

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 3, 2012
Assembly Chambers, 6PM

I. ROLL CALL, 6:00pm

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

Assembly Liaison: Jesse Kiehl

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 motioned to approve with the addition of Eaglecrest Master Plan as an Information Item and voting for a new Vice Chair as an Action Item. Approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. March 6, 2012 – Ms. Hood motioned to approve. Approved.

V. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIAISON

Mr. Kiehl said the Assembly has been on a down cycle for the last few weeks. They are excited to welcome the new City Manager and Deputy City Manager. The Assembly Finance Committee will now be meeting weekly until the budget is worked out. This will include the 1% sales tax issue. The first meeting is tomorrow night. A few people at last night's meeting discussed unleashed dogs in parks. It's an old issue and they will look at it again. There was a motion at the meeting to delay the pulling down the former Public Works building. Ms. Danner suggested using it as an interim step for the most vulnerable of the homeless population. The motion failed. The bids opened on Friday for the demolition of the building.

VI. CHAIR REPORT –

Mr. Wilson welcomed Mr. Morrison and Mr. Rutecki to the PRAC. On April 23rd Jeff is on the agenda at Juneau Youth Services board meeting. He's going to ask for an easement along Montana Creek. Any other members of the PRAC should also attend if they want. Mr. Wilson said that they would like to start a Juneau Parks Foundation.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT –

Mr. Fischer welcomed the two new members to the PRAC.

There are two action items on the PRAC Agenda:

A. Juneau Youth Services Cornerstone Facility Replacement –

At the March 6, 2012 PRAC meeting, Juneau Youth Services (JYS) Executive Director Walter Majoros and JYS board member Ron King made a presentation outlining the plans for replacement of the Cornerstone Facility located adjacent to Jackie Renninger Park. As explained, in order for the plans to move forward a portion of park land would need to be transferred to JYS. This portion would be approximately 85'x150'.

I have attached the memorandum I drafted to the Lands Committee for their March 8th meeting to convey the initial reaction and comments from the PRAC.

JYS provides a valuable and needed service for our community and I support their mission and this project. I recommend that this small portion of park land be transferred to JYS and am asking for the support of the PRAC.

B. *Twin Lakes Warming Hut* –

At the November 9, 2011 PRAC meeting, Rorie Watt made a presentation regarding building a warming hut at Twin Lakes in honor of John Caouette, a longtime Juneau resident and an avid outdoorsman and ice skater. He especially loved playing hockey on frozen lakes and with beginners and children. That is why a small group of people who knew and loved John thought it would be a tribute to his memory to raise the funds and build this shelter.

Rorie Watt will again make a presentation tonight and although the final design and details have not been worked out, I support the concept of accepting this warming hut after construction at Twin Lakes.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Juneau Youth Services Cornerstone Facility Replacement

Mr. Ron King said they looked at several properties for a new facility. The park area is the best location. They're not concerned about parking during the construction. Ms. Hood asked if they are able to make a commitment to not remove any of the large trees. Mr. Ron King said they will only remove the danger trees with approval from Terry Hinkley. Mr. Wilson asked if they have done full design and development yet. Mr. Ron King said this is the first stage and haven't done that yet. Final design is not far off though because they have some funds for design and this particular design has already been done before at their Montana Creek Property. Mr. Fischer said once this is approved it will go to the Lands Committee. Ms. Hood motioned to approve the transfer of the property to the JYS. Approved. Mr. Majoros thanked the PRAC for their support.

B. Twin Lakes Warming Hut

Rorie Watt and Rebecca Braun spoke in support of the Twin Lakes Warming Hut. Ms. Braun said her husband was John Caouette who died in an accident in October 2010. Shortly after his passing the idea of the hut came up. He loved the outdoors and getting other people outside. This would honor John's legacy of his love for ice hockey. They have started a memorial fund at the Juneau Community Foundation and already have half the funds. Mr. Watt said they envision getting a lumber package from Icy Straits. It would be similar to the Pioneer Pavilion but enclosed on all sides. It would include an information board in it about the ice. It could also be used in the summer as a picnic shelter. Ms. Hood asked about the lights that used to be at Twin Lakes. Mr. Watt said they're not proposing getting lighting at Twin Lakes. Ms. Walters said it's a great idea and asked about accessibility. Mr. Watt said the elevation of the structure would be low relative to the lake and there would be a path that would climb up to the hut. Mr. Brudie asked about a flame or heat. Mr. Watt said they're looking at propane stove. The users would supply their own propane. Mr. Landry asked if there would be a sign or information regarding John. Ms. Braun said the details have not been worked out but she envisions a sign or plaque. Mr. King said they envision people watching the skaters but the pictures don't show many or large windows. Mr. Watt said they would work on that. Mr. Rutecki said there have been issues in the past with skating on Twin Lakes but doesn't want to see those happen again or affect this project. He thinks it's a great idea. Mr. Wilson asked who would own it and how that would work. Mr. Fischer said the intent is that they would build the facility and turn it over to Parks & Recreation. Mr. Landry motioned to support the staff recommendation of the concept of the warming hut. Approved.

C. Elect New Vice Chair

Mr. Brudie motioned to have Ms. Walters be the Vice Chair. Approved.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Parks & Recreation Sales Tax Proposal Update

Mr. Fischer said staff is still working on their recommendations. He will bring that information back to the May meeting.

B. Spring Retreat Update

The PRAC Spring Retreat will be May 5th at the Dimond Park Aquatic Center at 9:00am.

C. Eaglecrest Master Plan

Mr. Landry said comments are closed for the Eaglecrest Master Plan. Parks & Recreation used to manage Eaglecrest. Parks & Recreation is mentioned several times throughout the master plan. It may relate to Parks & Recreation with respect to identifying trails for skiing, hiking, biking and running. He said motorized use has been an issue within CBJ property but is not limited to the ski area. It would be good to put signs at trailheads stating where they can and can't go. Matt Lillard said it is an issue. Mr. Wilson suggested having the Snowmobilers Club put signs up. Mr. Lillard said the board released a draft issue of the master plan and they received comments via email, mail and at public meetings. A final copy will potentially be available at this weeks meeting and will then be ratified by the Assembly. Mr. Brudie said having a joint meeting with the Eaglecrest Board would be a good idea to discuss summer recreation, commercial use and other PRAC related items.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Activities Board – Motion to make Mr. Rutecki the PRAC representative to the Youth Activities Board. Approved. Mr. Rutecki said they had 20 individuals apply for contingency grants which used up all the money until the next fiscal year.

B. State Parks Board: Jim King – They didn't meet last night. Had an open house at the House of Wickersham.

C. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson – nothing.

D. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership: Chris Mertl – Did well at the Home Show. Arbor Day is coming up, the 3rd Monday in May.

E. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Kate Walters – nothing.

F. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Advisory Board: Kate Walters – The Arboretum is having a wine tasting event on May 24th at Glacier Gardens.

G. Docks & Harbors Board: Dixie Hood – The Juneau Empire had an article on the background of Mike Pusich. The Army Corps of Engineers is still objecting to dredging Douglas Harbor.

H. Trail Mix, Inc.: Gerry Landry – Trail Mix is also mentioned quite a bit in the Eaglecrest Master Plan.

I. Eaglecrest Board: Gerry Landry – See above Information Item.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE – Annual Report presented to the Human Resources Committee.

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

XIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Landry: Mr. Landry asked about signage at the Dan Moller Trailhead. Mr. Wilson said to start with the Snowmobilers Club because they promised to police that area. A subcommittee to over this issue was established with Mr. Landry, Mr. Mertl and Mr. Brudie.

Ms. Mertl: Wanted to know if there would be reduced fees for parents/children for learning to skate, learning to swim, etc. as he had mentioned once before. It would be a good way to get more users.

Ms. Hood: Pleased with the new PRAC members.

Mr. Morrison: Appreciate being here and looking forward to learning about more of the issues. He's lived in Juneau most of his adult life and loves recreational activities.

Mr. Rutecki: Would like to see a master plan developed for the Indian Point property.

Mr. King: Will be absent during the retreat.

Mr. Brudie: Welcome Matt and Eric. Thanked Matt Lillard for attending the meeting.

Mr. Wilson: PRAC has done a lot this year.

XIV. NEXT MEETING – May 5, 2012 Annual Retreat

XV. ADJOURNMENT: 8:16pm, Mr. Brudie motioned to adjourn. Approved.