

Minutes
Planning Commission
Committee of the Whole
CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU
Nathaniel Dye, Acting Chairman
July 13, 2021

I. ROLL CALL

Nathaniel Dye, Acting Chairman, called the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Planning Commission (PC), held virtually via Zoom Webinar and telephonically, to order at 6:00 P.M.

Commissioners present: All Commissioners present via video conferencing – Nathaniel Dye, Vice Chairman; Paul Voelckers, Clerk; Travis Arndt, Deputy Clerk; Ken Alper; Dan Hickok; Josh Winchell; Erik Pedersen; Mandy Cole

Commissioners absent: Michael LeVine, Chairman

Staff present: Jill Maclean, CDD Director; Alexandra Pierce, CDD Planning Manager; Irene Gallion, CDD Planner; Michele Elfers, Parks & Rec Deputy Director

Assembly members: Loren Jones

II. REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA – None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

IV. BRIEF REVIEW OF THE RULES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None

VI. ITEMS FOR RECONSIDERATION – None

VII. CONSENT AGENDA – None

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

IX. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Off Road Vehicle (ORV) and Montana Creek Recreation Master Planning Update from Parks & Recreation (P&R)

Michele Elfers, Deputy Director, CBJ Parks & Recreation Department, presented the current status of the ORV Master Plan. This is of importance because there is a good chance the issue will come before the PC in the form of conditional use permits in the future. Ms. Elfers explained there have been several ad hoc meetings with some of the interested ORV groups in

town including the Douglas Motocross Association, the Southeast Jeep Club, Juneau Off-Road Association. Ms. Elfers explained the various groups all had different ORV goals and it was likely that more than one site would need to be developed to meet those needs.

Several sites have been identified as potential ORV riding sites. Those garnering most attention are:

- 35-mile parcel – CBJ land. This could be managed via a Memorandum of Agreement with a local interest group similar to how the Harmon Rifle Range is managed.

Commissioner Winchell asked how they foresee tourism playing a part in ORV opportunities. Ms. Elfers said they had not looked at the tourism angle yet but it was an interesting question and she would bring it up to the working group.

Mr. Voelckers thought the terrain at the 35-mile site would be good for leisurely riding and asked if 'high energy' riding or racing was being considered for another location. Ms. Elfers agreed this would likely not be a site conducive to motocross or racing competition sports riding and said they are looking at other sites for that.

- Montana Creek Area – This area is highly utilized currently with the shooting range and Nordic skiing and other recreational activities. Challenges in this area include lack of parking and coordinating between agencies as portions of the area are owned by CBJ, some by State DNR and the rest is Federal Forest Service lands.
 - Mr. Arndt asked if the State were to transfer management of land in the area, would CBJ become the owner or would the State retain ownership with CBJ managing it. Ms. Elfers confirmed it would be the latter.
 - Mr. Winchell asked if Ms. Elfers foresees the need for CBJ to cover insurance costs for these lands if they were to move forward with a management agreement with the State. Ms. Elfers said they have not gotten far enough to have that discussion yet.

Other sites mentioned in the presentation slides but not discussed before time ran out were:

- S&S Pond in Lemon Creek – Privately owned
- Echo Cove – Owned by Goldbelt – There is already some illegal riding happening here
- Other privately owned areas are also being considered

X. **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** – None

XI. **OTHER BUSINESS** – None

XII. **STAFF REPORTS** – None

XIII. **COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

XIV. **LIAISON REPORT** – None

XV. **CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** – None

XVI. **PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS** – None

XVII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

XVIII. **ADJOURNMENT** – 6:29 P.M.