

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 6, 2012
City Hall Conference Room 224, 6PM

I. ROLL CALL: 6:05pm

Members Present: Odin Brudie, Jim King, Melissa Goldstein, Dixie Hood, Jeff Wilson, Jeff Sloss, Gerry Landry, Kate Walters, Chris Mertl

Assembly Liaison: Jesse Kiehl – absent

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

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – none

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Mr. Mertl motioned to approve with the addition of Information Item - Bishop Kenny Peace Park. Approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. December 6, 2011 – Mr. Mertl motioned to approve. Approved.

V. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIAISON – none

VI. CHAIR REPORT – none

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Parks & Recreation snow removal priority list is included in the packet as requested at the last PRAC meeting. It includes the estimated times of service but it all really depends on how much snow there is. The location not included in the list is the Dimond Park Aquatic Center which is the top priority in the valley. There is a snow plow now stationed in the valley to help with this.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – none

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Juneau Youth Services Cornerstone Facility Replacement

Mr. Fischer said on February 13, 2012, he received a memorandum from Heather Marlow, Lands and Resources Manager, requesting comments on a request from Juneau Youth Services (JYS) to acquire municipal property along the north boundary of Jackie Renninger Park on Mendenhall Loop Road for the replacement of the Cornerstone Facility. Renninger Park is the location of the Pipeline Skate Park facility. He attached Ms. Marlow's memorandum and the packet submitted to Lands and Resources from JYS.

Our department response to Lands and Resources stated that JYS's request would have a significant consequence for this park. This comment was based upon that Renninger Park is the only recreation area for several residential neighborhoods located between Egan Drive and the airport, and parting with approximately 1/3 of the entire parcel was unacceptable.

Mr. Fischer along with Ms. Marlow met again with a JYS board member to discuss the impact of their request on the park. The concerns were to make sure that the use of the land was appropriate and that the footprint of the new facility would have minimum impact to the park and surrounding properties. They discussed the possibility of moving the facility and reducing the property setback from 20' to 10'. He agreed to bring it back to their board to review the orientation of the facility, new setbacks and resubmit their request. With these changes the land needed could be reduced substantially to approximately 75' by 120-140'.

Tonight, JYS will give their presentation to you. Based upon their presentation and the PRAC's comments he will be able to make a staff recommendation for an action item at our April PRAC meeting.

The PRAC's comments will be forwards to the Lands Committee.

Walter Majoros, Executive Director of Juneau Youth Services and Ron King, on the JYS Board of Directors spoke regarding their request for a new facility.

Mr. Majoros said JYS has been in operation since 1961. It began as the Juneau Receiving Home. In 1986 the name was changed to its current name, Juneau Youth Services. They provide a variety of services to youth and families including emergency and transitional services, long-term residential programs, school-based services and outpatient services. In 2011 they provided services to 480 youth.

Two types of services are currently housed out of the Cornerstone building. The first is the Cornerstone Emergency Shelter, which provides a short term emergency shelter for up to 14 youth ages 10-19. It is co-ed and serves youth in state custody and runaway/homeless youth who are under parental control. The second service is the transitional living apartments. There are two apartments for up to 4 youth ages 16-17, one apartment for girls and the other for boys. Over the last year the emergency shelter and transitional living apartments had a total of 3,416 bed nights. The facility is never closed.

The history of the Cornerstone building is important. The Civil Aeronautics Administration conveyed the site where the existing Cornerstone is located to the City of Juneau in 1953. Juneau Receiving Home lost its home near Norway Point in the 1960's due to the construction of Egan Drive. The City of Juneau worked with the Juneau Receiving Home to acquire another home and arranged for the construction of the current Cornerstone facility in 1967. The City conveyed the property to the Greater Juneau Borough in 1968 with the written condition that "... the premises herein described shall be used for Receiving Home purposes, and related, allied purposes only." JYS has assumed responsibility for all costs for renovations and repairs of the Cornerstone facility for at least the last 20 years. The cumulative cost of completed and recommended renovations and repairs in this time period is in excess of \$1.2 million. This includes \$600,000 to cover the cost of a roof replacement, asbestos removal and heating system replacement.

The Cornerstone building continues to deteriorate and threatens the ability to provide safe, therapeutic environment for youth. The JYS Board of Directors has therefore determined that it is no longer feasible to renovate and repair the existing Cornerstone facility, and that a replacement facility must be secured. The board established a Cornerstone Facility Work Group to develop a plan for a replacement facility. The Work Group conducted a "site suitability analysis" and determined that the existing and adjacent Cornerstone property is the optimal location for the replacement facility. Site suitability criteria included the following: minimal site development costs & zoning restrictions; a central convenient location for clients and families; proximity to other compatible JYS services; access to public transportation and other emergency services and that it be located within a neighborhood setting.

They have reduced the footprint of their building since their last meeting with staff. They're requesting a land space of 85 feet by 140 feet. This is the minimal amount that would allow them to build the new facility while keeping the old facility until it's complete. They need to do this because they have no place for people to stay while the new one is being built.

Mr. Fischer said the setbacks were changed to 10ft and the drawings still include the 20ft setbacks. The corner lot is a private residence. The next lot is owned by JYS and they have another facility there for sexual offenders. Mr. Fischer said he understands that the facility management portion of the building is a garage or storage. Mr. Ron King said the facility management portion has the transitional living program apartments above the garage. They're actually hoping for one accessible apartment on the

ground floor and 4 apartments on top. Mr. Wilson clarified that one of the issues they're looking at is whether there will be a 10ft or 20ft setback on Hurlock Ave. He said he doesn't see a problem with the 20ft setbacks.

Mr. Ron King said the Cornerstone Emergency Shelter doesn't make any money over time. It's difficult to get paid by Medicare when youth are in and out so quickly. The transitional living apartments, however, are a more steady income.

They're hoping Terry Hinkley can go through and look at the trees.

Mr. Mertl said the 10ft or 20ft doesn't matter too much to him but the 20ft buffer may be better with the setting it is in. He said there are some big trees and it would be nice to leave them if they're not hazard trees. Mr. Jim King said the trees are an important part of the neighborhood. They are a key piece in keeping the residential quality of the area. Mr. Ron King said that if they keep the 20ft setback that would keep them farther away from the trees. If they can be thinned out without cutting the whole tree down that would be best but they don't want hazard trees that may fall on their building.

Mr. Landry asked if the land that JYS owns by Montana Creek could somehow be exchanged for this land during this process. Mr. Majoros said they were approached by Trail Mix about that issue and one of their concerns is that they have a lot of kids who AWOL from their facilities and they didn't want to give them a highway to make it easier. He said he told Ms. Marlow that they would be willing to bring that issue back to the board and discuss it further. They believe their proposal stands on its own and that the land near Montana Creek shouldn't be included. Mr. Ron King said the original trail that Trail Mix came up with borders the fence to their property and that would have to be within the 25ft setback. They would look at diverting the trail another direction. Mr. Wilson agrees that they don't want to confuse the two topics; the Cornerstone should be a separate topic. Mr. Jim King said the Montana Creek problem could be solved with a bridge down stream from the JYS property. Mr. Mertl said he doesn't think they're mixing the two topics. We can work together on both projects. Mr. Majoros said the board is open to looking at the Montana Creek Trail easement but if they link the two projects together it will extend the timeline for the project and they're hoping to get funding for the facility from the Legislature this session.

Mr. Brudie asked if there are plans to expand the capacity of the facility. Mr. Majoros said perhaps by a couple beds for the transitional living apartments. The parking will be expanded to meet the legal requirements.

Mr. Sloss asked if parking will be an issue during construction. Mr. Majoros said that Ms. Marlow had mentioned that during construction they can stage some of the construction vehicles and staff vehicles at the skate park lot and build a temporary trail through Parks & Recreation property to the facility. Mr. Fischer said this would be a concern. Mr. Majoros said they just need a place to store their vehicles during the construction. Mr. Wilson asked if they can work together on this to come up with a solution. Mr. Fischer said they are so early in the process and the details haven't been flushed out yet. This item will come back as an action item in April. Ms. Hood pointed out that parking during construction wasn't mentioned until someone on the committee brought it up.

Mr. Wilson asked if there was a master plan for the area. Mr. Schaaf said there isn't a master plan for this area but the department's comprehensive plan sets guidelines for size, surface area and the population a park is supposed to serve. This is the only CBJ owned land for recreation purposes between the airport, Egan Drive and the Nugget Mall. Mr. Schaaf said the area does get used. It's not actively programmed as a park right now which is the case with a lot of parks in Juneau. The comprehensive plan states that a neighborhood park should be 5 acres. This whole piece of land is less than 4 acres currently.

Mr. Wilson asked if they will put a fence around the new facility. Mr. Majoros said they don't have that level of detail yet but there is no reason to have a fence.

Mr. Wilson asked if the kids they serve use the skate park or wooded area. Mr. Majoros said some of the kids do use the skate park and some of them do use the forested area but not always in appropriate ways.

Mr. Wilson said that the issue of 10ft or 20ft is a small issue in his opinion. He said that it should be a 20ft setback on the roadside, 10ft setback on the side of the building and 5ft would be okay behind the building, against the park land. Mr. Mertl said that 20ft all the way around would be good for the neighbors.

Mr. Schaaf asked what occurred between the original drawing and the newest drawing that allowed for the number of parking spaces to be dropped dramatically. Mr. Majoros said that the architects drew the designs and he can ask them. There wasn't a discussion regarding parking before they were drawn. Mr. Ron King said there's probably less parking spaces because they focused more on the building itself.

Mr. Schaaf asked why they were approaching the CBJ before the private land owner. Mr. Ron King said it would be difficult to have the facility built without the CBJ property and the only reason they're talking to the private land owner is because Ms. Marlow asked them to. Mr. Fischer said it would be good to do a whole neighborhood meeting. Mr. Ron King said that will happen but it will be under the conditional use permit process. Mr. King said the corner lot will most likely not be free. There is a house on the lot.

Mr. Fischer said he will put all the PRAC's comments into a memo to Ms. Marlow.

B. Parks & Recreation Sales Tax Initiative

Mr. Schaaf said they added several projects to the packet adding \$2,500,000 to the total amount. This includes Centennial Hall roof replacement, Centennial Hall plumbing repairs, Juneau-Douglas City Museum HVAC system, Zach Gordon Youth Center floor and weight room renovations and new lockers and flooring at the Augustus Brown Swimming Pool. They were presented to the Public Works & Facilities Committee. There was a lot of support for a park in the Lemon Creek area. Parks & Recreation staff is now working to prioritize the projects. Mr. Wilson said this topic should come back next month as an action item. Mr. Brudie asked if they were still looking for any other nominations. Mr. Wilson said they may not make any changes but it will be good to have PRAC's endorsement. Mr. Wilson asked when it will move to the Assembly. Mr. Fischer said sometime in June. Mr. Wilson said he would like to see the staff priorities. Ms. Hood asked when the packet goes forward, she would like to see the projects separated and not have people vote for it because they want to see one of the improvements and then everything goes through. Mr. Landry would like to see the priority list before the start of the next meeting so they can be ready to discuss it. Mr. Mertl said we're up to almost 10 million dollars worth of projects and other departments are looking for money also, so we're not going to get all them funded. Mr. Fischer said the Deputy City Manager suggested that we add the other projects that have now been added. Ms. Hood said Ms. Kiefer used to be the Director of Parks & Recreation and she is very supportive of Ms. Kiefer's process. Mr. Mertl said maybe Ms. Kiefer should be invited to the next meeting. Ms. Hood said it would be very smart to have Ms. Kiefer at the next meeting. Mr. Fischer said he has met with Ms. Kiefer several times regarding this topic and she doesn't want to see any new projects in the packet, new trails, facilities, etc.

C. Capital School Park Update

Mr. Schaaf said they had the first of three public workshops that was facilitated by Chris Mertl. It was located at the Terry Miller Office Building Gymnasium which is right next to the park. Over 25 people attended and they got some really good feedback. They would like to have the master plan completed by June.

D. Adair Kennedy Turf Fields Update

Mr. Schaaf said the design of the project has been completed. It is currently out for bid. The deadline for the bids is March 16th. They had the pre bid meeting yesterday which was attended by some local and out of state firms. There are a lot of limitations as far as access with the project. They need to protect the track around the turf. The estimate on the project is \$980,000. This includes new goal posts, new pads for the goal posts and new shot-put, discus and long jump areas.

E. Marine Park Update

Mr. Schaaf said the project is currently out for bid and closes tomorrow. The estimate is \$75,000-100,000 dollars. It includes demolition of the bumpers that will be replaced with gently sloped grass berms in the shelter area. There will also be added lighting. The work must be completed by May 1st.

The Melvin Park playground was awarded to North Pacific Erectors. The project will be completed by June 15th.

The Dimond Park landscaping was awarded to Arete Construction.

F. Spring Retreat

Mr. Wilson said the Spring Retreat is the time to discuss new goals, and to vote for a Chair and Vice Chair. There are three positions up for appointment next month. They would like to have the retreat at a Parks & Recreation facility. It typically occurs in May. Mr. Fischer will look for a location. Mr. Wilson said there should be changes made to the Comp Plan.

Mr. Wilson said it should be on a Tuesday. Ms. Hood said she thinks it should happen on a Saturday, rather than cramming it into a work day at a regular PRAC meeting. Mr. King said having a retreat on the first Tuesday is not a retreat, it's a normal meeting. Mr. Landry said he would rather do it on a work day. Mr. Sloss agreed with that. Mr. Brudie said he can see the advantage of a Saturday meeting. Ms. Hood said a casual meeting early on a Saturday would be the best. Ms. Walters said she doesn't have a strong preference as to which day but she did enjoy the Saturday meetings. Mr. Sloss said has a slight preference for an evening meeting but Saturday would also work. Mr. Fischer said either day works. Mr. Mertl said he can see the advantage of a Saturday meeting but his weekends are very busy.

Saturday, May 5th or 12th would be the best day for the retreat. It can be a potluck. At the April meeting the Mr. Fischer will report back on the location.

G. Bishop Michael K. Kenny Memorial Park

Mr. Schaaf is passing around a draft sign that the Veteran's for Peace would like to place in the Bishop Michael H. Kenny Memorial Peace Park. They will include the interpretive panel in the park along with their opening of the park this summer. Mr. Wilson said there is too much information on the panel. Mr. Mertl suggested only using the first two paragraphs of the information along with the picture. Mr. Wilson suggested adding a scanner code for people with a smart phone to be able to scan and get more information about Bishop Michael H. Kenny. Mr. Mertl said there is an inset in the wall that was made for a mosaic sign to be placed in it. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Goldstein suggested the last sentence of the first paragraph should be removed.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Youth Activities Board: Jeff Sloss – Had a meeting and awarded some contingency grants.

B. State Parks Board: Jim King – There are two cabins at Eagle Beach. Met with the legislatures.

C. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson – Didn't attend.

D. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership: Chris Mertl – There is a meeting tomorrow.

E. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Kate Walters – They're fixing the deck at one of the pools. The bid for the mechanical for the whirl pool closed today.

F. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Advisory Board: Kate Walters – There will be a wine tasting in May.

G. Docks & Harbors Board: Dixie Hood – The Planning Commission discussed construction for the floating docks. It was put on hold. There was a regular meeting on January 26th. Dredging is still a problem.

H. Trail Mix, Inc.: Gerry Landry – They had a budget meeting and are working on their lobbying efforts.

I. Eaglecrest Board: Gerry Landry – They're pushing for a new building up there. It will include a learning center and ski shop.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE – none

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

XIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Brudie: There is a serious problem with snow machining in the Mt. Troy area. He would like to know who manages Mt. Troy.

Hood: The PRAC keeps talking about having a joint meeting with the Eaglecrest Board and it still hasn't happened. PRAC's former Chair, Joan O'Keefe, was honored at AWARE's Woman of Distinction event. She is on the Suicide Prevention Task Force and they are talking about having an after school recreational activities program. They're seeking a grant to help pay for it and perhaps the PRAC could write a letter of support for it.

King: Would like to see everyone on the committee bring a list of trail improvements to the retreat.

Wilson: It's great to be back in the land of snow.

XIV. NEXT MEETING – April 3, 2012

XV. ADJOURNMENT: 9:06pm, Ms. Goldstein motioned to approve. Approved.