

AGENDA
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 4, 2014
CBJ Assembly Chambers, 6 p.m.

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Acknowledge member appointments effective 3/1/14
- II. Agenda Changes
- III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items
- IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – February 4, 2014
- V. Unfinished Business
 - A. Report of PRAC’s Annual Report to HR Committee
- VI. New Business
 - A. Goldbelt Heritage Institute Proposal –
Elder Paul Marks with Richard Steele (see Appendix A)
 - B. Park Foundation – Chris Mertl
 - C. Election of Officers
- VII. Committee, Liaison, and/or Staff Reports
 - A. Chair’s Report: Kate Walters
 - B. Director’s Report: Brent Fischer
 - C. Liaison to the Assembly Report: Randy Wanamaker
 - ~~D. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson~~
 - E. Youth Activity Board: Tom Rutecki
 - F. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Kate Walters
 - G. State Parks Board/Trail Mix: Gerry Landry
 - H. Juneau Urban Forestry Partnership: Chris Mertl
 - I. Jensen-Olson Arboretum Board: Kate Walters
 - ~~J. Eaglecrest Board/Nordic Ski Club: Odin Brudie~~
 - K. Juneau Sports Association: Tracie Gilmour
- VIII. IX. Other Business
- IX. X. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING – April 1, 2014, Assembly Chambers

Appendix A

A Time for Healing

A 501(c)(3) arts, culture and humanities educational organization, Goldbelt Heritage Foundation (GHF) originated in 2007 to enhance the mission of Goldbelt Native Corporation organized under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Goldbelt Heritage Foundation promotes the arts, education and cultural interests of approximately 3,300 Alaska Native shareholders in Juneau. Goldbelt also enriches the education and cultural experiences of tens of thousands of Alaska visitors both in Juneau and around Southeast.

Goldbelt Heritage Foundation, in collaboration with the Douglas Indian Association, the Juneau School District and Juneau Parks and Recreation proposes a three-part Tlingit Native art project honoring the traditional Tlingit people of Douglas and telling the Douglas Indian Village and Elizabeth Peratrovich story. This project will erect a traditional house panel at Gastineau School in Douglas, the site of long-forgotten and recently rediscovered Douglas Native graves and two major totem poles to be erected at Savikko Park in Douglas, one traditional, telling the story of the great migration of the Tlingit People and one contemporary, telling the story of Elizabeth Peratrovich and Douglas Indian Village.

For nearly a century across from Juneau and just south of the current town of Douglas hundreds of Tlingit people scraped together an existence in the Douglas Indian Village on a beachfront strip between Douglas and Treadwell, bustling gold mining towns at the turn of the 20th century. These industrial gold mines with thousands of workers, many of them European immigrants, continued to expand until 1917 when a mine cave-in let in sea water and the Treadwell mine collapsed. The town of Treadwell and those who built it, disappeared by 1926, yet the Douglas Indian Village and its hundreds of Native inhabitants endured.

In 1962, while Native families were away at fish camp, houses of the Douglas Indian Village were razed and burned to fill in the shoreline for recreation fields and to create what is now the Douglas Boat Harbor. Between the harbor and what was the village site lie ball fields, a pavilion and an indoor skating rink in a park named for a child of a mining immigrant from Finland. This past summer the harbor, long a sore point for Native people, was named for a Croatian mining immigrant who settled in Douglas in 1909. The Tlingit people are big hearted and never would diminish the contributions of these hardy immigrants. But nothing commemorates or celebrates that hundreds of Tlingit people were born and lived right there, their homes completely demolished. This thought and feeling of being here yet gone the Goldbelt Heritage Foundation wishes to capture in three works of art.

Gastineau School which was built over a Native cemetery in 1957 will be the site of the Native house panel. When the school was remodeled in 2012 diggers were surprised to run into human (Native) remains. An interpretive sign will tell of life and death according to Tlingit tradition and refer to the enduring Native cemetery found across the road.

The second and third parts of this project will be two major totem poles. The first will face southeast commemorating the Taku Tlingit people who have inhabited the area for over nine thousand years. The pole will be traditional, depicting the Taku people and their migration down the Taku River. The second pole, a contemporary pole, will face

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northwest, commemorating the life of Douglas Indian Village and the work of Tlingit Civil Rights leader Elizabeth Peratrovich who famously called attention to a sign “No Natives Allowed” posted at the Douglas Inn several hundred yards from this site. An informational sign in both English and Tlingit will explain the poles and those who lived there. Native carvers will depict the emotion of Native/non-Native interactions.

These totem poles are to be tall enough to be well visible from ships on Gastineau Channel, and will be seen by thousands of cruise ship passengers on their arrival in Juneau. The project will seek collaborative funding so that the panel and poles will be appropriately landscaped and possibly lit, and will include a small pedestrian circle around the poles for interpretive lecture. Either or both sites may be used for living history or explanatory interpretation by tour guides or a Goldbelt Heritage Foundation Native specialist. The dedication of the poles will celebrate the lives of the many Tlingit who grew up or old at Douglas Indian Village and their joys and heartaches will be commemorated in a festive *Koo.eex* community gathering at the site when the poles are completed and erected. All alumni of the village, relatives and friends, and the greater community will be welcomed.

This project will be conducted in conjunction with existing school programs. The panel, portable, will be carved at the two existing high schools, Juneau-Douglas High School in downtown Juneau and Thunder Mountain High School in the Mendenhall Valley. The panel will be carved with assistance and involvement of high school students whenever possible. High school Tlingit language, arts and culture classes will participate.

The traditional totem pole will be carved at Harborview Elementary School in honor of *Dzantik' i Heeni*, the nearby summer village (for which one of Juneau's two middle schools is named) and the life in that village will become a part of the interpretive discussions with student classes, especially the Tlingit Immersion classes which reside at the school.

The contemporary totem pole will be carved at the Gastineau School playground, under the covered ball court, as the stories of the Douglas Indian Village rightfully reside in Douglas. The traditional pole will be carved at Harborview Elementary, near the old fish camp on Gold Creek.

Carvers at both sites will interact with students and classes as part of the program. Native carvers will receive interpretive training to work with students to teach Tlingit language and culture as part of their work with classes scheduled to meet around the totem pole project discussing the stories they are chronicling. They will use existing school materials and the project will develop and post three web projects explaining the art: the house panels at Gastineau School and one for each totem pole. Each totem pole will be weatherproofed as well as possible using modern techniques and the project is hoping for a possible life of 50 years for all three projects. As is customary among the Tlingit, the panel and poles, like human beings, are expected to have a finite life, though, with care and with good guidance, that life can be extended. The poles will be under the care of Juneau Parks and Recreation Department.

The entire project, including the creation of the panels and both poles will be documented on video and a DVD with accompanying language and culture instructional materials will be developed. The goal of this project is twofold: to inform and to heal. The Project Director will be Dionne Cadiente-Laiti, Director, Goldbelt Heritage

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Foundation. Ms. Cadiante-Laiti, who is Tlingit, has a Masters of Business Administration from University of Alaska Southeast and a BA in Cultural Anthropology/Sociology and Political Science from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. She has 23 years experience with educational project design, implementation, project management including financial management and reporting. She will provide financial and project management.

Gunalchéesh. (Thank you in Tlingit).