

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 10, 2012
City Hall Rm. 224, 6PM

I. ROLL CALL, 6:01pm

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

Members Absent: Dixie Hood, 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. Landry motioned to approve. Approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. May 8, 2012 – Motion to approve. Approved.

V. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIAISON – none

VI. CHAIR REPORT

The city has the West Douglas conceptual plan, which is a road on the backside of Douglas. They are going with the highest option. It will probably come to the PRAC in the fall.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

There is one action item and three information items on the PRAC Agenda and a few department updates:

Department Updates:

The first update is in regards to the tragic accident at Auke Lake on June 23rd. The accident is still under investigation and there is no indication at this time that the PRAC will be asked for comments or recommendation on rules or regulations of the lake.

The second update is regarding the proposed ice arena at Dimond Park. I have scheduled a user group meeting on July 18th at 5:30pm in Room 224. The focus of this meeting is to gather information from Treadwell Ice Arena user group organizations to provide input on their past, present and future uses and needs for their programs.

The third update is regarding the 1% Sale Tax Projects. Some projects were put on the ballot for the 1% sales tax and some were put on the ballot for a bond issue.

Action Item:

- A.** Letter of support for the education of winter uses at the Dan Moeller, Mt. Troy and Upper Hilda Valley – The purpose of this letter would be to try to help better define recreation type boundaries in the area.

Information Item:

- A.** Whale Sculpture Update – Kathy Ruddy from the Whale Project will give us an update on this life-size bronze sculpture of a breaching humpback whale by Skip Wallen.
- B.** Downtown Cruise Docks Concept 16B Update – Port Director Carl Uchtyl will be giving us an update on the 16B project.

- C. Empty Chair Project – Karleen Grummett from the Empty Chair Project will presenting information regarding a memorial to honor members of the Juneau Japanese community who were interned during World War II.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Winter Recreation Use of Dan Moeller, Mt. Troy and Upper Hilda Valley

Mr. Wilson said that Mr. Landry worked on a draft letter regarding winter recreation use of Dan Moeller, Mt. Troy and the Upper Hilda Valley to be sent to the USFS, Eaglecrest, DNR and Lands Committee. It is difficult to get signage in those areas and so the best way to educate people is to put signage at the parking lots and trailheads. Mr. Brudie said he hopes this is a good tool for opening up discussion with other groups. Mr. Wilson said he would like to get this letter out and then have a working session with the US Forest Service and snow mobile user groups in the fall. Mr. Brudie motioned to approve the letter and send it onto the agencies. Approved.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Whale Sculpture Project Update

Ms. Kathy Ruddy said the board passed a motion last night regarding the whale, “that the Whale Project identifies the Bridge Park as the most appropriate available site for the breaching humpback whale sculpture and seeks CBJ designation of this site for that purpose”. The idea of the whale sculpture started around 4 years ago. They started with a 3 ft maquette that could then be lofted to a 25 ft life size whale made of bronze. The 8 ft whale named Spike is now on the JACC lawn and will soon be at the university. To create the 25 foot whale they start with the foam phase. The whale would be in an infinity pool with fountains. Mr. Skip Wallen said he thinks the bridge park is a very good site for the whale. It will arch up 28 feet above the viewer and because of this, it needs a spacious area. The pool itself would be 40 feet by 60 feet. The whale would be positioned in the pool to seem as if it's going to land in the water. The waterworks would be going up towards the whale and also coming out of the whale. It would provide a destination for people at the end of the seawalk. The pool would be drained in the winter. Mr. Wilson said will come back to the PRAC in August as an action item.

B. 16B Update

Mr. Carl Uchtyl said they are working to improve the seaway between the 16B dock, Immediate Vessel Float and Taku Fisheries Dock. They rotated the end of the dock about 15 feet. This increased the distance between the proposed dock and the Taku Dock to over 200 feet. They ran some simulations with the new profile and there is adequate seaway. Right now there are no plans to remove the Marine Park float. The next process is the deck behind the tram building to connect the seawalk. They are planning to remove the sidewalk on the southern side of South Franklin Street. That will either force people to use the sidewalk on the northern side or go down to the seawalk. Mr. Wilson said the docks will probably need to have ladders incase people jump off of them. Mr. Uchtyl said nothing is being done right now with the USS Storis, without a commitment from them. They can be accommodated if needed. The expected completion date of the 16B project is 2016. All the work is performed in the off season so that it doesn't affect the cruise ships in the summer.

C. Empty Chair Project

Ms. Karleen Grummett said this is a general overview of the Empty Chair Project. The Empty Chair Project is a proposed memorial to recognize the 34 Japanese who were taken from Juneau during World War II and interned in relocation camps. It also recognizes the Juneau community and their response when they returned. The project is sponsored by the class of 1958 and committee members. The empty chair represents John Tanaka who was relocated a month before his graduation of which he was valedictorian. His classmates left an empty chair to recognize him and the other Japanese people. The memorial will be interactive allowing people to sit on it and will include the names of all the interned Japanese and a plaque describing the memorial. They would like the memorial placed at Capital Park because it's right next to the high school. The chair will be a little bigger than life size. Mr. Wilson said

they need to work with staff to find a specific location and go over the needs for the memorial because the master plan for the park will hopefully be done this winter. Ms. Grummett said her sister will be at the August meeting to do a presentation. Mr. Wilson said there will be one more final workshop for the Capital School Park Master Plan. Mr. Brudie mentioned that there are other memorials in the park and would like to know they are going to relate to them. Mr. Wilson said this will come back to the PRAC in August as an action item.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Youth Activities Board: Tom Rutecki** – Wants suggestions for improving awareness of grants and getting items on the agenda because he was denied discussing the subject. There has only been one election over the last 9 years for officers.
- B. State Parks Board: Jim King** – no meeting this month.
- C. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson** – Had a meeting on July 2nd. They discussed a cell phone tower lease.
- D. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership: Chris Mertl** – absent.
- E. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Kate Walters** – Next meeting is tomorrow.
- F. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Advisory Board: Kate Walters** – The Friends of the Arboretum had another successful wine tasting event.
- G. Docks & Harbors Board: Dixie Hood** – absent
- H. Trail Mix, Inc.: Gerry Landry** – At the last meeting they discussed the issue of dogs not being leashed. State Parks is working on the third cabin and on the Point Bridget Trail, along with SAGA and Trail Mix.
- I. Eaglecrest Board/Nordic Ski Club: Odin Brudie** – Eaglecrest had the learning center and other items put on the 1% sales tax ballot and bond issue. He thinks there should be a link from the Parks & Recreation page to the Eaglecrest page.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE – Letter from Nancy Waterman regarding Auke Lake motorized use.

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

XIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Walters: The trail work completed on the Treadwell Ditch Trail is really nice but some of the bridges are not nailed down and are slippery.

Mr. Landry: Bicycled to the PRAC meeting and was surprised by the amount of people he saw biking. He hopes they can work on the PRAC goal of a bike path from the Valley to Downtown.

Mr. King: Was at the Treadwell Park this week and there is a sign that gives credit to the local group. The park has a very interesting history and the PRAC had a lot of involvement in it.

Mr. Morrison: Went to the Eagle Glacier Cabin and the second part of the trail was washed out. Was wondering if any group had an online chat board or blog where people can post current comments of the trail conditions, for people to read before they start hiking.

Mr. Rutecki: This time of year, when Kim Kiefer was the Director, she would drive the PRAC around to various places for a field trip.

Mr. Wilson: Had been working with George Schaaf on the Parks Foundation that can lobby, raise money, etc. They are working on their non-profit status. Down the road they would like to be able to get a paid position for the foundation.

XIV. NEXT MEETING – August 7, 2012

XV. ADJOURNMENT: 8:37pm, Ms. Walters motioned to adjourn. Approved.