

**Minutes of
RKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, November 13, 2012
City Hall Conference Room 224, 6pm**

I.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Chris MerB; Tom Ru ecki; Eric Morrison; Ka e Wa ers; Dixie Hood; Gerry Landry; B
Odin Brudie; Jim King

Members absent: Jeff Wi son, Chair; B

Staff present: ren Fischer, Director; Myiia WhisBer, Recreation Superintenden ; Amanda Wi kins, B
Administrative Assistant

II.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-RECREATION ITEMS - none

III.

REVIEW OF RECREATION ITEMS

ren Fischer requested to add information on Auke Lake meetings; Ms. Wa ers asked if they can be
added to his director's report. Mr. Fischer said yes. Mr. Morrison motioned to approve

IV.

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES

A.B. September 11, 2012 – motioned by Mr. MerB
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V.

REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIAISON – no report

VI.

CHAIR REPORT – no report

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

**Director's Report
November 13, 2012**

There are no action items on the agenda, but there are three information items:

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Update:

In October we awarded a contract to USKH Inc. to acquire all publicly available information regarding the site
of a proposed OHV park near 35 Mile Glacier Hwy. We expect to have some preliminary maps this week.

In addition to public resources, CBJ has also purchased high resolution satellite imagery of the site, and is in
the process of obtaining extremely good LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) data acquired by the US
Forest Service last summer (LIDAR uses lasers to develop extremely accurate topographic maps showing
elevation and even vegetation types).

Two weeks ago, staff from Parks & Recreation and Engineering hiked across much of the site to field-verify
more than 30 locations observed on aerial imagery, including wetlands, cliffs, and possible access points.

We will be ready to present more information after we receive some data from our consultants at USKH in a
few days.

Dimond Park Ice rink:

On October 29th, I gave a presentation to the Committee of the Whole on the proposed new ice rink facility at Dimond Park by the Juneau Community Foundation.

The purpose of the presentation was to give the Committee of the Whole information on the Treadwell Ice Arena and how it may relate to a proposed new ice rink facility at Dimond Park.

As stated in the presentation, an internal staff committee was formed as a result of the request by the Juneau Community Foundation to have CBJ operate this new facility if it was built. The purpose of the committee was to review existing P&R plans, conduct public meetings, and gather information regarding user information and operation and maintenance costs of the Treadwell.

The presentation discussed that the current P&R Comprehension Plan, Dimond Park Master Plan and the Savikko Park Master Plan all support that when a second sheet of ice is necessary, the Treadwell Arena should be considered for housing it.

The presentation showed that the main user groups' membership were either showing no growth or declining. It also showed declining total participation trends.

Treadwell's revenues and expenditures were discussed showing a 49% cost recovery and the declining cost recovery at Augustus Brown Swimming Pool since the opening of the Dimond Park Aquatic Center.

Based upon the current adopted plans that went through public comment does not support an ice facility at Dimond Park, the current demand does not indicate a need for a second sheet and our current budget climate, I made a recommendation to the Committee of the Whole that we could not afford a second sheet of ice, no matter where it was built.

After my presentation, the Mayor made a motion to direct the City Manager to work with the JCF on this project and return information regarding the scope of work for a feasibility study at Dimond Park that met the concerns of the Committee and to get an estimate for a feasibility study for a second sheet of ice at the Treadwell Arena that the CBJ would pay for.

The City Manager will report back to the Committee of the Whole on November 19th.

Bond and 1% Temporary Sales Tax Projects Update:

Parks & Recreation will receive funding for numerous projects that will be funded by both bond funds and the five-year extension of the temporary 1% sales tax approved by the voters in October. Projects that will be funded by the bond include new bathroom and/or concession facilities at Adair-Kennedy Memorial Park, Dimond Park, and Melvin Park. Projects funded by the sales tax include virtually all of the items included in the original packet prepared by Parks & Recreation staff.

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Caro Coye, a member of the public attending the meeting asked where the second sheet of ice will go. Mr. Fischer said that a grant was given to the Juneau Community Foundation for \$650,000 for a feasibility study to put a second sheet of ice at Dimond Park. Mr. Fischer said that if this moves forward, that is where they want the second sheet to go. Ms. Coye asked if the second sheet goes on the Treadwell, where would it go. Mr. Fischer said they are not even close to that yet. He said it is a long process that the COW has asked the Manager's office to come up with how much a feasibility study to put a second sheet of ice on Treadwell would cost. Ms. Coye asked would it involve people in Douglas. Mr. Fischer said yes.

Ms. Hood asked how the priorities are decided. Mr. Fischer said that anything with a matching grant is being moved forward. Ms. Hood asked if there was a way to create matching grants. Mr. Fischer said that

they need a grant writer; Parks and Recreation does not have the staff to do that. He said that the Board members/directors for CBJ are looking at creating a centralized grant writer. B

Mr. Fischer said there will be a Capital School Master plan meeting on December 10th, with the location to be determined. B

Mr. Fischer said there was a meeting November 8th concerning the management of Auke Lake. This first meeting was for the residents around the lake. There will be a second meeting on Thursday November 15 at Centennial Hall. This one is open to the public. Mr. Schaaf, Mr. Fischer and staff will bring her recommendations from the meetings and introduce them to PRAC. PRAC will hold a meeting to receive public comment on the recommendations provided. The first PRAC meeting will be November 28th to bring her public comment. On December 6th, another meeting will take place that will be the same format. On December 11, there will be a normal PRAC meeting, and an action item. Ms. Hood asked what exactly the meetings concerned. Mr. Fischer said they are to receive comments on how Parks and Recreation manages the lake. Mr. Landry asked if P&R managed the trail. He said that UAS had a fundraiser for taking care of the trail. Mr. Fischer said it is P&R. B

Mr. Rueck asked if the end result was to have Parks and Recreation make a recommendation to the City Manager's office and to the assembly. Mr. Fischer said yes. Mr. Rueck asked about the gauge boat crossing the boardwalk. Mr. Fischer said it is a way to regulate entrance when they buoys are not out. B Mr. Rueck asked about the police report from the accident. Mr. Fischer said that he would not see the police report; no one would see it as far as he knew. Mr. Fischer said from what he understood, no ordinances were broken, a cohort was not involved. Mr. Rueck asked if the district attorney was brought with the report. Mr. Fischer said those were questions for the police department. B

Ms. Hood asked if the roundabout and speed limit would affect the lake. Mr. Fischer said that it was BDOT; he does have some input on things that affect P&R. He said that the access to the wayside will be no change, though some of the area around it would. Mr. Merriam asked if PRAC would receive information for the meetings before they take place. Mr. Fischer said yes, Ms. Wilkins will send out the information from the meetings. Mr. Rueck asked what was asked at the UAS meeting. Mr. Fischer said there were two factions: those who wanted the lake to become non-motorized, and those who wanted to keep it motorized. Mr. Fischer said that there were several comments about the lack of enforcement, personal comments about the tragedy, and ideas about changing where swimmers are in areas with motorized vehicles. B

VII. ACTION ITEMS – B

None

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VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Fischer said these were covered in his director's report. Ms. Waters asked the board if they had any questions or comments. B

A. OHV Update B

Mr. Landry asked if Parks and Recreation is still working with JYS for the trail through their property. B Mr. Fischer said that they are trying to get easements through the property. Mr. Landry asked what the timeline for the OHV. Mr. Fischer said that it is premature to speculate on that. He said the first thing was to identify what the features of the site would be; once that has been done, they need to identify the hazards in the potential area. Next would be the design aspect and the user groups B would be incorporated into this. Mr. Landry said that people are speculating that they will build the B park on the wetlands. Mr. Fischer said that is incorrect information; he said that there are enough B usable acres to make a great park for off-road use. B

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B. Dimond Park Ice rink B

Ms. Hood said that she attended a meeting in Douglas that Robert Sewe participated in. She said the B meeting was attended mostly by Douglas residents; they are in favor of the second sheet of ice, but not B in the valley. Ms. Hood said the people attending the meeting believe the economic impact on B

Doug as would be awful. Most of the people are anxious for more discussion about improving B Treadwell. Ms. Hood said that Mr. Sewe had expressed in her bin a ending this PRAC meeting. B Ms. Walters said the city has committed the money to do the study, and then will go from there. B Mr. Fischer said that his recommendation to the COW was to build a second sheet of ice. He B said this is not the priority of the department to build another sheet of ice. B

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C.B 1% Bond Update B

Mr. Fischer said this was covered in his director's report B

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IX. Comments regarding Non-motorized Transportation Plan

Ms. Walters asked the board to submit comments to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Fischer by Friday, November B 16th. B

Ms. Hood asked if Ben Lyman would attend another meeting concerning the Non-motorized B Transportation plan. Ms. Walters said that once the comments are in to Mr. Wilson, he will forward B them to Mr. Lyman and that will determine when he will attend another PRAC meeting. B

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X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A.B Youth Activities Board: Tom Rueckl B

There was a meeting in October with one contingency. There will be a meeting on the 20th to B see the officers. Mr. Brudie asked when the next cycle of Youth Activities Grants starts. B Mr. Rueckl said that the FY14 grant cycle will start soon. B

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B.S. Lake Parks Board: Jim King B

Mr. King said that Mr. Landry has become a full-time employee. Mr. King believes that Juneau has B an excellent staff. Mr. King said there was a complaint that the Berry Patch cabin at Eagle River B was not ADA accessible; a week after receiving the complaint, a ramp was installed. Trail Mix B submitted a waiver request. There was concern expressed about the Perseverance slide area; it B may not be safe and they are investigating. Mr. King said the slide has been blocking the trail on B and off for 110 years. Mr. Fischer asked if anyone would contact George Schaaf, or was this just a B discussion. Mr. Landry said that there will be no action from the staff. Kurt Iverson asked about B a historical plaque at the Tram. A third Eagle Beach cabin was completed by staff. It is not ADA B accessible. Mr. Landry is working on the Point Bridge Trail and a grant proposal for the trail. Ms. B Walter asked if the third cabin is available; Mr. Landry said that there are no plans to open it until B spring. B

Mr. King said he had 5 points he would like the committee to act on. These are long-term goals. B 1 – Committee review B

2 – Send it to the assembly with the recommendation to invite the USFS in 20 years to see what B has been done during the time B

3 – Invite the forest service, the Dore and Lake Parks to come to meetings to discuss the isBof B trails and discuss the problems B

4 – Publish a proposal B

5 – Seek support from other user groups B

Mr. King said there is potential for a hut on the trail in Juneau. Ms. Walters asked everyone to B submit their comments on the email concerning the trail to Mr. King. B

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C.B. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson B

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D.B. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership: Chris Merz B

They are planning an Arbor Day event at the JDCM. They are working on creating a historical B accurate design. The annual meeting will be held on November 28th. They completed the B main entrance at the Pioneer home. They helped the Montessori school, Harbor View with the Leaf B Jump in the cemetery. They have been working with the Lake Forestry and the Governor's office B to come up with a plan for the Mountain Ash on the property. Mr. Merz's recommendation is a B

phased approach. B

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E.B Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Ka e Wa ers B

Ms. Wa ers said the next meeting is 11/14/12. She said there has been water in the hot tub at B DPAC; the staff is working the kinks out. She said the board is working on getting infrastructure for B AG to help generate uses. The cost recovery for both pools is on track to meet their fiscal goals. B Mr. Landry asked if the cost recovery is for DPAC. Ms. Wa ers said that they are on track to make B the goal set for both pools. Mr. Landry asked what the cost recovery is for AG. Ms. Wa ers B said it is 70% for DPAC and 37% for AG. Mr. Fischer said that he would like to clarify. He said B there will now be building maintenance costs added to the cost recovery, as well as in-kind. Mr. B Fischer said this creates a true picture of cost recovery. Ms. Hood asked for clarification as to B what is compensated and what is not. Mr. Fischer said that competitive swimming through the B high school is in-kind, but Glacier Swim Club must pay for their time. He said that anything that is B done through the school district is in-kind. B

Mr. Rueckli said that there is concern with the AFA that AG has become a collateral damage with B the second sheet of ice. He said that AFA wants the pools to be discussed as a pool system. He B said that GSC is up 25% and they use both pools, here is a master's swim club that is a both B pools and that is why it needs to be looked at as a pool system. B

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F.B Jensen-Osborn Arboretum Advisory Board: Ka e Wa ers B

There was a meeting in September. Ms. Wa ers said the greenhouse is set up for the winter; the B JOA joined the USA Phenology network, which tracks the panda throughout the seasons. JOA B is now accredited through the Morrison Arboretum, which means it is officially recognized as an B arboretum. There is an application for the Northern American Plant Consortium. The Rotary is B working on the fence. The fishmeal fertilizer did a great job. The visitor numbers were down B 1000 from last year; there were 4400 visitors. A UAS student came on board to work for the B arboretum. B

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G.B Docks & Harbors Board: Dixie Hood B

The October meeting discussed the problem of dumping snow. Ms. Hood said they are interested B in finding other places to dump snow; the board thinks the Rock Dump is a possibility. They need B 50 yards of space to dump snow. Ms. Hood said the biggest discussion concerned set up of B cameras that will capture various areas; the board would like to have 4, but because of cost will B start with 2. The cameras will be 20 feet off the ground. The information from various dating B back 1890 shows a lease area various times a year. She said the board is hopeful that the cameras B will help increase safety. Ms. Wa ers asked why the various zone is under Docks and Harbors; B Ms. Hood said it is on Docks and Harbors and. Ms. Hood said there was a discussion to change B the meeting time from 7pm to 5:30pm. It will be a 5:30 starting January 1st, 2013. Lauren Jones B is the new liaison to the assembly; the appeal hearing on 16b will be heard on November 26th. B John Harbeck gave a presentation on the open meetings ethics act. Ms. Hood asked if Mr. Landry B could propose to become a grant writer for the city, with the PRAC recommending it to Kim Kiefer. B Mr. Fischer said no. Mr. Merz said he and George Schaaf have been working on creating a Juneau B Park Foundation; it would be able to write and receive grants that CBJ could not. Mr. Landry said B there is a lot of support for the idea. Mr. Merz said that part of the reason Anchorage Park B Foundation has had success is because they have people who have courage. B

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H.B Trail Mix, Inc.: Gerry Landry B

Mr. Landry said 1/3 of their meetings are spent talking about Federal, State and city trails. He B said as much as they spend prioritizing their projects. Mr. Landry said Trail Mix will receive funding B from the city to help with their projects; they will not see the money until 2015 or 2016. B There has been talk to get money from the regatta. There was a fundraiser last weekend for B the Over the Edge. CBJ staff went out to Eagle Beach to research cabins at Amagga Harbor. Ms. B Hood said that she wanted to say thank you for a lot of Mr. Landry's questions and information. Mr. B

Landry said that there is interest from Federal, State and City organizations to bridge the gap. B

I.B. Eagles Board/Nordic Ski Club: Odin Brudie B

Mr. Brudie said the meeting was November 1st. He said they brought on 3 new board members; the new assembly liaison is Jesse Kieh. The Learning Center is the highest priority for the board; here is still the matter of design and funding. There is a Nordic advisory committee to the board. The new employees are going through orientation and will be fully staffed by the 17. B Opening day will be December 1st. The snowmaking machines have been cleaned and ready for use. The goal is 3000 passes; there have been \$660,000 in passes. Mr. Landry asked if it was above or below last year. It is above. B

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XI. rCORRESPONDENCE r

There is a copy of the letter of support for the Point Bridge Trail rehabilitation. r

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XII. CONTINUATION OF rPUBLIC r PARTICIPATION ON NON-r GENDER ITEMS r

Robert Sewe, 903 5th S. Douglas, Alaska. Mr. Sewe said he is here to speak on the protection and enhancement of the Treadwell Ice Arena. He said that the CBJ Parks and Recreation staff has done everything they possibly could to operate the facility. He is a skater; his son is a hockey player. B He said he is a tired and disgruntled with the suggestion that the skating community could be fragmented by 15 miles. He said that he hoped the board could speak to the community overall. Mr. B Sewe said that looking at the numbers, the city does not have the funds to operate and maintain B another facility. Mr. Sewe said that the kinds of money being imagined fall into three parts. 1) The B significant increase in a per head basis for skaters in Juneau. He said the cost recovery is a 50% B currently for Treadwell; he said this means that the skating population would need to double just B to pay a 50% cost recovery even. 2) Mr. Sewe said there is a key issue of infrastructure equity. B He said the investment in the Dimond Park area dwarfed other areas of improvement. He said B Treadwell has made a difference in the life and vitality of Douglas and anything that jeopardizes B Treadwell, jeopardizes Douglas. Mr. Sewe said he believes that because of what has occurred with B AG with the building of DPAC. He said there has been a precipitous drop in users at Augustus Brown B Pool. He said he is worried about "cannibalization", which is the removal of the participation and B income from one product line because of the creation of another similar product line. 3) Mr. Sewe B finds it far fetched that funding another rink is correlated to a second high school team. He said what B they are short on is no ice, but convenience. Mr. Sewe said many establishments stay open 24 B hours and are open in the summer, neither of which Treadwell does. Mr. Sewe said that he is in B favor of a second sheet of ice. Mr. Sewe said he is concerned by the process so far. He said a small B group of people were able to get the attention of three representatives to get \$650,000 for planning. B He said that the things that could be done with the money included \$650,000 worth of bus tickets for B youth, a hockey program in residence, or the city could have bought B2 buses for youth participation at B various activities. Mr. Sewe said Treadwell needs to be protected; and hoped that someday a second B sheet would be built there. B

Ms. Walters said that the PRAC is not addressing the second sheet of ice. Once staff recommendation B has gone through the proper channels, if PRAC is asked to participate, Mr. Sewe's comments will be B considered then. Mr. Fischer said that a public comment will be forwarded through the internal B staff. r

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XIII. BOARD COMMENTS r

Mr. MerB said the warming cabin is under construction at Twin Lakes. Trail Mix Auction and dinner B was sold out. He is on an ad hoc down town revitalization committee; they discussed that a landscape B ordinance needs to be crafted. Mr. MerB said he did not realize that Parks and Recreation was in B charge of the parking downtown. He said that they need to improve the perception of the parking in B downtown. Mr. MerB said he attended the Gaery Walk in October and he saw the Bishop Kennedy B Peace Park sculpture and that it was unchanged. Mr. Fischer said it was not the sculpture, but the B

wording on the sign. Ms. Hood asked if PRAC could help with the landscape ordinance. Mr. MerB said B yes, but it would have to wait until the ordinance was finished. B

Ms. Hood asked Mr. Brudie if he could find the accessibility report. Ms. Hood said the ski swap was a B well-organized event. B

Mr. Landry said he believed the ski swap was more buyers than sellers. B

Mr. King did not have a comment. B

Mr. Ru ecki said that he would like to clear up misconceptions about the pools. Mr. Ru ecki said that B the patrons going to DPAC are new swimmers, there are aqua aerobics classes being offered, GSC B membership is up. Mr. Ru ecki said that the recommendation to not open another ice arena was B based on numbers from Treadwell; he said you cannot afford to operate another facility the same way B as Treadwell. Mr. Ru ecki said that there are other options to running a rink that is not Treadwell. B The Sports Management Group will look into them. Mr. MerB asked who is sponsoring the study. Mr. B Ru ecki said Juneau Community Foundation has hired SMG. He said that the SMG will create a B benchmark study of eight different facilities covering the operating costs, user fees, and size and B participation numbers. Mr. MerB asked if they were only looking at Dimond. Mr. Fischer said the B money is saved on only for Dimond. Mr. MerB asked Mr. Fischer if his staff has been reimbursed for a B the time they have put in to the second sheet of ice research. Mr. Fischer said no. B

Mr. Morrison said the new Surf at Adair-Kennedy and the main entrance of the field are wonderful. Mr. B Morrison said that in the January meeting he would like an update on Pocket Park due to the fire at B Gasline Apartments. Mr. Fischer said that it is closed until further notice. B

Mr. Brudie said the Trail Mix auction was great. He would like to explore Mr. King's idea of facilitating B a event of collaboration between Federal, State, and CBJ parks. B

Mr. Fischer said that part of the Parks and Recreation department is the logistics and incident B command center. Ms. Walters asked if there was a plan for pet owners. Mr. Fischer said that they B work with the Gasline Humane Shelter to provide kennels and food. B

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XIV. NEXT MEETING – December 11, 2012 room 224 6:00pm r

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XV. r DJOURNMENT – 8:03pm r