllers. Budget highlights presentation will have any increments to add (a service) and where we need to increase – may or may not be accepted. After that presentation it will be presented to Assembly. Budget reduction list is to be presented to the City Manager and will be forwarded to Assembly if need arises. Staff will provide those soon and I will prioritize and forward when requested. This is a synopsis of how the budget process works, and where we are right now and the upcoming dates.

Ms. Walters: OK, are there any questions?

Mr. Mertl: Can you give us an update on Parking within the Department?
Mr. Fischer: Right now, until there is an interim plan of what the community is going to do, and it will stay in P&R. The City Manager will suggest to the Assembly that the City needs a professional to look at a program in its entirety; look at creating its own division. I have been told it will not be in P&R, just not when it will move. It is in the budget for FY15-16.

Discussion on budget issue with staffing budgets restricting after hours rentals. Authorization for staffing has to stay within budget and cannot be over scheduled.

- D. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board Meeting, February 19; 4:45 p.m., Wednesday, February 19 in the City Hall Chambers – Kate Walters: special meeting to discuss their upcoming year budget. The board is looking at avenues to reinstate Monday swims at Dimond Pool. I am extending an invitation to the PRAC members. I am not sure PRAC would participate but it would be an opportunity to get information and our attendance would show good will to this board. We can work together on goals. Encourage anyone able to come, please attend.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and/or Staff Reports

- A. Chair's Report: Kate Walters – none;
- ~~B. Liaison to the Assembly Report: Randy Wanamaker~~
- ~~C. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson~~
- D. Youth Activity Board: Tom Rutecki – Met in January, had one contingency grant request. March 3 deadline for Grant applications.
- E. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Kate Walters – meet last month, upcoming budget meeting; removing the high dive at Dimond Pool as a safety move and keeping the one at ABPool; putting in a low board at Dimond. Asked about the temperature and got an explanation of why it is colder than AB Pool and has to do with water exchange.
- F. State Parks Board/Trail Mix: Gerry Landry – none. Ms. Walters: Outdoor Trails Advisory Board has grants for trail uses. Requesting Pt. Bridget/Cowee Meadows under water trail rehab.
- G. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership: Chris Mertl – annual meeting last month, good turnout, board election; generating new enthusiasm and energy. Deciding priorities and what grants to pursue.
- H. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Board: Kate Walters – meeting in January; tons of snow this winter; looking at Master Plans for education center; Encourage membership in Friends of Arboretum (\$30 family membership) meeting 2/11 at 7 p.m. Harborview School Music Room.
- I. Eaglecrest Board/Nordic Ski Club: Odin Brudie – exciting time. 4H ski program and 4H skier development; met with Eaglecrest focusing on trails. The lower trails were in good shape, looking at upper loop, mid-February opening – the weather affected the lower loop. Full time staff

working on the trails. End of Jan they opened upper loop – a challenge to get to, but quite a few skiers and races. Montana Creek Trail has become popular, groomed because the road is gated, 2.5 kilometers length; 400 school youth were taken out to ski; 4H has 100 skiers using regularly; 100 other skiers; 100 Juneau Nordic Club members are skiing regularly; and ORCA program using. Dog walkers and walkers also using the area – the best trail in town right now. Trail opened to motorized use and there is a good balance between those users and skiers. Conflict with speeding 4-wheelers. With the gate there isn't trash being dumped out there.

- J. Juneau Sports Association: Tracie Gilmour – JSA has new website: juneausoftball.com; photos of players; gearing up for season. I presented at the state board; Looking at how to fund raise; Need umpires.

IX. Other Business – Board comments:

Ms. Walters -- If you have something to bring to the Board, you can bring it up in Board comments, or if the Agenda isn't full send an email to the chair to request your subject be added to agenda. If there is a person with presentation please confirm they are available, and if possible we will add to agenda, if not that month usually the next month. DNR Outdoor Trails Advisory Board – when they receive applications for funding the distribution has to be 30% motorized, 30% non-motorized and 40% diversified (motorized/non-motorized using the same trail). They have had a hard time meeting motorized category. Because motorized trails cost a lot of money, often difficult with a maximum of \$50K, recommended increase to \$100K per project to entice more applicants, if the OHV is interested or Nordic Club needs signage or safety with diversified section – that is an option for funding.

Mr. Mertl -- News on Park Foundation: contacted a dozen people will support. Kirby Day, John Pugh, Erik Ouderkirk, Dr. Sharon Fischer, Ian Fisk, Gerry Landry, Sandy Williams, Lauren McVay, Brent Fischer, and George Schaaf. Extend an invitation to PRAC members. 2/14 meeting with Beth Nordlund and explain what a Park Foundation. Will benefit P&R and PRAC, you can come and listen; time to be announced. I am happy to announce 12th Annual Old Timers Rainforest Classic Ice Hockey Tournament; 2/28 – 3/2 at Treadwell, five out of town teams hoping for two more; 8 teams committed. I am eager to get started on the P&R Comprehensive Plan, priority. Hear lots of talk of grants, can we share among ourselves? If we had the information (send email to each other) we might help disseminate to other interested groups.

Mr. Brudie: Is Evergreen Cemetery the only cemetery P&R manages?
Mr. Fischer: We have four.

Mr. Landry: I brought my P&R Comp Plan and curious when we are going to work on this. Can you comment about the retreat?

Mr. Fischer: P&R Dept. retreat will be in April and make decisions on goals, objections, values and mission. It will be May for the PRAC's retreat take P&R list of goals and help put together our Comp Plan – it's a long process. Be prepared to come back for discussion, revisions, and get public comment.

Mr. Rutecki: Twin Lakes Bike Path signage says dogs have to be on leash, or voice control. I have been walked and most people have their dogs on leash and fantastic job of picking up dog stuff. Mr. Schaaf: The rule is the dog is on leash on paved pathway; voice command in the park.

X. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, Acting Chair, Kate Walters adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 26th day of February, 2014. Fran Compton,
Administrative Assistant II.

NEXT MEETING – March 4, 2014, Assembly Chambers