

**Minutes**  
**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, September 11, 2012**  
**City Hall Conference Room 224, 6pm**

**I. ROLL CALL -**

Members Present: Jeff Wilson, Lands Committee; Gerry Landry, Trail Mix; Eric Morrison; Tom Rutecki; James King; Chris Mertle; Odin Brudie; Dixie Hood

Members Absent: Kate Walters

Staff Present: Brent Fischer, Parks and Recreation Director; Myiia Whistler, Recreation Superintendent; Amanda Wilkins, Administrative Assistant I; Jesse Kiehl; Carl Uchytel, Docks and Harbors; Ben Lyman, Senior Planner at CDD

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

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – approved**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A. August 7, 2012 - approved

B. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIAISON

Mr. Kiehl said at the COW, they specified that the whale sculpture would be in the new park. The 1% Sales tax project and bond have been forwarded to the public for voting. He reminded the board that they are able to advocate separate from the board as members of the public and members of other boards. Mr. Wilson asked if the candidates would be asked to discuss the 1% issue. Mr. Kiehl said yes. Mr. Wilson asked now that the PRAC has agreed to the boundaries for the JMCPP, it is owned by CBJ, but where do we go to get the park aspect going. Mr. Fischer said that he would discuss it with Kim Keifer on Thursday; it will go to the lands committee first. Mr. Wilson would like to get some green space, maybe some picnic tables to get the process started.

Mr. Mertle asked when the whale is approved to be moved, does the funding already raised go with it? The intent is there. Mr. Mertle asked if they could work on a preferred concept to design the park. Mr. Wilson said there is no money.

**V. CHAIR REPORT**

Mr. Wilson said that the agenda is based on the PRAC retreat goals; 5 out of 9 members picked safe bicycle transportation from downtown to the valley. Mr. Wilson said that the CDD is updating the CBJ comprehensive plan and would like the board to give ideas and comments to Ben Lyman to pass to the CDD for consideration. Mr. Wilson said that he would also like Mr. Lyman talk about the non-motorized comprehensive plan that is being discussed by the CDD. Mr. Wilson has asked Mr. Lyman to come up with ways for the PRAC board to help the CDD with this issue.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Fischer introduced Myiia Whistler to the board and explained her role within the department in regards to the PRAC board. When Mr. Fischer is gone, Ms. Whistler will be the point of contact for the board.

Mr. Fischer informed the board that the Day of Play 2012 will be Saturday, September 15. This event will have all the Parks and Recreation facilities open and free to the public.

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee  
Director's Report  
September 11, 2012**

There is one action item and two information items on the PRAC Agenda:

**Action Item:**

**A. Approval of the Juneau Maritime Center and Public Park Concept.**

Last month Port Engineer Gary Gillette gave us a presentation on the initial design concepts of the Juneau Maritime Center to be located at the former City Shop site near the Douglas Bridge. This project was requested by the Assembly. The Parks and Recreation Department has been working closely with the Docks and Harbors Department to begin the process of identifying each of our departments' needs and to agree on the boundaries and areas of responsibilities.

During this process, the Whale Project Committee identified this location as the preferred site for the whale sculpture. During last night's Committee of the Whole meeting, a resolution was introduced and approved to go before the Assembly to designate this site for the whale project.

Tonight I am asking for approval of the concept of a Juneau Maritime Center and Public Park which identifies the areas and the parties responsible for the planning and management at the site. I am not asking for the approval of the building or its design, Docks and Harbors will have a process when they have the funding sources to proceed.

**Information Item:**

**A. USS Juneau Memorial Update**

Port Engineer Gary Gillette will give us an update on where the memorial will be relocated.

**B. Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan**

Senior Planner Ben Lyman from the Community Development Department will give us presentation on the work that is being reviewed for the updates on the CBJ's Comprehensive Plan.

As outlined in Mr. Lyman's memorandum to the PRAC, your highest priority was to address a cross-town bike way, specifically from the Mendenhall Valley to downtown Juneau. Tonight we have the opportunity to review parts of the plan and to give input for review and adoption by the Assembly.

In the next couple of months, we will have the opportunity to take a look at both the CBJ Comprehensive Plan and the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. I believe that you will find that many of your projects and concerns have been identified and/or addressed in these plans.

As time allows, I would like to begin updating the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan. This will take time to review the plan, discuss the areas to be updated and obtain public comment.

Tonight, we begin with the Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS –**

**A. Juneau Maritime Center and Public Park – Gary Gillette**

Mr. Wilson said that this is an action item and the board will need to make a motion. Mr. Wilson said

this is a delineation of responsibility for Parks and Docks and Harbor and joint use and ownership of joint parking. The whale sculpture will need to be sited and Mr. Wilson is sure that Docks and Harbors will work with Parks and Recreation in regards to this issue. He asked for questions and comments.

Ms. Hood asked if the PRAC could support the building without designating use, because she feels that this is something that should be specified at this time. Mr. Wilson said they are not looking at the building and that they are looking at the boundary establishment. He said that Docks and Harbors will have to go to CDD and then through the public discussion before anything like that happens. He explained that the assembly has asked Docks and Harbors to put a building there and that is what they are doing. Ms. Hood said she is opposed to the specified use of that building. Mr. Wilson reiterated that they are only looking at the area of separation of boundaries; the building and what it will be used for is not being addressed. Mr. Wilson said that Docks and Harbors identified the uses for that building per the assembly's request. Ms. Hood said that the assembly has not specified use, just building and size. Mr. Wilson said that when Docks and Harbors brought the building before the assembly, they had listed what the building will be used for. Mr. King said that the diagram indicates that the maritime center is pushed far out and he would like to recommend that the Maritime Center lines up with the structures around it. Mr. Wilson said that PRAC will have some say in what the building should look like and where it should be at a much later date.

Ms. Hood said that in terms of site plan concepts, she would like to know how the plan is going to be developed in terms of the sea walk, the whale sculpture and park. She asked why one of the plans they were looking is labeled "preferred site plan" and how did this happen. Mr. Wilson said that this has gone before the assembly, the Committee of the Whole, Docks and Harbors and Parks and Recreation. Mr. Wilson said that the north and east side of the plan will be developed by Docks and Harbors and the south and west side will be developed by Parks and Recreation. He reminded everyone that this is not something that is going out to bid; the PRAC just needs to look at the dividing line for responsibility. Mr. Rutecki asked if Mr. Fischer is seeking a recommendation for Parks and Recreation to seek funds to make it a park. Mr. Wilson said that PRAC is to approve the areas of responsibilities for Docks and Harbors and for Parks and Recreation. Mr. Mertle said that, personally, it is exciting to have a personal face to the building, whether it is an interpretive center that is associated with the whale or maritime center. But he does share some of Ms. Hood's concerns that the building could end up just an office building. He said that it would be an asset to the park if the building was mixed use. He also said that the parking is inefficient and creates a lot of wasted space. Mr. Mertle said that the commercial aspect of the building and all the parking should be kept within the Docks and Harbors line. Mr. Fischer said that from Parks and Recreation side, he would love to have everything green. He said that with the whale sculpture, there will be an influx of visitors from the cruise ships. Mr. Fischer said that he worked with Mr. Gillette to make best use of what is available for both departments. All the parking is associated with the Docks and Harbors side of the plan.

Mr. King said he cannot vote for the building in its current planned location. He said moving it would open up the site. Mr. Fischer said that the exact placement has yet to be decided. Mr. Wilson reminded the board that this is just a placeholder; when the time comes to bring it before the assembly, the board can bring their concerns to the assembly and make their recommendations then. Mr. Fischer said that this is not the end design; it is the first step to take it to the lands committee and say this is where Parks and Recreation will have their park. Mr. Morrison asked what the percentage is between what Docks and Harbors has and what Parks and Recreation has. Mr. Fischer said that was not considered.

Mr. Mertle motioned that the board accept the plan as offered, while there is consideration that there be a public use in the Maritime center related to the park, and that all parking related to the Maritime center is kept on the Docks and Harbor side. Mr. Morrison seconded the motion. Mr. Wilson asked for discussion.

Ms. Hood said she would like to support maximum green park space that would allow a building that the assembly recommended. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Gillette if Docks and Harbors would have any issues with the motion. Mr. Gillette said that the reason it was called the joint use area is because the parking would be utilized by both patrons of the Maritime center and by users of the park. Mr. Fischer asked if the spaces under the bridge are considered joint use parking. Mr. Gillette answered yes. Mr. Mertle amended his motion; parking that is associated with the maritime center and the offices, stays within the Docks and Harbors area and the joint parking is shared. Mr. King asked who came up with the delineation. Mr. Wilson said it was George Schaaf, Brent Fischer, Heather Marlow with the Lands department, and Docks and Harbors. Mr. Mertle said shared use will be the best thing for the park. The Docks and Harbor building with a joint space that somehow relates to the park, either through the whale sculpture or with cruise ship tracking technology, will bring people to the park. Mr. Wilson said the motion on the floor is to approve the preferred site plan and that the parking for the office parking for the Maritime Center be on Docks and Harbors property, and consideration for public use for the maritime center associated with the park. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Gillette if this would work for Docks and Harbors. Mr. Wilson called for a vote. There were 6 in favor of the motion and 2 opposed. The motion carried.

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **A. USS Juneau Memorial Update – Gary Gillette**

The memorial was moved last year because of the construction of the new visitor's center. The hope was to acquire property south of the library, but the deal fell through. They are still searching for property to place the memorial permanently. There have been several comments from the public asking where the memorial is. November 13 will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the USS Juneau. Docks and Harbors are committed to placing the flag poles back up in time for the anniversary. The proposed new site is on the sea walk on the docks near the cruise ships. Once they have established a permanent site, Docks and Harbors will move the flags and plaques there. Randy Wannamaker is coordinating a memorial service for the anniversary. Mr. Brudie asked what the memorial is made of and how tough the material is. Mr. Gillette said they would like to use a solid surface material like corian, which is very solid and is basically seamless. Mr. Mertle asked if the proposed site is temporary. Mr. Gillette said hopefully. He would like a permanent site for the memorial. Mr. Wilson asked if there would be lighting for the flags. Mr. Gillette answered yes.

### **B. Non-motorized Transportation Plan – Ben Lyman**

<http://juneau.org/cddftp/documents/JNMTPFinalwithMaps.pdf>

Mr. Lyman said that the Planning Commission has asked various organizations to look over the Comprehensive Plan to update it. AEL&P will look over the energy chapter, JEDC will look over the economic development chapter, and the Affordable Housing Commission will rewrite the housing chapter. Mr. Lyman said that the public needs to have more input in the update; so far it has been staff only. He said this is something that is great for PRAC to be involved in. He said that he would like to orient the board in regard to the cross Juneau bikeway, and to help give them the tools to achieve the goal. Mr. Lyman said that he would be happy to come back in a month or two to discuss suggestions, or to let PRAC write a letter to the planning commission.

Mr. Lyman presented a slideshow that showed the existing bike path from the Mendenhall Valley to downtown Juneau.

The map of Juneau included the current paths that cyclists can use, but does not include sidewalks. Under Alaska state law, it is illegal for a cyclist to ride on a sidewalk in a business district, and it is inadvisable to ride on them as it leads to decreased visibility. In the next update of the plan, Mr. Lyman hopes to have sidewalks included on the map.

Mr. Wilson asked when comments are due to the CDD. Mr. Lyman said there is no hard date; the plan still needs to go out to the public in November or December. Mr. Wilson told the board that he would like everyone to look it over and come back with comments by October.

Mr. Lyman asked PRAC to look at the Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan; section 7.1 is the Highest Priority Non-Motorized Infrastructure Improvements and has the Cross-Juneau Bikeway listed as number 1. Mr. Lyman presented a slideshow of the intersections as they are now and how they would be affected by the Cross-Juneau Bikeway.

**Main St. and Egan intersection:** The left hand turn lane signal from Main Street does not sense that there is a cyclist in the turn lane.

**Willoughby and Egan:** There is no left hand turn for traffic or cyclists from Willoughby onto Egan. Mr. Fischer asked who controls the roads. Mr. Lyman said they are state right of ways. He recommended that the PRAC write letters to the assembly and to the state requesting particular improvements be included in future capital improvement plans and that projects within state rights of way be added to the need list. He said there are places that make sense to do it with local dollars with permission from the state to change signage.

Mr. Mertle asked if they were looking at new locations where the conditions have changed that no longer match the plan, or being asked to approve it. Mr. Lyman said this is an addendum to the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Wilson said that everything is in the plan, but the board needs to get it implemented. He also said that this gives PRAC a chance to see if there is anything missing from the plan.

**Egan:** Cyclists can ride on the sidewalk because it is considered frontage. This will change if CBJ ever decides to develop the area.

**Willoughby Ave:** Very narrow lane width, very narrow sidewalks, and very narrow right of way width. The only way to widen it is to take down buildings, which is not possible. This is a place that putting up "Share the Road" signs would be helpful.

**Glacier Ave:** Very narrow lanes, no bike lanes, no signage. This is a city owned street, so signs could be put up very quickly.

**Near Norway point:** True beginning of the Cross- Juneau Bikeway. It is a signed bicycle route.

**Channel Vista Dr.:** Full of potholes, a steep sided ditch lines it. Mr. Wilson asked if it was DOT or CBJ. Mr. Lyman said it is DOT. He also said that there is an idea of a bike route that bypasses all of Lemon Creek. It would be a separated path on the water side from the Yanndukin Dr. to Channel Drive.

**Hospital Dr. and Glacier Hwy:** Cyclists are dumped into traffic from Channel Vista. The choices are to cross Hospital Dr. onto the continued bike path, forcing them to cross 5 lanes of traffic. Ms. Hood asked if there was a crosswalk. Mr. Lyman said yes. Ms. Hood said that cyclists could use the crosswalk.

**Glacier Hwy (Grant Plaza area):** Cyclists heading northbound came make the right onto Glacier Hwy. Cyclists heading toward downtown must move into traffic to turn left on the bike route near Twin Lakes. Mr. Brudie said that the Channel Vista Drive is the worst section of bike path. Mr. Wilson asked what it looks like. Mr. Lyman said there are frost heaves; patched sections of the path are coming up. He said what it really needs is a new layer of asphalt put down.

**Glacier Hwy, Anka St. and Short St. Intersection:** A lot of people believe that this intersection is one of the worst for cyclists. Mr. Lyman said that this intersection is actually set up as put forward by the American Association of State Highway Transportation Safety Officials, League of American Bicyclists, and the Pedestrian Bicycle Information Center. It does need new paint. Mr. Brudie said that design is state of the art; there are at least 3 or 4 other intersections that will need this design. Mr. Landry said that the last few intersections you would have to get off your bike to cross, which adds time to the commute. Mr. Lyman said that a big concern in Lemon Creek is maintenance. In the spring, getting the gravel off the road is extremely important. Mr. Lyman would also like to see JPD enforcing the local ordinance that requires all loads to be covered.

**Glacier Hwy (near pump station):** There are bike lanes on both sides of the highway. Mr. Lyman has been advocating with DOT to use raised medians with dedicated turn lanes instead of suicide lanes. Left hand turns are the most dangerous turns a vehicle can make. Mr. Kiehl said if the bond in November passes, there is 4 million allocated to work on this stretch of road. He also said that, what they have learned with the Auke Bay project, that early active involvement with the DOT is necessary. Mr. Lyman said that DOT will not actively seek any involvement. Mr. Wilson said that DOT will bring things to the PRAC when it is too late to seek comments. Mr. Lyman said that under state law they have to seek public concurrence.

**Glacier Hwy (near Fred Meyer):** The sidewalk ends, there is no crosswalk available. Beyond Fred Meyer, there are shoulders to ride on. Eventually the shoulder ends and runs into dirt that leads into a separated path.

**Separated path (beyond Fred Meyer):** The path is narrow and is in rough shape. It could use a new coat of asphalt.

**McNugget Intersection:** On the other side of Egan, the bike path must go through several crosswalks before it comes to a sudden stop with a Bicycles prohibited beyond this point sign. Signs at the McNugget intersection that leads to the separated path would be helpful.

**Egan and Mendenhall Loop Rd:** There are no signs that indicate there is a separate bike path on one side.

**Turn off to Riverside:** DOT is reconstructing the intersection in 2013. They are enlarging the pork chop for pedestrians and increasing the time of the crosswalk.

**Egan (near Vintage Business Park):** The bike path veers right and goes along the river, instead of across the river. Signage would help indicate which way a cyclist could travel. The shoulder disappears and runs into an 8 inch wide sidewalk that services both pedestrians and cyclists. DOT will reconstruct the bridge.

Mr. Lyman asked the board to look at Chapter 8 of the Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.

**Policy 1 - "Ready to Fund".** Mr. Lyman said that he receives several grant notifications or funding opportunities that can be accessed if they have blue prints drawn up or permits issues; as they do not have that level of detail, they are not eligible to apply for funding. He would like to dedicate the money for getting the designs made and the permits issued so the money can be accessed.

**Policy 2 - Work with the Alaska DOT&PF Regional Director to establish a routine process to allow CBJ input at the front-end of the design stage for State road projects.** He said this continues to be a problem.

**Policy 3 - Municipal Projects. Improve the process for Planning Commission review of CBJ projects to allow timely comment on non-motorized infrastructure and routes. Project managers will use a context sensitive approach in the design of City projects to achieve a Complete Streets network.** Mr. Lyman said he was extremely excited that the comprehensive plan has a complete streets policy; it can open up grants and money funding because the plan is already in place. This looks at the transportation infrastructure through a complete streets lens. This means it looks at it as a whole network, not street by street.

**Policy 4 – Private Sector Development. Review design standards in Title 49 to provide opportunities to make subdivision design more context sensitive.** There have been struggles with developers who feel the improvements that have been requested are onerous. An example of that is the 22 unit development at the corner of Atlin Dr. and Mendenhall Loop road has been told by the engineering department that they must put in a sidewalk; as part of the engineering code, projects over \$10,000 that do not have a sidewalk must put one in. The developer is threatening to pull the entire project because he does not want to build a sidewalk. This is something that needs to be consistently enforced.

**Policy 5 – Transportation Planning. Integrate motorized and non-motorized transportation planning.** Mr. Lyman said the last non-motorized transportation plan in 1997 was through Parks and Recreation, which meant no one saw it and nothing came of it. He said that the CDD wants to make it a transportation plan and adopt it as part of the comprehensive plan that has to be reviewed when they are doing city and state projects. Mr. Wilson said enforcement has been an

issue. Mr. Lyman said that while very little has been done over the last 2 years, when roads are reconstructed now they are reconstructed to a higher standard in terms of non-motorized infrastructure. They were done in a complete streets context sensitive manner.

Mr. Wilson said the coordination between DOT and CBJ could be better. Mr. Wilson said that DOT is not holding up their end of the bargain with the public; they are not making it safe for pedestrians and cyclists. Mr. Lyman said that it would be great if the PRAC would send a letter to the assembly and to the DOT stating such. Ms. Hood asked if the non-motorized transportation plan could be passed as an ordinance, much like the long range water front plan. Mr. Lyman said in 1997 that particular non-motorized transportation plan was adopted as a resolution. This 2009 non-motorized transportation plan was adopted as ordinance as part of the city's comprehensive plan.

Mr. Brudie asked if the 12 policies could be in the comprehensive plan. Mr. Wilson said that the non-motorized plan is part of the CBJ comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan was last updated before the Non-motorized plan. Mr. Lyman said that in the primary document there is discussion about the non-motorized plan, but there are not policies directly relating to the non-motorized transportation plan. The reason is the non-motorized transportation plan has its own document that is legally part of the comprehensive plan.

Mr. Wilson asked about the other relevant, adopted plans mentioned in the comprehensive plan. Mr. Lyman said it is a general edit that will be updated. Mr. Wilson asked about the Parks and Recreation comprehensive plan. Mr. Lyman asked how it was adopted. Mr. Fischer said it was adopted through resolution in the assembly. Mr. Wilson said the Parks and Recreation comprehensive plan should be in the CBJ plan.

Mr. Mertle said to keep in mind that CBJ is doing what it is supposed to with these documents; the DOT is supposed to take them into consideration and that the DOT does not. Mr. Lyman said that printing out the documents costs \$30 - \$100, but they are available online. Mr. Landry said that people have been speaking up, especially in Auke Bay, and if PRAC could get the word out, they could get something to the DOT. Mr. Lyman suggested that the PRAC could help facilitate the creation of a Bike committee or Bicycle Task Force. Mr. Mertle asked if it was time to get DOT to sit down with the board as it has been a year. Mr. Mertle said that the DOT could inform the board of its upcoming projects. Mr. Wilson said that PRAC would be better served to support the CDD because the DOT tends to bring plans after they have been decided. Mr. Fischer asked Mr. Kiehl what would help get the DOT to inform the PRAC of its projects. Mr. Kiehl said pressure is the best way. He said there are people at DOT who believe in the mission of integrated transportation, and there are a lot of people who believe they are the department of asphalt. Mr. Kiehl said that at the Assembly meeting that someone said the DOT had received what CBJ would like to see happen out in Auke Bay, but it was not specific enough; the plans just said to accommodate pedestrians and so the suggestions were left out. Mr. Kiehl suggested the PRAC board ask a representative of the DOT to attend a meeting. He said if the general obligation bond passes in November, bring DOT in before they start designing the reconstruction of Glacier Highway and Mendenhall Loop road.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Kiehl if he had any information on a separated pedestrian and bike trail from Brotherhood Bridge to UAS and Auke Lake. Mr. Kiehl said that he did not know where it is now. Mr. Fischer said that a path underneath the bridge on either side is in consideration.

Mr. Mertle said that Juneau is not the only area experiencing trouble with the DOT. Mr. Mertle suggested that they take it to the Southeast Conference as a higher regional authority to the DOT. Ms. Hood asked if it would be helpful if the PRAC voted on the wording in a letter for input on the projects. Mr. Kiehl said would be to be very specific about suggestions for the plans. Mr. Kiehl said that, in regards to Auke Bay, it was sidewalks on both sides of the street and was written into the initial funding. Mr. Wilson asked if there bike lanes were included. Mr. Lyman said the last plan he had seen had 4 foot shoulder bike lanes. Mr. Wilson asked if they could see a plan. Mr. Lyman said the project website does have documents on it. Mr. Wilson said that it would be helpful if Mr. Lyman could let the PRAC know about some of the upcoming projects. Mr. Lyman said that this could be something Mr. Fischer and Hal Hartle, the new CDD director, could meet and talk about. Mr. Fischer asked Mr. Lyman to speak with Mr. Hartle about the PRAC meeting and the possibility of a meeting with Mr. Fischer.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Kiehl what would be the best way to get a letter to the Assembly to enforce, through CDD, the non-motorized transportation plan and the revised comprehensive plan. Mr. Kiehl said that if PRAC could get the information and comments to the Assembly while it is still in the design phase would be the best way to get their voices heard. Mr. Lyman said that, unfortunately, the last few times the DOT has put something out for review, the CDD will receive a postcard 5 or 10 days before the comments are due. Mr. Lyman said that they can only look at it at a staff level and flag things, but they cannot officially go through the entire process of the STIP. Mr. Lyman said that PRAC needs to make sure that the language describing the project is very specific. Mr. Wilson said that PRAC wants to get more involved with the process; he would like PRAC to advocate for safe bike lanes, safe pedestrian sidewalks, and safe streets. Mr. Wilson said that, in some instances, to create a safer zone, all it would take is some signage and paint. Mr. Mertle said it needs to be consistent. Mr. Wilson said that PRAC needs a master plan that connects the valley to the downtown. Mr. Wilson said the PRAC needs a plan on how to get involved; it will start with a letter to the assembly about enforcing the safe streets, coordinate with DOT earlier, more involvement with CDD with their reviews, incorporating the Parks and Recreation comprehensive plan and the non-motorized transportation plan in the revised CBJ comprehensive plan.

Ms. Hood asked who represents Juneau at the Southeast Conference. She said she likes the idea of taking their concerns to the conference. Mr. Landry said that PRAC needs to get a plan on paper that can get the public and various organizations to help bring attention to the non-motorized transportation plan. Mr. Wilson said the non-motorized transportation plan will benefit everyone in Juneau, not just cyclists. Mr. Lyman said there are several groups within Juneau that share the same goals; he has been working with other groups, like Juneau Coordinated Transportation Coalition, JAMH, REACH, JYS, and SAIL that provide transportation for people with mobility issues because bicycle infrastructure and sidewalks makes it easier for people with mobility issues to get around town. It would be beneficial for PRAC to reach out to these groups and work with them on issues such as the crosswalk timers, which helps both pedestrians and cyclists. Mr. Lyman will meet with the Juneau Coordinated Transportation Coalition to talk about a walkability survey for seniors and crosswalk timers. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Lyman to pass on PRAC's concerns and their parallel plan.

Ms. Hood asked when the walkable community study was done; a consultant had identified Douglas and Auke Bay as the two most likely candidates for walkable communities. Mr. Brudie said it was 1996. Ms. Hood asked Mr. Lyman to track down the report for the Commission on Aging meeting. Mr. Brudie said he might have a copy.

Mr. Brudie asked if there was a benefit to designating it The Cross Juneau Bikeway. Mr. Lyman said that it is already named such. He said that the map of the Cross Juneau Bikeway has been adopted and is part of the comprehensive plan. Mr. Mertle said the bike lanes end before the roundabout in Auke Bay. Mr. Lyman said it would operate like the Douglas roundabout; the cyclist can get off their bike and use the sidewalk, or they can be treated as a vehicle and use the traffic lanes.

Mr. Wilson asked if Ms. Hood would be attending the meeting on Thursday to bring information back to the PRAC. She said yes.

Mr. Lyman offered to come back to PRAC and work with them in the future. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Lyman to pass on to the CDD director that PRAC would like more communication between CDD and Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Kiehl if there was anything he wanted to add. Mr. Kiehl said that at the Committee of the Whole meeting they forwarded to the assembly a resolution that would reconfirm the assembly's desire to receive the whale sculpture and specify that the whale sculpture would go in the area specified on the plans. Mr. Kiehl said the 1% sales tax and bond have been forwarded to the ballot for the public. Mr. Wilson asked if PRAC or Parks and Recreation could advocate for the issues. Mr. Kiehl said it would be ill advised for PRAC to advocate for the 1% sales tax and the bond issue, but the user groups that the members represent are independent of the City and Borough of Juneau and could advocate. Mr. Wilson asked if the candidates would discuss the issue. Mr. Kiehl said he was sure the candidates would be asked and would discuss the issue.

Mr. Wilson asked now that the PRAC has agreed to the delineation of the Under the Bridge Park, how

does PRAC move ahead to officially make it a park. Mr. Fischer said he would discuss it with Kim Kiefer, and that Parks and Recreation would work with Docks and Harbors in moving it to the Lands Committee. Mr. Wilson said his concern is that he would like to, in the short term, get some green space or picnic tables out there, or to have a naming contest to get the public involved in the process. Mr. Brudie asked Mr. Kiehl if the assembly would have as an action item on the agenda the under the bridge site. Mr. Kiehl said that, in the broadest strokes, the renewal of the commitment for site preparation and the designation of the location and that CBJ will maintain it. Mr. Kiehl also said that even with passing the resolution, until it is accepted and the site prep is done, it can be stopped. Mr. Mertle asked if the funding that has been already attached to the whale sculpture will travel with it to the new park. Mr. Kiehl said it is subject to appropriation, but that is the intent. Mr. Mertle asked if design work could be done for the park, similar to what Docks and Harbor had done. Mr. Wilson said there is no money to do a design; he said that CBJ assembly had passed a \$29million revenue bond and that there is some designated for sea walks. Mr. Kiehl said he would have to go back and look at the total project budget. Mr. Wilson said that a chunk could be used to design the sea walk at the under bridge park. Mr. Kiehl said that the Lands department has been working on the acquisition of tidelands for the sea walk from the Rock Dump to the bridge. There are still issues with the USCG, the subport, the old fuel dock and private lands that need to be worked out. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Landry and Mr. Brudie to read the information from Mr. Lyman and get the comments together by October meeting. Mr. Mertle asked why, if the non-motorized plan is so tight, PRAC is delving into the plan. Mr. Wilson said it is not just to add things to the plan; it is to get involved with DOT and enforce the ordinances, and to get a letter to the assembly in regard to the comprehensive plan, not just the non-motorized plan, and implement the plan. Ms. Hood asked what can be done with the Southeast Conference. Mr. Mertle said he would make some phone calls. Mr. Wilson said he would like to update the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive plan. There are several parks and trails that need to be included. He said that they will dig into it in January. Mr. Fischer said that even though it is early for the Parks and Recreation Comprehensive plan, it gives the board time to look at it in detail and get their comments in.

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

At the request of the Chair, liaison reports were skipped due to the late hour.

A. Youth Activities Board: Tom Rutecki – no report

B. State Parks Board: Jim King -

The State parks committee met last night. George Schaaf gave a report on the social media aspect of State Parks. The state parks now have a Facebook page. The state parks have a parks specialist position for Juneau. The specialist would cover park issues for the Juneau area. Mr. Wilson said that it would be great to have the person come to a PRAC meeting. Mr. King said that the PRAC should visit the Letter of Agreement between the State Parks and the city. Mr. Fischer said it does not have a sunset date, and can be amended; Mr. King said there are several things in the letter that can be looked at and amended.

For over a year now, he has been working on a list of trails. Mr. King said that he will keep working on it. Mr. King asked the board to look over the list he had created to see if there were trails that needed to be added and then the list could be given to Trail Mix. Mr. Wilson asked how the board could implement the trail list. Mr. Wilson said there are a lot of people who are involved with the trails process; how would the PRAC get it out to the public? Mr. Wilson would like to figure out what to do with the list and how to share it with the public. Mr. Mertle suggested that the PRAC has a meeting after the New Year that is trail focused that involves Trail Mix, the State Parks and the US Forest Service and how to create a partnership. Mr. Wilson said the trail plan needs to be in the Parks and Recreation comprehensive plan. Mr. Mertle said that Mr. King could distill the information and bring it to the PRAC for the comprehensive plan. Mr. Wilson said that before they get to the trails, the board needs to get into the Parks and Recreation comprehensive plan.

C. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson – no report

- D. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership: Chris Merti – no report
- E. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Kate Walters – no report
- F. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Advisory Board: Kate Walters – no report
- G. Docks & Harbors Board: Dixie Hood – no report
- H. Trail Mix, Inc.: Gerry Landry – no report
- I. Eaglecrest Board/Nordic Ski Club: Odin Brudie – no report

**IX. CORRESPONDENCE**

**X. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**XI. BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. Brudie asked about the rededication to the Bishop Kennedy Peace Park on Thursday. Mr. Fischer said he will attend the rededication and speak. The sign proof was rejected because it did not meet with the guidelines set out by CBJ. George Schaaf will meet with Phil Smith again.

Mr. Morrison said he appreciated Ben Lyman's presentation.

Mr. Mertle said he and Tom were at the second sheet of ice meeting. He has been working with George Schaaf on the language for establishing a Juneau Park Foundation. The Articles of Incorporation are almost done, the bylaws are almost done. They are now trying to find bodies. He is almost done with his trailhead inventory.

**XII. NEXT MEETING – October TBD, 2012**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**