

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 5, 2014
CBJ Assembly Chambers, 6 p.m.

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Wilson.

Present: Chairman Jeff Wilson, Josh Anderson, Traci Gilmour, Gerry Landry, Eric Morrison, Chris Mertl, Tom Rutecki, Kate Walters;

Absent: Odin Brudie;

P&R Staff Attending: Brent Fischer, P&R Director; Fran Compton, Recording Secretary; Myiia Wahto, Recreation Superintendent, George Schaaf, Parks & Landscape Superintendent; Tim Gibson, Building Maintenance Superintendent
CBJ Assembly Liaison: Maria Gladziszewski absent.

Agenda Changes – None, Agenda approved with change.

Public Participation – None

Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2014 – no opposition, Minutes approved.

Director's Report - Brent Fischer:

CBJ Treadwell Ice Arena Task Force Update

The Task Force has been regularly meeting and reviewing information from both our department and Eaglecrest. They will begin the process of holding public meetings beginning tomorrow night at 5pm at the Douglas Library. There will be two more meeting scheduled for November 13th at 5pm at the Mendenhall Library and on November 25th at 5pm in the City Hall Assembly Chambers. I encourage you to attend if possible. As soon as information is available, I will give you an update on their findings.

Day of Play

This year's Day of Play was a success. Not only because we have very professional, dedicated and passionate staff, and not only because the public so well supported the event, but it was also because of our wonderful business partners that made it possible for this event to happen.

We provided over 1,500 recreation opportunities for the adults and youth of this community. This number doesn't even include the opportunities provided by the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Valley Public Library and the Dimond Park Field House.

I would like to recognize our business partners again publically. Our thanks go out to Reuben Willis State Farm Insurance, Grumpy's, Taku Roller Girls, Zach Gordon Teen Club Board, Valley Lumber and Building Supply, JDHS Boys' Basketball Team, Baranof Hotel, Starbucks Coffee at the Baranof, Valley Paint

Center, Tingey Orthodontics and NorthStar Trekking. Capital City Fire Rescue, Juneau Police Department, Public Works were also very supportive in the event.

If you have the opportunity, please let them know how much you appreciate their support of our commitment to provide a fun and healthy quality of life for our community.

A Time for Healing Project

Last week I received an email from Richard Steele. Mr. Steele and Tlingit Elder Paul Marks gave a presentation last March to the PRAC on a project that commemorates the razing of the Douglas Indian Village in 1962. The project will commission the creation, installation and dedication of two totems at Savikko Park.

They have received a small grant from the Margaret Frans Brady Fund to get started and along with the Goldbelt Heritage Foundation will be submitting a grant to the National Endowment for the Arts. I will be meeting with the project coordinators in the next couple of weeks to get more details and will be asking them to come back to the PRAC to provide an update. They will be asking for a letter of support at that time.

Parks & Landscape Superintendent-George Schaaf

As many of you know, George Schaaf, our Parks & Landscape Superintendent has accepted a position with the USFS and his last day will be on November 21st.

I understand how difficult this decision was for him to make, but I want him to understand how difficult it will be to find someone like him to fill the position. He has accomplished so many things in his three years with us and our department and the community is extremely grateful. I have a tremendous amount of respect for him professionally and personally. I don't think he will admit it, but I have learned so much from him. The good thing is I'm sure we will be working together on future projects, but he will be greatly missed by his coworkers. Thank you George and we wish you the best.

Empty Chair Commendation from Empty Chair Committee to Brent Fischer.

Unfinished Business – none

New Business:

Thank you to Josh Anderson, Chatham Electric, IBEW 1547 & Juneau Motocross volunteers – for lighting work completed at the Mt. Jumbo Gym - Myiia Wahto, Recreation Superintendent: Thank You Letters and Recreation Passes signed by Parks & Recreation Director, Brent Fischer and PRAC Chairman, Jeff Wilson for volunteering their time and materials to install new lighting in the Mt. Jumbo Gym. Volunteers were:

Jason Lucas – Chatham Electric;

Richie Behuniak – JDMXA, IBEW, Chatham Electric;
Steve Davis – Retired IBEW;
Daryl Hedges – IBEW;
Josh Anderson – JDMXA, IBEW, Chatham Electric;
Melissa, Sarah and Tyler Anderson – JDMXA;
Ralph and Julia Kibby – Chatham Electric.

PRAC membership expirations - Jeff Wilson: I would like the PRAC to know that December will be my last meeting with PRAC, my term expires at the end of February and I will be out of town in January and February. I encourage members of this committee to consider running for the Chair position. Other members whose terms expire February 28, 2015 are: Tom Rutecki and Eric Morrison.

Parks Maintenance & Landscaping CIP Info – George Schaaf, Superintendent: PowerPoint presentation of spreadsheets showing the proposed projects for Trails and for P&R facilities CIP requests for 2015-2020. (attached).

Gunakadeit Park Proposals – George Schaaf: 3 proposals from maintenance staff to manage this park, I will discuss with Downtown Business Association (DBA):

- Ban smoking inside this Park – cigarette litter can't be controlled; have tried ashtrays and nothing has worked. Park Rangers could issue citations.

Mr. Wilson: I think this is an excellent proposal. Anyone not agree with this proposal? PRAC supports this proposal.

- Christmas tree in Pocket Park moved to Marine Park Pavilion, under shelter, and illuminated. We hear that DBA is considering the Gunakadeit Park as a place for high school groups to sell Christmas trees downtown. George will approach DBA for moving tree.

Mr. Wilson: Anyone from PRAC who does not support moving the tree? PRAC supports this move. Member discussion about source of tree.

- After the holiday season close Gunakadeit Park Jan 15 to May 1. Because P&R only has full time summer seasonal staff, the expense is approximately \$4K for winter season maintenance of this park. Closing gate and not having daily snow removal will be a better use of expense. Committee member discussion of closure dates.

J. Anderson made a Motion: to close Gunakadeit Park from end of tourist season until May 1 and open for special events.

One objection – Chris Mertl: not open to public then it is tourist season driven.
Friendly amendment, T. Gilmour, make the closed dates November 1 to

April 1. No objection, Motion to close Gunakadeit Park from November 1 to April 1 and open for special events. Motion carried

Chair's report – J. Wilson: Question - what happened to Auke Lake motor use report for this past summer?

Mr. Schaaf: We haven't tallied the survey data yet; we did not issue any citations, and there were fewer warnings than last year, with good presence on the lake with our rangers. Everyone appreciated the education rather than enforcement. Not dealing with boat length simplified a lot. The gangway was replaced.

Mr. Wilson: What about the [Parks & Recreation] Comp Plan?

Mr. Fischer: The park consultant to the City Manager will be making recommendation for P&R Department to move forward. It will be based on the City Manager's agreement with the changes coming for P&R Dept. If pools go, if ice arena goes, other entities go elsewhere that will fundamentally change the Comp Plan.

Lands Committee – J. Wilson: The last three meetings were cancelled. In October we talked about Peterson Hill. Public land needed for future parks. The new PRAC liaison needs to stay on top of that.

No Liaison report.

Youth Activity Board - T. Rutecki: YAB meeting next week for contingency grant application review. Grant applications completed. That will be it until after the first of year.

Aquatic Facilities Board – K. Walters: AFAB reviewed: there has been an overall savings on staff costs but those will increase as year progresses and vacancies are filled. PFD sale runs until 12/31 with 20% off Annual Pass. Under-water Lighting problem - fixtures are falling out. Building Maintenance is looking at the problem and plan to change out within 6 months. There is a Scholarship Fund through Juneau Community Foundation, who has approved 16 scholarships for swim lessons. If you want to make a donation for the holiday season, please consider. With the election results, the City manager will consider the creation of endowment board. Two private citizens have been directed by the Mayor to work with the City Attorney to develop language for the makeup of the empowerment board. The AFAB is hoping to see that document before it goes to the Assembly.

Mr. Fischer: The light problem in the pool is not a warranty issue it is a design issue because we have a salt pool. Building Maintenance staff has made templates to put in LED lights.

Mr. Wilson: So with this empowerment board what happens next?

Mr. Fischer: There will be a transition plan. The official handover may be July 1. We will work in partnership to get things in line for them. If they are going to change staffing, they need to give ample time to advise our employees. Understanding of processes and

what authorities the Assembly will give them. Will they make recommendations or will they direct. At this time it is under our authority.

Committee members' discussion.

Mr. Fischer: As soon as I can get an understanding of what the Empower Board process would be - I can't imagine that the Assembly will allow the board to take over without a Plan – I will give you the feedback.

Other member business:

Mr. Landry: Mendenhall Glacier Visitor's Center EIS with a couple of weeks to comment on. Proposals including shuttle systems, expanding services for guides, and a lot of good ideas in there. There is still some time to comment. Does PRAC want to submit comments? He will send the link to J. Wilson for distribution to PRAC members.

Mr. Mertl: ●) FYI - Info learned at Parking Day – City thinks it's easy to get liability insurance. It is not. It was \$550 for one parking spot. It would be great to find ways for non-profits to celebrate and do fun things that isn't a financial burden in downtown. ●) George - goodbye, thanks for all the great things you've done. ●) P&R needs a Marketing Plan – how do we market our Parks and Rec, a huge asset we can flip for benefits to the community with revenue streams.

Mr. Fischer: I have a marketing contact meeting Nov 15 to work a marketing plan and we will start a plan soon. The social media plan is not out yet, but the draft is out.

Mr. Mertl: ●) Park Foundation Update – Assembly person Nankervis will support and will work to find the money outside of Parks & Rec, and I emphasized it needs to come from separate city source. ●) Frustration tree removing ordinance: Would love to move forward on a tree removing ordinance because I am hearing pros and cons about trees being removed from parks land. We need an ordinance because we are into a trend we can't stop;

Mr. Fischer: G. Schaaf has been instrumental in keeping the ordinance circulating.

Mr. Mertl: looking forward to our retreat; ●) when will you see the consultant report?

Mr. Fischer: I was told the consultant report will be into the Manager's office at the end of December and we will be able to look at it.

Mr. Mertl: ●) update on Goldbelt?

Mr. Fischer: No.

Mr. Mertl: ●) I do a lot of work in other southeast communities and they are funding P&R facilities with cruise ship head tax, I don't know if P&R is working with Docks and Harbors to get that. For example, there is Skagway funding a pool and artificial turf, trail improvements in Sitka because of commercial use permits – are we targeting head tax for our needs?

Mr. Fischer: The CBJ process is we put something to the CM office along with all other departments and the CM selects with criteria and the request needs to show a clear nexus to the cruise ship, visitors and waterfront. We have made requests and been turned down.

Mr. Schaaf: Juneau has a local head tax; fed laws restrict what can be done with that money.

Committee members' discussion.

Mr. Rutecki: George, you did a great job on the Auke Lake issue and the OHV Park. I learned a lot from you in your short time – you have done a great job.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 26 day of November, 2014. Fran Compton, Administrative Assistant II.