

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 7, 2013
CBJ Assembly Chambers, 6 p.m.

- I. Call to Order 6:05
Attending: Jeff Wilson, Chair, Kate Walters by phone, Tom Rutecki, Gerry Landry, Traci Gilmour, Dixie Hood, Odin Brudie
Absent: Chris Mertl, Eric Morrison
Assembly Liaison: Jerry Nankervis
Staff Attending: Brent Fischer, P&R Director; Fran Compton, P&R Admin Assistant II; George Schaaf, P&L Superintendent
- II. Agenda Changes : Mr. Fischer: Add under unfinished business B: Reaffirm Officers; no opposition to change
- III. Public Testimony of Non-Agenda Items:
Channel Drive Fishing Access: Jim Becker: 2616 #205 Douglas Hwy; (Fisheries Development Committee) and Brian Glynn; 1108 Wee Burn Dr. (F&G, Fisheries).

Mr. Becker: Issue is roadside fisheries; met with the PRAC about “under the bridge” park. Basically he is touching base with PRAC because they are still interested in pursuing a request for assistance in acquiring land on Channel Drive. He is coming to the PRAC for assistance in managing the issues of state, city and private land use issues.

Mr. Glynn: Regarding the private land, he had a brief conversation with the owner this afternoon. Channel Dr. ends in a cul-de-sac (State land) and private land before it and city land under lease at site of Channel Marina. Their interest is to set aside this land for public access for fishing, so that as time goes by and shoreline is picked up, this area would not be lost for public access. Right now it is difficult to access and parking is also an issue. State DOT indicated they want to insure utility vehicles have room to work. In order to provide parking the group wants to acquire the private land for parking. When he spoke to owner he was told he was interested in selling or trading for city land.

Discussion regarding the project.

Mr. Wilson: When you are ready to move on this, keep networking and come to PRAC meeting as an Agenda item presentation. PRAC would then write a letter of support and forward to Lands. For the park under the bridge he recalled seeing a dock on plans, is that still happening? Mr. Glynn: does not know about a dock there. His interest is in acquiring the Channel Dr. land so it still remains public land for fishing access.

Mr. Wilson: Might want to network with SEAL Trust? City Engineer, Skye Stekoll is here and he is running the “under the bridge” park, you will want to network them. Mr. Fischer: offer to contact these gentlemen, looks like it was presented to Lands in February and will find out where it is with the new Lands Director. Mr. Wilson: Mr. Fischer, please bring this information back to the PRAC at the next meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - April 2, 2013; no opposition to Minutes, approved.

V. Unfinished Business

A. PRAC Resolution 2646. Mr. Fischer: [handout] Going to HRC on May 13, 2013, for approval and recommendation to the Assembly. Law made the correction. Reviewed what happened at the meeting last month to construct this Resolution with 3 purposes. Ms. Hood motion for approval; no opposition.

B. Reaffirm Officers: Mr. Fischer: because we removed the By-laws and approved resolution we should reaffirm the officers and particularly, the secretary position whose duties will now be supported by P&R Dept. staff. Reaffirm the elections made last month for Chair, Jeff Wilson, Vice Chair, Kate Walters, and 2nd Vice Chair, Chris Mertl with P&R staff to act as secretary (non-voting position): Mr. Brudie motion for approval; no opposition.

VI. New Business

Sea Walk – Mr. Fischer: CBJ presentation for PRAC information. CBJ engineers doing the Sea Walk: Michelle Elfers; CBJ Engineering Dept.: Miners Cove to Franklin Dock; [3 D drawings included in packet.] which is adding 16 feet to Sea Walk; eventually it will go all the way to the AJ dock. This is private land with an easement from landowners, and 75% construction and go to bid this summer and construction. Cost estimate is \$3.9M. Landowners requested CBJ add a permanent canopy over the walk.

Discussion regarding the Sea Walk status and funding.

Mr. Stekoll: History of Sea Walk is a long range waterfront plan. [handout] Area A: environment enhancement, open space and recreation. Expanding the park and recreation are main goals. Create an artistic gateway and Gold Creek protection zone. 2010 first started with announcement that Public Works facility would move to Lemon Creek and what to do with the old property. Between Bridge and Sub port – went out for public comments; in 2010 contracted with Tetra Tech with 3 options; design in the handouts. End 2010 working on demo plans for city shop site; PRAC and D&H meetings to – plan has bold black line from Maritime Center to West side of Bridge. Tabled the project until funding and the shop was moved. The Whale (sculpture) was officially adopted to this site and is coming. Two parts: Park and Sea Walk and the Park will be a destination. In the design the park under the Bridge is a placeholder for a park/playground – something to discuss. Best uses with talk of a big grassy area on the waterfront which came up in public meetings and the Whale. The shoreline currently has all kinds of fill and they will want to do something to that slope – perhaps build it out for the Whale and easy access to fishing. At one point there was a fishing pier,

but that has changed. Public complaints - worried about traffic. The Whale will draw traffic so they allow bus parking. The drive is headed to Gold Creek with elevated Sea Walk. In front of F&G, has opportunity to make a decision to pull in, go to the spit or continue; this is the beach access point. Headed toward downtown "island concept" as a result of public interest – one area where there could be a different experience. Clean up area and create a natural habitat – right now conceptual with biologists will help design and what to put there. The pool (duck area) perhaps maintain, use as feature. All along waterfront are connections with DOL building, tide walk and bring toward Gold Creek and funding will stop there and will tie back into Egan. The funding was set aside with cruise ship docks, with bond sale, \$15M set aside. Specifically for marine park Sea Walk – some question whether that bond money can be spent on other areas of the Sea Walk. Big picture – bridge to the rock dump is the goal. When private land owners come forward and work with us for each segment. In talk with owners, but only Miners Cove owners are for progress at this time.

Questions and discussion about specific aspects of proposal and funding.

Mr. Wilson has been hired as a contractor as designer to estimate costs. The PRAC staff has drafted a letter of support. With Ms. Walters (by phone) and Mr. Wilson will recuse himself and asked Ms. Walters to speak regarding the proposed letter of support to the CBJ Assembly.

Review the contents of letter, states PRAC's ongoing support and requesting shift of funds to projects that are ready to go. Ms. Hood: Under number two to ask the assembly: reference to \$1M funding from Legislature - is that for the Whale and Marine exchange? Ms. Walters: Marine exchange facility. Mr. Fischer: correct. Ms. Hood: might want to make that sentence clearer. Ms. Walters: The money has been set aside, is letter makes sure PRAC we aren't forgotten about.

Mr. Landry: Was this letter just written today? Mr. Fischer: He did the draft, did not get it out to committee sooner.

Discussion and clarification.

Mr. Rutecki: motion to submit the letter; second Ms. Hood; no opposition. Ms. Walters: PRAC will submit the letter.

Discussion and congratulations to the Engineering Dept.

Mr. Fischer: requesting Ms. Mayer come forward, requesting PRAC support for this presentation.

SEAL Trust/Montana Creek Trail, Diane Mayer; Exec SEAL Land Trust requesting a letter of support of donation of Montana Creek easement. Diane Mayer, ED SEAL Land Trust 159 Seward St. Ste 2; Purchase agreement with Juneau Youth services to acquire 190 acre at Montana Creek. Expansive wetlands. Seeking PRAC support for SEAL to donate the parcel to CBJ and holding a conservation easement to permanently place conservation values of

the site. Presentation of Overlay of aerial survey. Area is existing 160 acre parcel JYS has, Montana Bill site – 10 acre withheld Wren Dr. for future use (developable property). City has a right of way piece abuts the Kaxdigoowu Heen Dei trail off River Road. Acquisition will include a little triangle on side of road, the majority of the parcel and include an option for the Montana Bill which will be part of the purchase. Everything shown is 130 acre parcel. The survey is being done for parcel being subdivided. Because it's a high wetland value area, they have fees set aside for fees in lieu of mitigation for wetlands impact. Shows aerial watershed for Montana Creek done by Trout Unlimited. One of their recommendations was all CBJ wetlands associated with Montana Creek get an expanded buffer. A lot of city land to JYS parcel.

Ms. Hood is the Back Loop road on your map? Ms. Mayer: yes (pointing out Road and campus and bridges). In context with City land and University land, see there is CBJ abutment, trail land abutment, Right of Way from City; we get a lot of connectivity and city ownership which heightens value to have as habitat. Along Montana creek the University piece is a major West side wetlands.

Mr. Wilson: Regarding an access trail at the University in the last bond we received funding for a trail; does that cut through that area? Mr. Schaaf: (showing). Mr. Wilson: through university property. Ms. Mayer: recent conversation, SEAL Trust made an offer in 2006 and put together an agreement that did work out, needs subdividing and title work. One of the things they talked about was a Trail on this side of the River and some future discussion about a bridge so the trails could connect; would be provided for in the purchase sale agreement and the conservation easement. City owns two parcels above and they have conservation easement on those, planned unit development; with some continuity with proposed parcel. (showing another slide) A beautiful area along Montana Creek. Recently mapped streams in this area.

Mr. Landry: as part of this agreement are you/City being obligated to put the bridge in or the trail across? Ms. Mayer: No. Mr. Wilson: Next PRAC/Trail Mix issue. JYS is talking about stopping access and may still happen. This would give us an option for another trail.

Ms. Mayer: the land trust in 1) acquiring, 2) donating but retaining conservation easement; none will strike the trail along this side once the bridge question gets resolved. Wetlands value and fishing value and beaver dam and a very rich area. Site summary: High proportion of perennial streams providing flood storage. Acts as a big sponge and crucial for valley and River for water storage and slow water release. Interspersion of wetland channels through wetlands. Utilization of juvenile salmon and resident fish; provides buffer corridor for bear and deer movement. Provides opportunity. Stunning views. Have donation agreement based on continue to pursue the acquisition and if at closing everything would be taken care of, SEAL Trust not interested in chain of title and would go right to the city. If they aren't through easement or law, they will take ownership and as quickly as possible transfer ownership to city. If they own it fee simple they have to develop a management plan and a lot of paperwork, so she would like to streamline and manage the conservation easement.

Could she have a resolution from the PRAC support this, she could take to Lands Committee and Assembly to get donation processed.

Mr. Wilson: timing? when? Close before bringing to Lands? Ms. Mayer: She would like a resolution and close by end of June. She plans to go to Lands next month. Mr. Wilson: Mr. Fischer, this land will be Lands to manage and not P&R. -- who is going to manage this land? Mr. Fischer: Conversation between Ms. Mayer, Mr. Schaaf and Mr. Chaney, he will work it out an agreement with Lands on the Park responsibility. Ms. Mayer: there are trails and city land – who manages? Mr. Wilson: P&R manages the trail and CBJ Lands manages the land. Mr. Schaaf: Brotherhood Bridge and park is greenbelt land and P&R manages. Mr. Wilson: Montana Bills parcel a historical parcel? Ms. Mayer: Haven't seen any signs. Mr. Wilson: P&R might be interested in signage there.

Mr. Brudie: conservation easement how does that impact trails construction. Ms. Mayer: Once the donation is in place, maintain the parcel for open space and identify where the trail is and have terms to define the character of what would be built. Anytime there is a conservation easement and you alter the footprint, there will be parameters for its design.

Mr. Landry: full support, and good idea. If you are giving it to the City, why is JYS going through SEAL Trust? Ms. Mayer: we are buying the land, but we are not vested in owning large amounts of land. It makes more sense to give it to a managing entity with a conservation easement and prevent over building in the area.

Mr. Rutecki: what is the zoning? Ms. Mayer: I think it is a rural reserve? Mr. Rutecki: do you have a per cap acre. Ms. Mayer: we had an appraisal and used that as a base. Mr. Rutecki: Are you done trying to acquire the wetlands (Honsinger Pond area) property? We would be better off having that parcel than this one. Ms. Mayer: the key in the work we do, the bigger issue is willing land owners. If you have willing then there is someone to figure funding. She spoke to Bicknell and made offers and he didn't accept.

Mr. Wilson: requesting a motion PRAC would support the SEAL Trust Montana Creek acquisition and donation to CBJ with conservation easement. And Mr. Wilson will write a letter of support. Mr. Rutecki motion, no opposition.

Mr. Wilson will draft a letter and send to PRAC members and give to Mr. Fischer to forward to PRAC members. Ms. Mayer: Thank you.

Community Gardens - Mr. Fischer: Mr. Schaaf will present the development of a small scale community garden development – information item only.

Mr. Schaaf: (Power Point presentation) Landscape Division has dozens of sites throughout Juneau maintained by Landscape – surprised sometimes. Asking questions and had conversations; historically Landscaping mows vacant lots owned by CBJ that are not used. There is a high demand for community

gardens, they get many local requests. There is a large community garden at Montana Creek. The idea to use these areas, maintained by the local community folks who use the plots. There are two: (1) Douglas 4th St.; Douglas mini-park – grassy hillside. (2) Mountainside Estates Hillcrest Ave; Want to contact the neighborhood people and send letters surround parcels and the idea and explain and gain interest. Ben has talked with the Douglas community garden association and the Juneau community garden association - these groups have the support services to manage gardens, issue plots and receive payments. P&R would not have to do a thing.

Mr. Fischer: This idea is a win for the community and for the department – and when we can't get out timely to mow then the community calls in and demands mowing. Ms. Hood: if the Douglas plot is on a slope, would it have to be leveled out? Mr. Schaaf: there won't be a problem and we could help. Further committee discussion on the proposal with agreement from the committee.

VII. Committee, Liaison, and/or Staff Reports

A. Chair's Report: Jeff Wilson: Still discussing with Mr. Fischer the PRAC retreat – needs staff comments for coming season. Mr. Fischer: Budget reduction list – long range strategic planning; look at our values and our long term 10 year range. Would like to bring to PRAC so you can select to support. May have to request your retreat to July. Mr. Wilson will bring this up in June to finalize date.

B. Liaison to the Assembly Report: Jerry Nankervis – the Committee of the Whole received Auke Lake Management Plan, by G. Schaaf with Mr. Fischer. Assembly will not move forward with ordinance changes. Members concerns: usage of lake usage was anecdotal, wants more hard numbers. Wasn't willing to move forward on an ordinance change. Budget still in process. Ad-hoc committees reported – subdivision ordinance change in process with designated area for a park area – wants to reduce the cost of that – ask homeowners would agree to the parcels to return to the City. Manager's evaluation in process. City Attorney position going out for announcement. Mr. Nankervis may miss only two meetings because of his fishing commitments and he will be sure to communicate with Mr. Fischer. Mr. Wilson: that is why we have a retreat and then a facilities visit during the summer.

Discussion about further action by staff and what PRAC would do next. Mr. Schaaf was able to reorganize positions, will have the park ranger assigned and will have a presence at the Auke Lake. The Park Ranger is trained. We have a request with the City Manager to enforce the rules that are in place.

C. Youth Activity Board: Tom Rutecki – scored the grants and assigned the \$\$ to different groups – 28 applications, gave \$350K. He will be at the assembly finance meeting to give a report. May 14th meeting with 5 contingency grants.

D. State Parks Board/Trail Mix, Inc.: Gerry Landry – Eaglecrest Trails Board developing a new trail from base of Ptarmigan to Cropley Lake. May be

developed to cross-country skiing for long range planning. State Parks Board has concluded for the season at the Gruening cabin recognized Mr. King.

- E. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson; asked Mr. Mertl to attend, and he is not present.
- F. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership: Chris Mertl – not present.
- G. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Kate Walters – meeting on the 14th.
- H. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Board: Kate Walters – Plant sale this weekend. Look for signs.
- I. Docks & Harbors Board: Dixie Hood – no new report.
- J. Eaglecrest Board/Nordic Ski Club: Odin Brudie – no report. Mr. Landry: going to get a new snowmobile machine that can groom the trail.
- K. Juneau Sports Association: Tracie Gilmour – down on teams, Savikko fields are not settling and using Dimond.

VIII. Other Business: Ms. Hood – Tuesday, May 14th Planning commission with Bicknell's request to change the comprehensive map going to commercial at Honsinger Pond. Mr. Fischer: he wrote a letter to Mr. Bicknell that Parks and Recreation has an interest in the property but does not have funding at this time. Ms. Hood – she took photos at Jim King's Assembly presentation and contacted Juneau Empire – and there will be an article about Jim King.

IX. ADJOURNMENT, Motion Ms. Gilmour, no opposition.

NEXT MEETING – June 4, 2013

Respectfully submitted, Fran Compton, recording Secretary Parks & Recreation,
6/28/13