AGENDA
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 3, 2014
CBJ Assembly Chambers, 6 p.m.

I. Call to Order

II. Agenda Changes

III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 6, 2014

V. P&R Director’s Report

VI. Unfinished Business

VII. New Business
   A. Juneau Area State Parks Advisory Board - Dialogue Regarding North Green Zone Letter of Agreement: Kurt Iverson and John Wilcox
   B. Eaglecrest Update: Matt Lillard, CBJ Ski Area Manager
   C. Zach Gordon Youth Center Update: Kristi West, Donnyel Burras, and staff

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports
   A. Chair’s Report: Jeff Wilson
   B. Liaison to the Assembly Report: Randy Wanamaker
   C. Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson
   D. Youth Activity Board: Tom Rutecki
   E. Aquatic Facilities Advisory Board: Kate Walters
   F. Other Member Business

IX. Other Board Business

X. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING – July 1, 2014, Assembly Chambers
Letter of Agreement Between
City and Borough of Juneau
Parks and Recreation Department
and
State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
and
United States Forest Service

Regarding Public Lands from north of
Eagle Beach to Sawmill Creek

1.0 Purpose

This agreement between the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Parks and Recreation Department, the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR), and the U.S. Forest Service addresses future use and management of the City, State, and Federal public recreation lands in the Eagle Beach to Sawmill Creek area, north of Juneau (Juneau Green Zone Map). The agreement:

- Describes an expanded trail system, future public uses and facilities, and opportunities for cooperative management of the area, and
- Establishes a commitment for future collaboration and consultation on new issues or projects in the area, through interagency staff communication and establishment of an on-going subcommittee with representatives of the CBJ and State Parks citizen advisory committees, and representatives from the U.S. Forest Service and Gold Belt, Inc.

This agreement was developed by a joint subcommittee of the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the State Parks Advisory Board with participation from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Echo Ranch Bible Camp, and Goldbelt, Inc.

2.0 Background

North of Eagle Beach State Recreation Area, Juneau's main road corridor is bordered by large, contiguous tracts of public lands and waters that are valued by residents for their recreation, habitat, cultural/historic and other values. These public lands are managed primarily for recreation by the CBJ, DPOR and the USFS. There is one private camp near the mouth of Cowee Creek. There are private lands at Akiyam Bight near Bessie Creek at mile 34 as well as the private Adlersheim Wilderness Lodge. Other private lands in the area largely belong to Native Corporations.

The CBJ 1996 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan recommended that there be an "interagency strategy for management" for the public lands north of the Shrine of St. Therese. The Southeast Alaska Land Trust documented land status and existing uses and
development, and echoed the call for a comprehensive strategy for the public recreation lands.

A first step was taken on March 23, 2001, when 35 concerned managers and users of the area met to discuss their visions, goals and plans. They envisioned the area growing as a premiere recreation, outdoor education, and culturally/historically-rich destination. Collaboration between the CBJ Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) and the State Parks Advisory Board (SPAB) was identified as the “first step” to explore and implement the ideas shared that day. The CBJ offered funding to support planning discussions. This led to a Letter of Agreement for the southern half of the Green Zone, Amalga Meadows to Eagle Beach, signed on June 12, 2003.

In December 2004, a new subcommittee of the CBJ and State Parks advisory boards formed to discuss a similar plan for the area north of Eagle Beach to Sawmill Creek. The subcommittee developed recommendations through a process that included a public meeting on March 11, 2005. Trail Mix, Inc, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Alaska State Parks, City and Borough of Juneau, Goldbelt, Inc., Southeast Alaska Land Trust, and landowners, managers and users of the area participated in this meeting.

3.0 Agreements

The following agreements will form the basis for continued collaboration between the CBJ Parks and Recreation Department, the State of Alaska Parks, U.S. Forest Service, Echo Ranch Bible Camp, and Goldbelt, Inc., and members of the public in the management of public recreation lands in the Eagle Beach to Sawmill Creek area (Juneau Green Zone Map).

3.1 Vision

The vision for the area is a premiere recreation, outdoor education and cultural/historic destination for Juneau residents, visitors and youth.

Public lands in the area north of Eagle Beach to Sawmill Creek will be managed with consideration to the area’s existing values, cultural/historical significance, resources, uses, and its tremendous potential to meet public recreation and other interests. The area should offer a diversity of public use experiences and levels of development, from less to more intense. Factors to consider in future management include:

- Protection of the recreation, outdoor education, cultural and historic values of the area, including ancient Native artifacts.
- Protection of important and sensitive fish and wildlife habitat and use areas.
- Need for trails/facilities that provide a variety of recreational and educational experiences and serve a broad population, including accessible trails/facilities.
- Compatibility with adjacent private-land developments and uses.
3.2 Public Use, Trails and Facilities

3.2.1 Concentrate Public Facilities at Existing Developed Areas

Public facilities should be concentrated at existing developed areas, rather than starting new “nodes” of development to serve public uses. These areas — some of which are public and some privately-owned — include: Aldersheim Lodge, Akiyama Bight, Sunshine Cove, Bridget Cove, Point Bridget State Park, Echo Ranch Bible Camp, Echo Cove CBJ boat launch, and developing Goldbelt, Inc. lands.

3.2.2 Consider Sensitive Areas and Uses

The location, design and use of trails and facilities will consider and protect the values of sensitive areas and uses, including:

- Cowee Creek
- Areas important to existing camps and to Goldbelt, Inc.
- Anadromous fish stream corridors
- Wildlife habitat
- Areas important for historic, archaeological or cultural resources
- Areas important for wildlife viewing

Some sensitive areas may be located on private land. This section of the Letter of Agreement urges consideration of sensitive areas and uses, but does not preclude the private land owner from determining appropriate uses for their land.

3.2.3 Develop a Linked, Diverse Trails System

A system of trails that provide access to diverse destinations for a variety of skill levels and user types should be developed. Special considerations should be given to interconnecting existing trails and destinations as well as creating loop trails.

- Potential Trails – Special Considerations: Consideration should be given to the following trail segments.
  - Wildes - Richardson Trail – Re-establish the trail that leads from Echo Cove up Cowee Creek through Yankee Basin and down to the Eagle Glacier cabin. Continue with a connection in the upper valley to Herbert Glacier and on to the Windfall Lake cabin.
  - Bessie Creek Area – U.S. Forest Service looked at potential snow machine trails in this area three years ago. Further environmental analysis needs to be done. Since the trailhead is on private property, a major reroute or land swap needs to occur.
  - Sawmill Creek – Establish a trail from the end of the proposed new road to Cascade Point up to Sawmill Creek and the falls area.
  - Davies Creek – Secure access to Davies Creek across Goldbelt, Inc. land through an easement or land trade. Develop a trail from the road to the valley below the Davies Glacier.
• Davies Creek Area – Develop a trail up the ridge between Davies Creek and Echo Cove. This may require and easement or land trade to get across Goldbelt lands between the road and the ridge. The rest of the trail would be on the National Forest.

• Point Bridget State Park – Make major improvements to the existing trails and possibly develop new trails within the Park and connecting to surrounding areas.

• Point Bridget – Complete a coastal trail from Blue Mussel cabin near Point Bridget to the existing trails at Bridget Cove Natural Area Park.

3.2.4 Kayak and Water Access:
Identify, establish and expand water access areas and facilities for kayaks and other users.

• North Bridget Cove – Improve water access at North Bridget Cove for kayaks and other users.

3.2.5 Vehicle Access and Parking
The Department of Transportation (DOT) is involved with a three phase construction project on Glacier Highway. Phase I includes reconstruction of Glacier Highway from Tee Harbor to Amalga Harbor Road, Phase II will extend to Eagle Beach, and Phase III will extend to Bessie Creek. There are existing parking areas, but expanded and new facilities are needed.

• Roadside Pullouts – Develop a committee to recommend new pullouts along the road with access to the beach. Make these recommendations to DOT for consideration during the reconstruction of the highway.

  • Cowee Creek – Expand parking at Cowee Creek and build an accessible fishing area. This is being pursued by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

  • Cascade Point – Build a public parking area at the end of the road to Cascade Point to serve as a trailhead for the proposed Sawmill Creek trail.

• Potential road to Skagway – Develop a committee to provide input if the road to Skagway does get built. The committee would recommend new pullouts, parking areas, and trails that should be developed at appropriate places along the potential new road.

3.2.6 Campgrounds and Cabins
Goldbelt, Inc.’s master plan includes future development of a culture camp in Echo Cove and development of a public campground or cabins to stop current illegal camping on Goldbelt, Inc. land at Echo Cove.
The University of Alaska, Southeast made a proposal requesting the U.S. Forest Service to build cabins at Davies Creek. In exchange, the University would build a trail to the cabins. No progress has been made toward the proposal at this time.

3.3 Opportunities Involving Adjacent Lands

- Goldbelt, Inc. is building a road to Cascade Point, a dock, and support services for the Kensington Mine. Construction of a hotel is also a possibility to support the Kensington Mine. Work with them to ensure public access to surrounding public lands.

- Work with Goldbelt, Inc., in adjusting the right-of-way for the Davies Creek Trail, for the enhancement of the private land values, while benefiting the public users.

- Ensure perpetuation of the fishing/hiking trail down the east side of Cowee Creek through land swaps, purchases or conservation easements.

- Pursue purchasing private land that occurs within the Point Bridget State Park. The state is interested in purchasing this land if the opportunity arises.

- Land trade between Echo Ranch Bible Camp and Alaska State Parks, to simplify boundaries is in the process of being approved/confirmed.

- Work with CBJ on land swaps and development of their extensive lands in the area.

- Solicit and review the needs and desires of the private owners in Yankee Cove and Akiyama Bight.

- Discuss with Goldbelt, Inc. the management of surrounding lands including access to the shore for fishing and Sawmill Creek.

- Create Islands State Park

- State tidelands adjacent to CBJ Natural Area Parks should be managed in a manner compatible with the CBJ parkland. Develop a policy with the State of Alaska to manage this area.

3.4 Cooperative Management and Communication

The CBJ, USFS, State Parks and managers of other public lands agree to regularly communicate and consult with one another about public use, area management, and facility development or redevelopment within this area.
When appropriate, the CBJ, State Parks, and USFS will share responsibility, effort and funding to provide better service and protection in the area.

- Explore the possibility of funding a position to oversee planning and management of this area. Explore the idea of funding a position within an existing organization that could fulfill this responsibility.

3.4.1 Long-term Green Zone Advisory Committee

A long-term advisory committee with representatives from the CBJ Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, the State Parks Advisory Board, the U.S. Forest Service, Echo Ranch Bible Camp, Goldbelt, Inc., and other users will be formed, with agency staff participation, to:

- Continue to pay attention to these important public use lands,
- Advise CBJ on issues related to the development of a master plan for CBJ parks lands
- Help educate the public about land use and public/private land management agreements
- Advise CBJ and Alaska State Parks on issues related to public land development and management,
- Advocate for funding for improvements,
- Assist in efforts to secure continued public access to and use of other important adjacent lands, and
- Help educate the public about values and appropriate uses of the area.

The advisory committee should invite participation by the area landowners, including Aldersheim, Echo Ranch Bible Camp, Goldbelt, Inc., and other interested parties.

3.4.2 Maintenance

When appropriate, the CBJ, State Parks and U.S. Forest Service should cooperate in basic maintenance to improve efficiency and save money, including snow plowing, garbage/litter pickup, sewage disposal, and trail maintenance.

3.4.3 Enforcement

The CBJ, State Parks, and U.S. Forest Service should coordinate on responsibilities for law enforcement in this area.

The CBJ, State Parks, and U.S. Forest Service should coordinate on placement of barriers to off-road vehicles.
4.0 Funding Obligation

This instrument is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement, contribution of funds, or transfer of anything of value between the parties to this instrument will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures including those for Government procurement and printing. Such endeavors will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This instrument does not provide such authority. Specifically, this instrument does not establish authority for noncompetitive award to the cooperator(s) of any contract or other agreement. Any contract or agreement for training or other services must fully comply with all applicable requirements for competition.

5.0 Agreement and Modifications

This agreement takes effect upon the date of signature of the parties and remains in effect until terminated by either of the parties, with 45 days prior written notice. Parties will annually discuss the need to update the agreement to respond to new events, reflect accomplishments, and revise/update the action plan. Modification of the agreement may be proposed at any time by any party and shall become effective upon approval by all parties.

6.0 Signatures

Kimberly Keifer
CBJ Parks and Recreation Department

[Signature]

7/21/05
Date

[Signature]

Alaska State Parks

7/22/05
Date

U.S. Forest Service

[Signature]

Date