

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, August 7, 2012
Assembly Chambers, 6PM

I. ROLL CALL, 6:03pm

Members Present: Odin Brudie, Jim King, Eric Morrison, Dixie Hood, Jeff Wilson, Tom Rutecki, Gerry Landry, Kate Walters

Members Absent: Chris Merti

Assembly Liaison: Jesse Kiehl – Absent

Staff Present: Brent Fischer, Parks & Recreation Director; Jessica Beck, Administrative Assistant II

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – none

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. King asked to add Trails as an information item. Mr. Brudie motioned to approve with that addition. Approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- A.** July 10, 2012 – Mr. Landry motioned to approve. Approved.

V. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIAISON – none

VI. CHAIR REPORT

Mr. Wilson said the 2012 PRAC priorities are included in the packet. They will begin working on them starting in September.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There are two action items and three information items on the PRAC Agenda:

Action Items:

A. Approval for the Whale Sculpture to be located at the former City Shop Location.

At our July 10th meeting, Kathy Ruddy from the Whale Project gave us an update on this life-size bronze sculpture of a breaching humpback whale by Skip Wallen. At their last committee meeting the former City Shop site was selected as their preferred location. I am asking for your support and approval of this project.

B. Approval for the Empty Chair Memorial at Capital School Park.

At our July 10th meeting, Karleen Grummett and other members from the Empty Chair Project presented information regarding a memorial to honor members of the Juneau Japanese community who were interned during World War II to be located within Capital School Park. I am asking for your support and approval of this project.

Information Items:

A. Former City Shop Site.

Port Engineer Gary Gillette will be giving us a presentation on a new Juneau Maritime Center to be located at the former City Shop site. The Assembly has asked that this area be jointly planned by the Docks and Harbors and Parks and Recreation Departments. Tonight Gary will present their portion of the master plan being developed.

B. Treadwell 5-Stamp Mill

Gary Gillette, this time as the CBJ liaison to the Treadwell Historic Preservation and Restoration Society will be discussing a project to plan, develop and install an interpretive shelter for the 5-Stamp Mill located at the entrance of the Treadwell Mine Historic Park.

C. OHV Park Update

Parks and Landscape Superintendent George Schaaf will be giving us an update on the Off Highway Vehicle Park to be located at 36 Mile Veterans Memorial Highway.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Whale Sculpture Project

Kay Diebels said the PRAC received a complete report at the last meeting. Bill Overstreet is on the committee. Mr. Fischer said he is looking for a motion stating that the PRAC support that the whale be located at the former city shop site. Then the PRAC recommendation would be moved onto the Lands Committee and then onto the Assembly. The whole project would be presented to the Assembly. Ms. Diebels said they would be prepared to present to the assembly. Ms. Hood said she is very supportive of the sculpture. She wanted to know how much money is in hand and how much is needed for the project. Ms. Diebels said they are still trying to raise around \$700,000 out of \$2 million. The foam model is at the foundry waiting for the next step. Approximately \$250,000 has been raised so far. Mr. Brudie asked what the status of the master plan for the park is. Mr. Fischer said that they have been working with Docks and Harbors and Mr. Gillette will be presenting part of that tonight. They presented to the Docks and Harbors Board earlier. This is something that has been working on collectively. Mr. Wilson said the Public Works and Facilities Committee asked that Docks and Harbors look at having a 3,500 footprint at the site. They have been generous enough to work with Mr. Fischer on this. Mr. Rutecki asked if this would be able to make it to the current Assembly. Mr. Fischer said he hopes this will make it through before the new Assembly begins. Mr. King said the drawing makes it look like it fits. It's hard for people to envision what the site actually looks like. Mr. Wilson said there is still time for more public comment but this is a potential design right now. Mr. King said that other buildings and things should not compromise the whale sculpture. Mr. Wilson said the maritime area could be whale related. Mr. Wilson said this is a design process. Ms. Diebels said the artist has looked at the area and he thinks this is the perfect site. Ms. Hood said she has had long conversations with Skip and she would like to have it in the park but not in that specific location. Mr. Brudie motioned to support the whale sculpture in the former city shop site area. Approved.

B. Empty Chair Project

Ms. Margie Alstead said the roots of this memorial started with her friendship to Mary Tanaka. She knew John Tanaka long before school. John Tanaka was to be the valedictorian of the class of 1942. He had a separate graduation before he was interned. An empty chair was left at John's actual graduation that he missed. This idea has been materializing for a long time. It is called the Empty Chair Project. The chair is similar to the type that the graduates would have been sitting in back then. Peter Reiquam is the artist of the chair project. The memorial will not only represent the families who were interned but also the community that supported them when they returned. They would like placement of the memorial in the Capital School Park. The specific site in the park isn't necessary right now and Peter Reiquam will be in Juneau in September to walk the area. The Juneau School District is in the process of endorsing the project. The Juneau Historical Resources Committee has endorsed the project. The Juneau-Douglas City Museum will host a reception upon dedication of the chair. The memorial includes a chair, with a base and possibly pavers around with all the names of the internees and some history of what happened. The chair will be 1.5 times the size of a normal chair. Mary doesn't like the pavers around the chair; she likes it rough in the grass. Ms. Hood said is really excited about the project and thinks it's a very special thing. Mr. Fischer said they will have a chance to work with the committee to satisfy any concerns regarding the wording on the memorial. Mr. Wilson said he thinks anyone would support the project in the park. He mentioned that there are over 100 kids in the park everyday and the structure should be able to sustain that. Also be concerned of acts of vandalism and that it can be sustained by those. Mr. Wilson asked that staff work with the committee on the final details of the project. Ms. Hood motioned to approve the support of the chair in the Capital School Park. Approved.

IX. INFORMATION ITEM

A. OHV Park Update

George Schaaf said he is giving an update on an off-highway vehicle park. The site is by Bridget Cove State Park and the land is owned by the CBJ. It is 800-1,200 acres. The park needs to satisfy the enthusiasts so that it gets used but also needs to sustain the environment. It needs to be cost effective and have clear management opportunities. The site is not very big for an OHV park so they need to

look closely at the trails to make sure they have different skill levels to keep people interested. They will work with the user groups to design the trails. They still need to collect more information about the site and develop some mapping of the area. Mr. King asked about the impacts on the Bridget Cove Park. Mr. Schaaf said they don't know where the trails will go yet he is not sure of the impacts. Mr. Brudie asked what an OHV is and what is the range for noise impacts, etc. Mr. Schaaf said it can be anything from a dirt bike to a pickup truck. They are looking to design it for four wheelers and dirt bikes. The noise is hard depending on what modifications are done to machines. Ms. Hood said when there was a proposal for above the Fish Creek area. It stirred up the subdivision in the area. It can be loud at all hours of the night. She said there are too many people who disregard the rules and regulations of facilities like this. The pollution of the air is also a big concern. She would like to see a public hearing on this project to have input on it. She would like the PRAC support on that. Mr. Schaaf said the contract signed right now is really just to get a map of the area. It's hard to do anything before they have a map of the area. Mr. Wilson said once there is enough data he thinks the public will be involved in the design and other aspects. They have not had a spot that is legal and the intent is to find an area for the group to recreate safely and deal with the environment in a positive way. There would be hours, locked gates during certain times, etc. Mr. Rutecki said all they're looking at is the area. Where is the funding coming from? Mr. Fischer said this was included in the 1% sales tax project on the ballot. Mr. Rutecki said that if it's done right it can be a positive thing for the community. Mr. Morrison said that there should be a space and there have been enough requests over the years. He asked if there are other possible locations. The current area may be a far place to get emergency crew in case of an emergency. Mr. Schaaf said it's still early but CCFR does make it out that far. Mr. Wilson said the Rough Riders is still around and Mr. Schaaf should contact them. Mr. Wilson said he would like Mr. Schaaf to come back with an update at a later meeting.

B. Former City Shop Site

Gary Gillette, Port Engineer, said they have been looking at various uses of the former public works site. They began a programming project for a maritime center. The direction from the Assembly at the time was not a large building. This building was to be kept to 3,500 square feet footprint. The site would include a park, now the whale sculpture and a building that would house an interpretive center, port offices and the Marine Exchange of Alaska. There would also be some parking for staff, public and buses. They had several designs they looked at and have now picked their preferred option. The corner of the building where the stairs and elevator are could look like a light house and allow for visitors to go up and get a view of Juneau. Mr. Morrison asked what the occupancy would be for the public conference room. Mr. Gillette said it looks like its around 350 sq feet but it's not exact right now. Mr. Brudie asked what the useful life of the bridge is. Mr. Gillette said that it was built in 1981 and it probably has a 100 year life. Mr. Wilson said this is a conceptual site plan to show what Docks and Harbors and Parks & Recreation land they will each have and be working on. Mr. King said he endorses the idea of having a light house there, which means the building can go higher and it would be a nice image for boats in the channel. He said it could be more dramatic. Ms. Hood said she also likes the idea of the light house tower but she thinks that all of the office space is not for public access which means that it's noncompliant with the waterfront plan. Mr. Gillette said that he's not sure if that's true or not. He will have to look into that. He thinks they only need to reuse the building, without the specific comments of whether it's for public use or not. An office building will offset problems that would occur in a park and in this location. It would give the sense that there are people there taking care of the area. Ms. Hood said that she believes that it should all be public areas and that there is also not supposed to anymore parking added to the waterfront. Mr. Wilson said that there are two parts: one is to get people to enjoy the waterfront and the second is that they have to find a spot for a 3,500 square foot building. That is a request from the Assembly. Ms. Hood said she thought the Docks and Harbors building was supposed to be on the north side of the bridge. Mr. Landry said that he supports the project and he thinks it's a good idea. He's excited that marine passenger fees could be used for it.

C. Treadwell 5-Stamp Mill

Mr. Gillette, representing the Treadwell Historic and Preservation Society, gave an update on the Treadwell 5-Stamp Mill. They received a grant and put up some interpretive signs throughout the complex. This last year they applied for another grant which was funded to get some more signage and to cover the 5-stamp mill. It was originally pulled out of the glory hole and later permanently installed in the park. They would like to put a shelter over it and put some interpretive signage on it. Mr. Fischer said the structure is needed to help preserve the mill. Mr. Brudie asked if it would be big enough for people to stand under it and use large beams to remind of the mining days. Mr. Gillette said it specifically only pays for the design and interpretive signs as of now. They will need more money once they understand what the costs are.

D. Trails:

Mr. King brought some information that would help assist with trail plans. It's exciting to see how far they have come as far as maintaining and upgrading trails and this is a good starting place. Mr. Wilson said this is something he would like to start working on this fall. They need to decide who would keep the master list of trails, whether it's Parks & Recreation, Trail Mix or someone else.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Youth Activities Board: Tom Rutecki** – nothing to report.
- B. State Parks Board: Jim King** – no meeting yesterday. Had a luncheon last week at the Wickersham House.
- C. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson** – Met July 23rd, discussed the Treadwell Mine Historic Park.
- D. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership: Chris Mertl** – absent.
- E. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Kate Walters** – They meet tomorrow. The whirlpool should be open soon. The aquatic attendant position description was updated. The AGB cost recovery is at 38% and DPAC is at 68%.
- F. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Advisory Board: Kate Walters** – no meeting.
- G. Docks & Harbors Board: Dixie Hood** – absent from the last meeting.
- H. Trail Mix, Inc.: Gerry Landry** – no meeting.
- I. Eaglecrest Board/Nordic Ski Club: Odin Brudie** – no update.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE – none

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

XIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Brudie: Asked if there was any direction on Auke Lake motorized use yet. Mr. Fischer said there isn't any direction and the police report has not come out yet.

Mr. Morrison: JYFL is back in action and this week there are training camps.

Mr. Landry: There is a 2012 trail plan that is being developed by Trail Mix.

Ms. Hood: It's good to be back.

Mr. King: They should contact the mayor and change the name of the Bridge Park to the Whale Park.

Mr. Wilson: Everyone should read the Comprehensive Plan. They will start working on it and updating it.

XIV. NEXT MEETING – September 11, 2012

XV. ADJOURNMENT: 8:34pm, Ms. Walters motioned to adjourn. Approved.