

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 7, 2014
Room 224, 6pm

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

Attending: Kate Walters, Acting Chair; Chris Mertl, Tom Rutecki, Traci Gilmour, Dixie Hood, Eric Morrison;

Absent: Jeff Wilson, Odin Brudie;

Staff: Fran Compton, P&R Administrative Assistant; George Schaaf, Parks Maintenance and Landscape Superintendent; Richard Ritter, CBJ Engineering; Brent Fischer, P&R Director;

R&M Engineering: Mark Pusich;

Assembly Liaison: Randy Wanamaker.

II. Agenda Changes - Ms. Hood: I have a question – in order to discuss something can we add it to the agenda? It is in regard to the Planning Commission hearing on the Honsinger Parcel. Discussion.

Mr. Fischer will discuss with Mr. Hart.

Ms. Hood: There is a Planning Commission Meeting on January 14 which I encourage PRAC Members to attend.

Ms. Walters: No changes to the agenda, Eric Morrison motion to accept the Agenda; hearing no objections agenda accepted.

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

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – Ms. Walters: You have received the Minutes of the December 3, 2013 meeting, are there any additions or corrections? Hearing none the Minutes are approved.

V. Director's Report: Brent Fischer – At the last PRAC meeting on December 3, 2013, Don Kussart testified during the non-agenda portion regarding the Concerts In The Park series put on by the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council. Mr. Kussart asked that P&R proactivity work the JAHC on a plan for seating for the concerts. I called the JAHC and talked with Kari Groven regarding the concert program. She said that they had no plans to start the series at Marine Park in the near future because they liked the Food Truck Fridays and that it brought people into the JACC and created a different type of event. We discussed that if they do decide to hold the concerts again at Marine Park that we would be willing to discuss what support Parks could provide.

As a follow up to the OHV project, the City Manager asked me to begin talks with Goldbelt regarding the possibilities for their property to be used as an OHV park. Greg Chaney, Lands and Resource Manager, George Schaaf, P&L Superintendent and I met with Robert Loiselle, President and CEO of Goldbelt and Derek Duncan, VP of Operations. Information regarding the project was

presented and they are interested in continuing the discussions. I passed the information back to the City Manager for further action.

Tonight, we have a much lighter agenda then the last two months. Mark Pusich from R&M Engineering will be here to discuss the Master Planning going on at Adair/Kennedy Park. George Schaaf, P&L Superintendent will be giving us an update on his division and we will be discussing PRAC's Annual Report to be given to the Human Resources Committee next month.

Mr. Rutecki: Board Comments has been removed from the Agenda and we could put that back on the Agenda time which might meet Ms. Hood's need.
Discussion.

VI. Unfinished Business – none.

VII. New Business –

A. Adair-Kennedy Field update – Mr. Schaaf introduced Mark Pusich, R&M Engineering and Rich Ritter, CBJ Engineering.

Adair Kennedy has had some serious vandalism; recently someone drove over the backstop and through the grandstand. CBJ Parks doesn't have material to resurface the fields anymore and Adair Kennedy is scheduled for resurfacing. It is the main field for High School baseball and Little League. Is not ready on opening day because of weather. High School Baseball opening is held on football field because it is artificial turf. High staff maintenance support with dragging every day. Any other programs, like softball does not have a place to play. This plan is Master Plan for the entire park. There is a lot of opportunities with artificial turf, lower maintenance costs, extends the season, Dept. of Education funding for the school fields are subject to reimbursement which would bring cost reductions. Several of us have met with user groups at the schools to get ideas and needs. There will be neighborhood open house meetings coming in January and February. The Master Plan addresses a lot of the problems.

Mark Pusich with PowerPoint presentation. ■ Overall aerial view of park. Used for baseball and softball with football practice in the fall, track and soccer field, sledding hill and restroom and concession area. ■ Park entrance, ADA parking, concession and restroom. ■ Service entrance with bollards and rocks. ■ Sledding hill – non-snow condition. ■ Memorial Plaque, park is dedicated in memory of their service. ■ Overview of goals started in April 2013; make this a gateway in this community; safety; connections to all fields and restroom/concession area; new entrance with ticket kiosk to control access; relocation of sledding area, west side; dog park potential; trail system relocation and incorporate exercise equipment on trails; storm drain culverts; and more parking. ■ Overview Master Plan with existing track and baseball field: fence limits expanded on ball field; bullpens and batting cages; proposed softball field; sledding hill will be relocated; exercise path/trail to expand with stations; safety drop off zone to park with lighting; new concession and restroom area; entrance kiosk; climbing wall relocated with playground equipment; green area for dogs;

additional parking; memorial sculpture relocated; additional user group storage in complex. ■ Aerial view of the new Sitka turf field; ■ Another view of Sitka field. ■ Comparison photos – Adair Kennedy backstop; Sitka amenities; ■ Adair Kennedy Scoreboard needs replacement; some of pathway will be moved, flagpole and lights; dugouts enhancements. ■ Sitka's turf field features. ■ Another view of dugouts; ■ Baseball field turf and remodel plan – start with very important drainage system – turf 101: drainage system, whole field drainage. Turf based system, no dirt. Pine needles from tree area create maintenance challenges. Warm up bullpens, batting cages on each side; new fence all the way around; Two lights relocated, new scoreboard, flagpole relocated, new PA system. ■ Softball field is newly proposed. Title IX with education system requires with remodel of baseball field there needs to be a gender equal softball field developed and installed. This is a completely new turf fast-pitch softball field.

Next steps: public meeting in January. The school district needs to apply for funding; the school board will introduce the bond language, next municipal vote. If municipal bond is approved, 2015-2016 is target date.

Ms. Gilmour: Curious of reports drainage of Sitka field during “mud ball tournament”.

Mr. Pusich: worked very well – drainage is critical to our fields.

Mr. Wanamaker: where will the public hearing be held?

Mr. Pusich: Floyd Dryden School with public notice.

Mr. Schaaf: With direct mailing to neighborhood.

Mr. Rutecki: You didn't mention snow, one of biggest issues for the high school seasons. Someone was telling me about snow in Wyoming, and heated tiles, is that possible?

Mr. Pusich: It is possible, and comes with a pretty big price. In Thunder Mountain put heat tracing in the parameter, with parameter drain and helps the thaw process earlier, and thaws quicker. If we can get the shaded area cleared, that may facilitate field thaw and we won't have the silt layer – water will drain through turf and clear earlier.

Mr. Schaaf: We don't have field area large enough at Dimond Park.

Mr. Mertl: I think this is great and improvements; have heartache with taking away the un-programmed open space from the schools. No un-programmed runaround/play space. This plan creates more dark spaces and vandalism is a problem at parks. Not a fan of the sledding hill. Good ideas for improvements but I don't “get” the softball field.

Mr. Pusich: Part of the Plan is to increase parking; talk about education proponent of the Park, Floyd Dryden feels there is a better educational component with field addition during the day, using for PE. After hours, practicing and playing there is a potential of loss of play space. Schools believe this is needed.

Ms. Hood: I think an area for un-programmed recreation for young people is very important. I want to suggest you contact the *Empire* for the public meeting.

Mr. Ritter: Briefly, DoE has a program for debt reimbursement for school facilities 70% from the State if within their parameters. These fields need to demonstrate there it is an educational facility and further, that it is used by a physical education, or the State will not reimburse for a single use sports facility. That application to the State will show those two fields. Their preliminary feedback is they willing to consider the softball field, but they are having a hard time seeing the baseball turf as an educational facility. We received 60% debt reimbursement for 50% of the Dimond Park Athletic Center. They considered half of that facility was an educational facility. Since they are optimistic in supporting the softball field, we are going to make a Title IX argument that because we are providing turf for the women; we need to provide turf baseball for the men. The school board is meeting and need to approve the idea for this October. They are very sensitive to the debt burden the city has. The Assembly needs to approve it as well. We are moving ahead as if this will be approved for the October but don't know. Once approved we submit the application and goes back to the Assembly for debt reimbursement consideration.

Mr. Schaaf: Looking for your consideration and resolution of your support. And request the Assembly support it as well.

Mr. Mertl: What portion is CBJ Parks and which portion is school.

Mr. Schaaf: All City Land, we don't always respect which parcel lines within the park. For example, TMHS is within Dimond Park and we operate with the school district to decide who maintains what, and that is basically how it works. We work with their maintenance crew. For purposes of this Master Plan and field proposal we signed MoA with the School District indicating that the school district program has priority for scheduling on the fields and P&R Department maintains the fields. The School maintains building, grounds, classrooms and parking lots; we maintain fields, concession stand and grassy areas.

Mr. Rutecki: What does the School District do at Dimond Park Aquatic Center for their 30%?

Mr. Schaaf: That reimbursement was just for capital construction costs not for the operations.

Mr. Rutecki: How do you keep track, does anyone in State Education monitor that this softball field is going to be used for whatever percent of education over competition ball?

Mr. Ritter: In Juneau, they all read the Empire and someone will notice if it conflicts with the agreement.

Mr. Rutecki: At Dimond Pool we have a learn-to-swim program that should be expanded and a lot of people don't understand that it is a safety issue.

Ms. Walters: Monitoring and requirements to make sure the educational component is met is not very clear.

Mr. Ritter: No, it is a commitment. When you have sign the project agreement it is in the contract between the City and State. They don't monitor it. They don't have anyone who is checking.

Mr. Mertl: Who is the main proponent of the softball field, users, school district?

Mr. Schaaf: This is a School District project funded through education funding potentially through this bond reimbursement. The field is scheduled primarily for school use, but there is a benefit to the community at large because we have a lot of organizations, for example: American Legion, Midnight Suns, Little League, JSA, organizations that will make use of these fields. The P&R Department maintains all the fields used by the School District for their athletic programs with the exception of Thunder Mountain High School field.

Ms. Gilmour: I am all for this turf field because it helps Thunder Mountain get their own field and gives the Dimond Field back to JSA so we don't have trouble with scheduling. Does JSA know about this? I will bring this to them, and I think they will be very excited – this is a great focus, will the focus go back to Savikko Park?

Mr. Schaaf: We are still figuring that out. There is clay in the material at Montana Creek, we are optimistic. We don't know how much material is out there.

Ms. Gilmour: I will see that JSA knows about this and gets behind it, they will be very supportive.

Ms. Walters: Are you seeking support from us tonight or shall we wait until the next meeting.

Mr. Fischer: If the body is willing to support that is fine. If the body wants a letter, when will that be appropriate?

Mr. Ritter: February.

Mr. Fischer: We have a PRAC meeting in February and we will draft a letter for general support.

Mr. Mertl: Point of order: Since this is the first time this is before us – we can't do anything this time.

Ms. Walters: Is this something that PRAC will support and we will draft a letter at the February meeting? Hearing no objections this will be unfinished business at the next PRAC meeting.

B. 2014 Parks Maintenance and Landscape update report - George Schaaf, P&R Superintendent: I am going to the Committee of the Whole next week regarding Auke Lake. The Assembly requested that we come back with observations this summer to provide data on numbers of users and types of use. Bringing that information back, talking about the educational work, and enforcement work that went on, three things they ask for P&R to work on. He spent a great deal of time at the lake with officers. There are significant problems, difficult encounters with users, a lot of frustration from the public by the ordinance – I can't say whether it is because the ordinance hasn't been enforced. There is a lot of frustration with the 16 foot length limit. There are a lot of people that have been using the Lake for five or six years, and have been using boats over 16 feet and no one told them it wasn't OK. And now they want to understand why and it is a difficult position for our staff to be in out there trying to explain that to them. The ordinance as it is right now and the activity going on

out there is creating a lot of frustration for users and a lot of difficulties for us and for staff.

Cope Park – recently installed a project sign. Update: Fence installation did not happen. The new outfield fence ran into manufacturing problems, wrong color, lost in transit and we cannot get it in the ground, coming in the spring. Swings in the spring. Dog a regulation for parks needs to be adjusted, in conflict with off-leash Dog Park.

Montana Creek, gate installed this fall is working and serving purpose. One unexpected activity is the Nordic Club has groomed road and trail for skiing, a great new use for that area, and created a parking problem. There can be 20-30 cars on a busy day. The Rifle Club has issues with parking. P&R staff are working with Nordic Club and request skiing people to park on one side of the street, gate stays clear and the range parking is kept to range users. Discussion.

Twin Lakes Cabin - Putting together a Memo of Understanding with Juneau Adult Hockey Association to manage the building in winter (6 months) and available to public in summer through P&R Shelter rental. Summer fees will offset utility costs.

Winter staff: 4 staff full time – two shifts of 2 (32 summer staff). Plow all facilities, rinks, pools, headquarters in Douglas, Centennial Hall, Zach Gordon, plus 30 parks and 6 trailheads with 1 plow truck and 1 snow blower. 2nd plow under maintenance.

It has been snowing out the road; Arboretum has 5 feet and SAGA Lodge also. D&H helped to dig out SAGA facility. Single staff is doing snow removal. Down trees – 20 trees.

In the process of installing a new Asset Management Systems for P&R; we will use Lucity program that will allow document and inventory of assets, treating Parks like infrastructure. The program will provide accountability for how we do our work, and accountability when we have to go after restitution, such as vandalism and criminal activity. It will also track costs for fields, turfs, and bathrooms. Hope to use this information to allocate resources better.

Discussion regarding Mr. Schaaf's presentation and invite Mr. Schaaf back to give PRAC the Auke Lake information.

Mr. Mertl: Is there a way to add to agenda, do follow up on old “simmering business” by adding the list to a new agenda. Discussion.

C. 2013 PRAC Annual Report Discussion – Ms. Walters addressed the Report as distributed to the Committee and requested any input, changes, additions. Mr. Mertl will present to the Human Resources Committee on February 24.

Ms. Hood: I would like a change to include that I am working on the Commission on Aging and Mendenhall Wetlands Refuge boards;

Mr. Mertl: Would like mention of the Bond Initiatives, and PRAC work with Assembly to get approval for projects.

Mr. Rutecki: Would like some mention of future work, for example the Comp Plan with Bond Initiatives. The PRAC uses their Retreat to prioritize projects.

Mr. Fischer: In the report regarding the actual counts of trail users I have documentation of 400,000, which does not include non –commercial use of trails.

Mr. Mertl: Would like to see a listing events, of P&R related tournaments, special events; i.e., Swim Tournaments; Amazing Race; Rainbow Run; Girls on the Run; Use of Treadwell for 5Ks and High School meets; Conventions; Hockey Games.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and/or Staff Reports

A. Chair's Report: Kate Walters; HR Committee on 2/24 and in this meeting the available PRAC seats will be filled. Board retreat will be in May in the evening.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report: Randy Wanamaker:
Assembly Monday Meeting, listened to HR Committee report about Ordinance, recommended forward to Assembly for Public Hearings to transfer the Museum to the Library Division appears that it will go through because they are natural partners.

Assembly took action and approved transfer of \$300K passenger fees and other funds to Wellhead rehabilitation at Last Chance Basin, for cost of new wells and rehabilitation of existing field. Wells are drawing less water. This will restore the flow and water can go to the cruise industry which pays a higher price than CBJ public, they would rather buy our water than anywhere else in Southeast. In 2006 the retiring Fire Chief gave a clear warning of Last Chance Basin's abilities. He recommended putting in an additional water facility because if there was ever a fire downtown in the winter, we would be hard-pressed to put that fire out with our existing water supply and that wasn't a risk we should take. Our water also benefits all tourists that come here, and they [ships] would rather buy our water than any where else. The Cruise Industry has announced they are redeploying large ships away from Southeast AK to high growth markets in Asia. Assembly did not get consistent information on whether passenger numbers would be the same, and asked John Binkley to come on Feb 13 to address COW meeting at 6 p.m. with information of the Cruise industry directly. The report will address times of economic stress and passengers spending less or buy low end items.

Include the economic benefit report of the swimming pool because that was a prior Assembly decision.

Noise ordinance has a long history with vehicle noise in Lemon Creek and Valley from boom boxes in cars and people walking all hours of day and night. The Assembly recommended "reasonable person standard". Assembly spent a great deal of time finding their way through what should apply. Enforcement may be an issue.

Ms. Gilmour: You mentioned at past PRAC meeting the Assembly had a deadline of Dec. 31 for Waste Management, do you have an update?

Mr. Wanamaker: I applaud that you ([P&R]) are doing asset management. There is a city wide Asset Plan, as an Assembly Goal. We don't know all the things we have, don't know how to take care of them, and don't know how to budget for them. The deferred maintenance you've heard me speak about has become so large, we know we have to address that. Decisions on whether to building a new "anything" is based on what do we already have to take care of and what we have to do to bring them up to or keep them at current standards. We can't do that without an Asset Management Plan, something meant to be city wide.

The things you have heard about are very important, Economic Development Plan and Affordable Housing in all categories. There is a task force within the Juneau Economic Development Council that will be using a Rasmussen/Alaska Housing grant and matching funds from the City to do a market needs assessment on Juneau and outlying communities to see what kind of senior assisted living are needed.

The other one is Waste Management. The last report to the Assembly was in late September. There is a committee working with AML to extend the contract. There are environmental problems with leakage of containers. The Assembly has not received an update. I will ask at the next Public Works meeting. The last heard was a December 31 deadline. The Community is asking the Assembly to take care of this issue.

~~C. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson~~

D. Youth Activity Board: Tom Rutecki – Had YAB meeting December; went over grants application draft, changed some thing in scoring. Grants applications will be available on Jan 2. Contingency Grant meeting next week with plenty of funds.

E. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Kate Walters - meeting next week.

~~F. State Parks Board/Trail Mix: Gerry Landry~~

G. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership: Chris Mertl – annual meeting 1/14, Downtown Library 6 p.m.; looking for ideas and input and offering free pizza. They would like to hear from PRAC members. 20 people doing beautification in the city and would like to hear from the public.

H. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Board: Kate Walters – meeting tomorrow.

~~I. Eaglecrest Board/Nordic Ski Club: Odin Brudie~~

J. Juneau Sports Association: Tracie Gilmour – meeting is this coming weekend, first meeting of the year to kick off discussion for what is coming. I was at State meeting in December and will bring that information.

IX. Other Business

Mr. Mertl: As a parent of children ages 3 to 10, I see issues of scheduling of youth events. Question about "how do we make our facilities better", for example, there was a holiday swim at AGB; Me and my children arrived ½ hour before the registration event and if you were not in line at that time you didn't get registered – there were 12 kids and 3 instructors. I believe something is missing.

There are conflict sporting events for same ages happening at same time – hockey and soccer and no one will move or budge. We need to diversify if we want our kids to be involved. I spent every morning for two weeks in the pool, with DPAC closed on Mondays. That is 1 less day of lessons and we are missing the ball and would like PRAC to look at what our priorities with these issues. There is a desire and need for water safety training and swimming for our kids. Why should I have to pay adult fare at Treadwell to teach his children to learn how to skate? I suggest “family pass/rate” when parents teach how to swim/how to skate to make it more accessible. For all venues offer parent free admission or kids free if someone is being taught. Discussion.

I am looking forward to working on Comp Plan. I wants to hear about Auke Lake wayside and where that project stands. I happily announce that Lauren Anderson is the new Treadwell Ice Rink Manager. My children tell me that the water at DPAC is too cold, AGB is warmer. I am part of the Park Foundation working with Mr. Schaaf; the kick off meeting end of January and planning a meeting in February with stakeholders. The Foundation is looking at Rasmussen money for facility improvement. I also, am sad that there aren't Friday concerts in the Marine Park, would like PRAC to encourage JAHc to make it happen.

Ms. Hood: I want to thank you, Mr. Wanamaker, for your contributions to PRAC meetings.

X. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, **Ms. Gilmour made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Motion approved.**

NEXT MEETING – February 4, 2014, Assembly Chambers

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of January, 2014.
Fran Compton, P&R Administrative Assistant II