

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 1, 2013
CBJ Room 224

- I. Call to Order at 6:05 p.m.; Members present: Mr. Wilson, Mr. Rutecki, Mr. Landry, Mr. Mertl, Ms. Walters, Ms. Gilmour, Mr. Morrison; quorum present.
 - Absent members: Mr. Odin; Ms. Hood; Mr. Nankervis (assembly liaison)
 - CBJ staff present: Ben Lyman, CDD Senior Planner; George Schaaf, Superintendent of Parks Maintenance and Landscape; Fran Compton, Admin. Asst.
- II. Agenda Changes – Mr. Hudson could not attend and will be rescheduled to the next meeting.
- III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items - none
- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - September 3, 2013; No objections, minutes approved.
- V. Unfinished Business
 - A. Committee Retreat - On Hold; Mr. Wilson: Because of staff coordination this retreat is on hold. Mr. Schaaf: the delay is because P&R staff wants to get information about Off-Highway Vehicle Park out to the public and to the Assembly as soon as possible with PRAC involvement. As a result, P&R requests the retreat topics move to the December meeting. Mr. Wilson: My priority is to have the staff and Director put their priorities together and present, so that we can wrap our support around that. Discussion about priorities. Mr. Wilson: there is a lot on the table with this Comprehensive Plan (distributed) and we can bring to the Assembly.
- VI. New Business
 - ~~A. Invasive Plant Species in Parks: INFORMATION. John Hudson, USF&WS presentation~~
 - A. Auke Bay Master Plan Update: INFORMATION. Ben Lyman, CDD staff presentation: Drafted a scope of work to touch all bases of Auke Bay local neighborhoods (showing large scale map): shows larger Auke Bay area. CDD staff had a meeting with other CBJ staff and reviewed with all local agencies. CDD will be meeting with other agencies – NOAA, UAS, etc.; CDD will hold public meetings Oct. 15 and 19. They will be hybrid open house; CDD is making a brief presentation and requesting information – what is important, what works, what doesn't. Simple map (presented) shows roads, trails, and sidewalks – looking for feedback on the map accuracy. Next map shows sewer/water and property ownership, to show who owns what/where. In looking at housing density – this area is zoned for many more housing opportunities; there is development potential – CDD is looking at community development. Right now there is "spot zoning" for single properties with existing uses and development

rights, based on protecting elements of the zoning. One of the expected developments, based on other stake holders, will be to rezone the Auke Bay area. The idea is to create 1-2 new Auke Bay zones having multi-housing/marine usage to balance what goes on at NOAA or the university with what goes on the neighborhood. Auke Bay is unique and we need to develop unique tools. We want to balance with what is going on in the neighborhood. There is an image (on the map) which shows State Department of Transportation's (DOT) plans for the area. The roundabout under construction, the proposed Fritz Cove construction, and the new entrance to University project. These projects resulted in "friends of Auke Bay" mailing list and public outcry, which got CDD involved in the Auke Bay project. They reprioritized workload and made this a high priority. There are Docks & Harbors plans in your handouts for your review. UAS has a new master plan with "nodes". CDD is putting up an online survey. Mr. Lyman will take care of the survey site. CDD is looking for public direction – what do people want to see out of this? (Display) This is the most important map – do people consider this area the Auke Bay village? Consider end of Fritz Cove Road and Auke Rec area -- are these part of the village? Spuhn Island just bought Auke Bay property for Spuhn Island parking which will have to be considered. On the map of the area do we consider the DOT roundabout project – Sundown Drive, Fritz Cove, perhaps to Waydelich Creek's new development? Asking public to help make a decision of what is Auke Bay village, to consider accommodating many uses and areas – One zone area or five? There will be approximately one year of planning until adoption by Assembly. In a separate meeting Mr. Schaaf suggested this plan could be part of the master plan for Parks for the Auke Bay area. Could we make it a single chapter of this plan? Please give feedback.

- Mr. Wilson: any questions?
- Mr. Rutecki: Talking about Parks, for a long time we discussed in PRAC goals last year, that Auk Nu/Indian Cape land is park land and he would like a cultural park, is this where that gets more attention? Mr. Lyman: wherever we draw the small area plan boundaries, this may not be included, but for the larger area, we will be looking at community recreation areas like Auke Rec that draw people to the area, like the pocket park/neighborhood park, with a potential replacement for that facility. These may fall within a gray area that we want to call out and state this area will fill a niche in the Juneau Parks system then P&R and PRAC can call out this area. PRAC should work with Native organizations to develop plans to develop a cultural park. There is room for that in the plan.
- Ms. Gilmour: Why are you including Auke Rec? Mr. Lyman: because we should be aware and acknowledge to the public and ask "what is the village"; "what is the area for us to focus on"?
- Mr. Lyman: will circulate firm dates for public presentations to PRAC members, right now they are Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 5-8 p.m. Glacier View Room UAS (Library); and Sat., Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to noon – no room yet, one hour with presentation at the hour and then time for comments, questions and input from attendees. Three sessions each date.

- Mr. Mertl: Very exciting information, Auke Bay has a chance to be a very cool neighborhood, but if we don't start doing something it will be fragmented. I like that you are created continuity with what Parks and Rec and Lands is doing with Docks and Harbors projects and UAS projects, with commercial and housing – finding a way to bring them all together. It can be a walkable, bike-able, friendly neighborhood and positive contribution to Juneau.
- Mr. Wilson: Sewer is a long standing concern; do you know where that project is? Could be a limiting roadblock with increased density. Mr. Lyman: doesn't have information and the agencies did not come to last week's meeting.
- Mr. Wilson: Pedestrian and bike access is critical; signage is critical too, from Ferry Terminal to down town. He would like to see that included. The UAS Campus growth is happening and if we can keep pace, we would be providing activity opportunities there for that age group (kayaking, biking, and hiking).
- Mr. Landry: retail would be good, there is very little there.
- Mr. Wilson: rezoning for all the stores, storages, restaurants and open up for light commercial. Look for a smaller area for the village and develop what is in that small area. Look at ferry terminal, campus, Fritz Cove and others who will use this village for needs. This is a mixed use area.
- Conversation about new road (dorms, utilities tie-in)
- Mr. Lyman – working on similar alignments – big changes recently that increased residential zoning; light commercial zoning; and general commercial. There is currently movement with property owners, other plans being made before this plan has started.
- Mr. Wilson: Wants P&R to talk to you – there is a need for a playground/pocket park at the ferry terminal and wants PRAC to discuss. How can we work best with you on this project? Get back to Mr. Fischer to make arrangements to get PRAC input.
- Mr. Mertl: Healthy neighborhood is part of P&R goals by providing walkable, livable neighborhood. There may be conflicts and issues but perhaps there is an opportunity for an Auke Bay sea walk? Transportation and sidewalks make it special, safer, and aesthetic. We can think beyond parks to create a healthy environment to draw people.
- Mr. Schaaf: One of the things he asked for help from CDD is to help P&R get a sense for what CDD is doing. P&R staff will work out some details with CDD staff to get this moving.
- Mr. Wilson: Will this be thrown into the Auke Lake Master Plan? Staff/PRAC may not have expertise that CDD could offer to help us through the project
- Mr. Landry: do you have ideas already that we could help with or could lead?
- Mr. Lyman: yes and no, one of the problems is -- there is no street network, everyone passes through the round-about. With no alternative, there are no quiet residential streets, you are on the main road or not. Where do we have opportunities to create residential street networks? CDD is looking at all connections and planning to provide alternative routes. Another idea: DOT is still referring to this as ABCore and requested a by-pass road. CDD asking where can we put street scape design, where parks. Right now CDD needs to hear what the stakeholders want, what the community has to say. He is listening.

- Mr. Wilson: invite someone from CDD back as this plan progresses.
 - Mr. Lyman: will help with any of your planning of the P&R Comprehensive Plan. Has no interest to wrap up Auke Rec with Auke Lake area plan. Set up dates with this group to have a brainstorming session with map to talk, and then look at what is in CP and develop ideas. Mr. Wilson: would like to invite Mr. Lyman to our Comprehensive Plan work sessions.
 - Mr. Landry: Can we tie UAS into the Park concept and the CDD projects? Mr. Lyman working with Mr. Pugh for meetings and other ideas. Plan to include UAS with zoning for a multi-use area. The “Overpass money” at UAS is gone.
 - Mr. Mertl: We could have one meeting as a work session with Mr. Lyman as part of the Comprehensive Plan review.
 - Mr. Wilson: would like CDD bring things for us to think about - want to make this a learning process so that we all have a working document to use.
- B. AKDOT Project Update: INFORMATION. George Schaaf: Information about projects with DOT, Brotherhood Bridge, road reconstruction, bike path between Safeway and Auke Bay and Auke Lake wayside. DOT plans Brotherhood Bridge replacement, and widen Glacier Highway, with bike and pedestrian way, and under the bridge pedestrian/bike path bi-directional paved east to west. The access point to parking lot will be removed, with new drive way and bus parking with improved photo-point. The construction has bow-shape because it follows the old road. This map shows the bike path, new access into park, Bus stop. Adding parking and parking lot will push out to expand the viewpoint area with interpretive signage. [Second map]
- Question and answer session
 - Auke Lake Wayside update: the planned project has paved parking; a dedicated path connecting the Auke Lake Trail and UAS; a storm water treatment system; permanent bathrooms, floating dock along boat launch, picnic shelter with fire ring. This Plan is 65% completed. Handicap accessible path to viewing platform is planned with access from bike path; the two access points at this time will become one into the new parking lot. A guardrail along length of lake on multi-use path will be installed by DOT. Providing as much parking as possible to reduce parking along highway with two handicap parking spots. It was published last week that DOT proposes to eliminate all funding for this project. P&R believed DOT was committed and P&R had CIP money for this project. P&R was working with DOT on several projects. If you would like to make comments to this published Amendment I to Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) comments are due October 23.
 - Discussion
 - Mr. Wilson requesting PRAC endorsement for PRAC letter to DOT and to Assembly – send all comments to him. We need to get the Assembly’s support on this. Discussion
MOTION by Mr. Mertl: PRAC draft letters to Assembly and DOT asking DOT to return to the Auke Lake Wayside project. No objection, motion carried.

VII. Public Comment - none

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and/or Staff Reports

- A. Chair's Report: Jeff Wilson – in your packet are two diagrams – 1) Auke Bay Statter Harbor with Seawalk with Shelter, green space, and restrooms. Compliments to D&H for their new plan; 2) Cruise ship Berth site plan out to bid \$54M project – tram building under construction, sidewalks removed on South Franklin. Steamship wharf docs will become part of Sea Walk. Next phase of the Sea Walk is from Franklin to AML Dock. Would like PRAC to work on the end of Sea Walk Park for the whale sculpture and will discuss at the Comprehensive Plan reviews.
- B. P&R Director's Report: George Schaaf: OHV report – no new information but planning options: working to create one page site descriptions with the CBJ Engineering development possibilities. Nov. 4 taking NOHVCC Plan to State Parks and then to PRAC on Nov. 5 with community discussion to present ideas, see what site options are available, and what they cost. Looking for PRAC, State Parks, and Assembly guidance - what site priorities are and what options they like. Discussion on presentation by consultant; licensing provisions.

Mr. Schaaf: Some other things that will come next month – timing of capital improvement projects, funding for projects, which P&R wants PRAC input; Cope Park demolition bid is in; Montana Creek Road gate being built open same hours as rifle range with winter snow machine access.

- C. Liaison to the Assembly Report: Mr. Wilson for Mr. Nankervis: Assembly Committee Of the Whole (COW) is working on Comprehensive Plan update; Finance committee meeting approved federal and state budget requests. School District student decline impacting budget.
- D. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson: nothing to report
- E. Youth Activity Board - Tom Rutecki: Sept. 23 presented Annual YAB report to Assembly HR Committee; has to use 5% for contingency grants (Little League champs, Science winners); non-profits 29 proposals, everyone got an award. There is a new board member – Kelly Pajinaeg.
- F. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board - Kate Walters: Postponed meeting until the end of the month.
- G. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Board - Kate Walters: high number of visitors, looking at endowment with questions.
- H. State Parks Board/Trail Mix - Gerry Landry: Closing for winter, State Park Board meeting with Director to discuss fund raising; TrailMix – auction coming Nov 23. Mr. Schaaf: No more Peterson Lake work; Fish Creek for CBJ trail repairs; Treadwell Ditch trail is almost done with new bridges constructed.

- I. Eaglecrest - Odin Brudie: Eaglecrest looking for trail for summer hike/bike and winter Nordic.
- J. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership - Chris Mertl: nothing to report.
- K. Juneau Sports Association - Tracie Gilmour: Group did not meet.
- IX. Other Business – Ms. Compton: Mr. King was recognized at Alaska Recreation and Parks Association’s (ARPA) Annual Meeting.

Mr. Mertl: Beth Norlund with Anchorage Parks Foundation meeting with George Schaaf, to discuss terms of Juneau Park Foundation – articles are done, generated a list of people, and discussion. He notes sports for 5-6 year olds in Juneau all occur at same time on same days. Can P&R do better scheduling? He discussed with A. Lovejoy at P&R. Compliments to Myiia Wahto and Brent Fischer for ARPA – 80 in attendance – well done. Willoughby District Planning – not much discussion about P&R, discussion of “smart streets” – PRAC might want to get involved. Almost finished with Recreation Sign study with George Schaaf – there is no continuity historically – report coming.

- X. ADJOURNMENT – MOTION: Ms. Walters 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Fran Compton, P&R Administrative Assistant II

NEXT MEETING – November 5, 2013, CBJ Assembly Chambers, OHV Public Comment Meeting