

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 5, 2013
CBJ Assembly Chambers, 6 p.m.

Call to order 6:05 p.m.

- I. **Attending:** Eric Morrison, Dixie Hood, Gerry Landry, Jim King, Chris Mertl, Tom Rutecki, Odin Brudie, Kate Walters, Jeff Wilson.
Assembly Liaison attending, Jerry Nankervis
Staff attending: George Schaaf, Parks and Landscape Superintendent, Brent Fischer, P&R Director, Fran Compton, Admin Assistant

II. **PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none**

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA, approved.**

IV. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A. January 29, 2013, Auke Lake Public Comment Meeting; approved as presented.

B. February 5, 2013, PRAC Meeting Minutes;

Requested corrections from Ms. Walters, Ms. Hood and Mr. Brudie noted. Motion for approval with corrections

- V. **REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIAISON - Jerry Nankervis:** Assembly met last night, mentioned 3 seats on PRAC with an application period extension to March 20; they are encouraging applications.

Questions and answers to Mr. Nankervis.

VI. **CHAIR REPORT – Mr. Wilson:** He has been in touch with Ben Lyman, regarding the DOT proposal to change roadway sections and sidewalks on Egan Drive. Comments are due by April 4. They are working on bike lanes. He will send a notification from DOT to PRAC members. Since this is a PRAC goal, he encourages members to comment. He heard the City is looking at the whale sculpture park and seawalk.

In April the committee will discuss a change in the meeting's agenda to align with other committees. We will look at retreat date and suggested changes.

VII. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Brent Fischer:** Two information items on tonight's agenda; Cope Park and Capital School Park Master Plan will be presented by Parks and Landscape Superintendent, George Schaaf. There are also two items of note: The first is the three PRAC seats that were to expire at the end of February have been extended until new appointments are made by the Assembly which is set for April 1st. The application deadline is now March 20. HR committee will meet on March 27th to review. The second is Auke Lake Management Plan (ALMP) draft to go before the Committee of the Whole (COW) on April 8.

Mr. Brudie: Will the Director update the plan to reflect what was accepted by staff on the first recommendation and PRAC's recommendations?

Mr. Wilson: The committee was going to write a cover letter. He requested that the Director let him know when those documents are ready to forward and he will write the introductory letter. Other questions among committee members regarding dates and times of presentations of applicants and the ALMP.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS - none

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS – George Schaaf:

- Cope Park
- Update on Cope Park - Today a Request For Proposal (RFP) was published seeking
 - consultants to develop a survey,
 - a master plan, and
 - bid ready construction to demolish old restrooms and picnic shelter.
 - It will be a large contract, with phases depending on the funding which is not available at one time.
 - There is \$250 thousand now available in capital improvement and requested \$65 thousand in 2014, with the 1% of \$150 thousand in FY2016 or FY2017.
 - This RFP is for a civil engineer, a landscape architect, and developing master plan for the park and demolishing structures.
 - About half of the Park use activity is school activity.
 - (Showing slides) The playground is where the swimming pool used to be.
 - The picnic shelter was built, using Land-Water Conservations funds, which means there are strings attached (if we do not remove the shelter it will be 50 years old and then it is impacted by historic issues). P&R has consulted with AK State Parks for any objections to demolish-and-replace when there is funding. They do not have a concern, which allows us to remove obsolete structures. The picnic shelter has been a source of maintenance problems for P&R and police department, with issues of long term camping in and outside, drug use and drinking. The shelter walls make it difficult to see inside. The vandalism includes kicking out the walls and damaging the furniture.
 - (picture) This bathroom was closed when funding was made available for new bathroom structure but funding was used before they could demolish the old structure. It will be demolished this summer.
 - There are safety concerns of the roof on dugouts (5 feet high), and the issues of long term camping in there. The area behind the dugouts is overgrown and is not a useful area at this time. Because the retaining wall is holding back the hillside P&R would like professional information/input to see if there is anything that can be done with this area.
 - The overall problem for maintenance of the current ball field is there is no drainage. That creates giant ice problems.
 - (Picture) Throughout the park there are crumbling rock walls and a hazardous rock staircase.
 - The current swing sets are tot swings, because we don't want regular swings that would eject someone to the rock wall. Someone cut through all the seats in the other swing set; they are out of safety compliance. Rather than replace, P&R is waiting until remodeling the park to do it right for less money. Swings will be placed in a different location.
 - The RFP is due back 3/26; bid drawings by the end of May; structures demolition this summer.

Questions and answers among committee members regarding: playground costs, ball field use, need for community outreach or input.

Mr. Schaaf: Survey is online and accessible at the Park with a scan barcode for smartphone apps. There are five questions, and takes less than a minute to complete. The survey asks what improvements they would like. It is multiple choice, i.e., How safe do you feel? And there are questions with open ended responses allowed. We are still getting responses, so this survey is ongoing. Approximately 200 people have responded (Mr. Wilson and Ms. Walters indicated they had responded). The survey can be accessed from P&R website and the information is posted at the park.

- Capital School Park – George Schaaf
 - Chris Mertl has produced a terrific conceptual master plan for remodeling the Capital School Park, with input from community gardens and users from schools, a day care and a charter school. Because improvement will come from 1% sales tax proposals, we wanted a master plan. Many people use the park and it is being loved to death. It is the biggest park in downtown area. There were three public meetings facilitated by Mr. Mertl. After the first meeting, with input from 30-40 people in a brainstorming session, Mr. Mertl presented conceptual designs. With feedback from the second meeting, Mr. Mertl's final plan and drawing are presented tonight.
 - We were approached during the research phase by the Empty Chair Memorial committee. They requested a memorial recognizing the Japanese internment for WWII (shown at bottom right corner, grassy knoll). The concept is a 1.5 scale auditorium chair which represents the empty chair at the high school graduation the year Japanese heritage citizens were evacuated. Mr. Mertl's proposed setting was well received at a public meeting last week, adding two Japanese cherry trees behind memorial.
 - Other things discussed: spot for community garden on the slope, children's garden, basketball court, restroom, storage area, arbor with picnic area, grill and a place for downtown to stop for lunch and parents to watch kids.
 - Additionally, artificial turf is being proposed for this park to provide the durable surface without dirt.
 - Fenced dog area (pointed out). This is currently a dog area for the neighborhood; the remodel would formalize and reduce dog waste through the park.
 - Sled hill is retained.

Questions from the committee members to clarify the drawing, including disability parking, financing available, implementation dates and possible funding opportunities.

Mr. Schaaf: Mr. Mertl did a phenomenal job with this plan - Thank you Mr. Mertl.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rutecki: Youth Activity Board - Met several times and mostly for main event – grant applications were due last Friday. There are quite a few. The committee meets 4/22-23 to score and decides the \$300K funding. The Board held election officers; he accepted the Vice Chair position.

Mr. Landry: Trail Mix – Annual Report on Jan 26, reviewed 2012 projects. The primary 2013 project is the State Parks Oliver Inlet tram. The trail plan previously discussed is being edited and will be published soon. With the 1% Sales Tax income they will do the Auke Lake connection, the horse trail to Amalga, and more on Montana Creek.

Mr. King: State Parks Board – did not meet yesterday and he doesn't have new information, asked Mr. Landry if he had anything. Mr. Landry, nothing to report.

Mr. Wilson: Lands Committee – meeting on Monday, last couple of meetings were cancelled.

Mr. Mertl: Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership - Met on 2/12. The group submitted an application to nominate Juneau as Tree City USA. They expect Juneau will receive it (7th year) and planning an event the third Monday in May, at Evergreen Cemetery. Also hosting a reception at City Museum, a booth at Home Show this weekend, and doing event with the Forest Service for Earth Day with Restoration Plant project, to nurture and observe plants. Unhappily the Planning commission eliminated the vegetative coverage in mixed zoning areas. This committee's funding sources are from memberships.

Ms. Walters: Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board – missed last month's meeting and is asking for someone from PRAC to take over as liaison for this board. Discussion among members regarding current conditions of the Aquatic Facilities Board and the pools.

Ms. Walters: Jensen-Olson Arboretum Board – meeting tomorrow; no new information. There will be a May Plant Sale.

Mr. Brudie: Eaglecrest Board/Nordic Ski Club – nothing to report. Mr. Wilson requested he extend his thanks for the entire trail grooming this year for the community.

Ms. Hood: Docks & Harbors - meeting held on 2/28. John Lockwood wanted Docks & Harbors' board support to proceed with his design for ATS5568A plat, tideland lease at the little rock dump. His design is a park, small harbor, and snow dump. He has interest and funds coming from all over the world. He requested the board's support. The Board members stated they had already approved this project. South Franklin Street project moving ahead with uplands project on Dock Improvement 16B, which recommended removing sidewalks on South Franklin to encourage people to use the seawalk. Osborne appeal was denied.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE - none

XII. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none

XIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Mertl: loss of free parking at subport, using DTC parking permit and was surprised that P&R is managing parking - seems odd. Mr. Fischer explained staff support to parking.

Mr. Mertl: Docks and Harbor's board is moving forward on marine exchange building design, up to 65% and soliciting the legislature. We might want to stay on top, there is delineation between the under bridge park and this project. Mr. Wilson stated he is staying on top of this development.

Mr. Mertl: Old time hockey tournament here with 90 people from out of town, Dawson, Palmer, Eagle River, White Horse, Haines and Petersburg, contacted by sister cities, Whitehorse and Juneau – an event every year. This year Whitehorse won (tie game the older team wins on a tie) Mayor Sanford presented the award to Doug Gram, who presented the award at the city chamber meeting in Whitehorse. Thank you to Treadwell staff.

Mr. Mertl: Requested a list of items when committee members ask questions or make requests, to become a running checklist of things that the committee could use to keep track. Mr. Fischer stated this information will be addressed in the new formatting for agenda.

Ms. Walters: Was in Anchorage on Wed. and Thur. with Outdoor Recreation Trails Advisory Board, and is now the Vice Chair. It was a successful two days, with scoring and ranking of grant applications. They also took recommendations to the commissioner and made progress in restructuring applications, making it easier for applicants to write successful applications, which will make them easier to score. Trail Mix did not get approved, State Parks did for rehabilitation of Pt. Bridget Trail. Will hear in a couple of weeks what the funding will be.

Mr. Morrison – nothing to report.

Mr. Brudie: DOT Plans for Glacier Ave Plans and Dzantik'i Heeni area – Mr. Landry went to meeting and provided input. Mr. Brudie met with Juneau Freewheelers and connected John McConnochie with Ben Lyman to coordinate on comments. They are getting lots of comments from the JPD to Lemon Creek and putting those comments aside for now to stay focused on the corridor for bicycle accommodations and pedestrian.

Mr. Fisher: He reviews plans, and then makes his comments to Ben Lyman and always looks at pedestrian and bike corridors and you can count on his input.

Ms. Hood: Sister City Classic write up in the paper caught her attention. She left a message at the Empire, as never mentioned what the average age was, so why were they the winners? Mr. Mertl: all players had to provide proof of age -- Whitehorse: average age was 58, Juneau's average age was 48 and the oldest was 75. She wants to acknowledge that James King, Trail Mix hero of the past is now director of P&R in Bellingham WA.

Mr. King: Did not apply for another term on this committee, recently working on comprehensive vision statement of trails in Juneau. There is no way to put all the walking places in Juneau into one peice, but there are grant proposals, and he will keep working on that. This is a city committee and it appears it doesn't feel comfortable commenting on potentials projects with the Forest Service. He believes there are project opportunities on Juneau trails other than through just the CBJ. He believes it will be very appropriate to invite the FS and DOT to come to a meeting of this committee and talk about public interest of trails and some of the things they could jointly do. He will be working on this project. Another project with tremendous potential is hunt trails. Looking back at what the Park Service said twenty years ago, being the best in the country - best in Alaska, jointly there were trail project recommendations which were accomplished as a group. There is a lot to do in that arena for him to work on.

Mr. Wilson: this will be your last official PRAC Meeting and would like to recognize your accomplishments for many years with a round of applause. There was committee discussion regarding upcoming assembly recognition for Mr. King. Mr. Fischer: He hopes he will come back to future meetings and continue to participate.

Committee discussion about how the PRAC can assist Mr. King in his joint effort endeavors.

Discussion between Mr. Wilson and P&R staff regarding Treadwell clearing and funding.

Mr. Wilson: Dedication for the John Caouotte Cabin at Twin Lakes is Saturday (March 9) at 3 p.m., with a party at Hangar Ballroom at 7 p.m. This committee wants to recognize everyone that worked on it.

XIV. NEXT MEETING – April 2, 2013

XV. ADJOURNMENT - Mr. Mertl: motion for Mr. King to gavel us out. No opposition. Meeting adjourned by Mr. King 7:50pm