

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**CBJ Assembly Chambers – 6 p.m.**

**I. Call to Order at 6:01 p.m. – C. Mertl, Chair**

**Present:** J. Anderson, E. Carillo, B. Farrell, T. Gilmour, C. Mertl, C. Prussing, T. Rutecki, G. Schaaf

**Absent:** E. Ouder Kirk

**Staff Present:** Kirk Duncan, P&R Director; Brent Fischer, FP&L Superintendent; Lauren Verrelli, Staff Liaison; Maria Gladziszewski, Assembly Liaison; Alix Pierce, Project Manager

**II. Agenda Changes** – T. Gilmour: Can we have someone comment from staff about the Master Plan from Riverside Rotary Park? Brent will comment.

**III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items** – None.

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – J. Anderson moves to approve the minutes, no objection. *Minutes adopted.*

**Approval of Retreat Minutes from May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017** – J. Anderson moves to approve the retreat minutes, no objection. *Minutes adopted.*

**V. New Business –**

**A. Turf Fields Presentation:**

Larry Johansen: I have found some creative ways beyond asking for money from the state. I wanted to bring this issue to Parks & Rec to catch you up to speed. The usage of the fields has increased over the years with both high schools since the last time the idea was turned down. The money you spend on a turf field, based as a host to invite other communities to would be an economic stimulator. I looked at funding for the program and found a grant by the MLB and worked with Midnight Suns to sponsor it. MLB would pay up to 50% of the project if we can identify the other 50% of where the funds are coming from. We have the application ready, just needs to the rest of the package put together. MLB wants to tell a story about expanding the story of baseball and what's better than the story of baseball in Alaska. The property value of Adair Kennedy has increased, we could sell Adair Kennedy and use the funds to upgrade an existing park or create a new park elsewhere. Lastly, the issue of safety; general trend shows that safety is better on turf.

B. Farrell: What was previously voted down, when was that?

L. Johansen: It was on the 1% sales tax about ten years ago.

B. Farrell: You mentioned North Douglas...

L. Johansen: The city has land out there and the golf people want to develop out there. It has the synergy to create a parking lot for both facilities. It has great evening light and view.

T. Gilmour: One of the issues that we have is the lack of money for teams to travel down to Juneau because it's a greater cost. It's difficult to get teams to travel. The travel to the backside of Douglas, unless we have a second crossing, would be difficult. The Lena Fields are not being used at all because no one wants to drive to them.

G. Schaaf: I have a question about the grant, you mentioned they are interested in potentially supporting 50% of the cost, is that based on the \$2.2 million dollar figure for Adair Kennedy currently? Or 50% of whatever the cost is?

L. Johansen: Its generally 50% of the project you can justify. They're pretty liberal for what they'll cover. They want to know if they provide half the money that it will happen. An endorsement by the city would be beneficial.

T. Rutecki: Juneau could certainly use a turf field, not many people would argue that point. The dilemma is how to pay for it. The grant provides half the money, and you proposed other ways to raise money. I feel Adair Kennedy would be difficult to sell; lots of people are emotionally attached. Parks & Rec owns lots of land, couldn't other parcels of our land be sold that would be less controversial and then use the money to put turf on where we currently have fields. To address the injury statement, the injury rate is higher for knees.

K. Duncan: We don't have any particular property that is large enough to do a baseball field that we're not already using. There is some opportunity to sell property, take that money and develop Adair Kennedy.

B. Farrell: The MLB grant, is it only for establishing new parks or can it be used to turf existing parks?

L. Johansen: It can be used for improvements as well.

C. Mertl: Are we talking natural or artificial turf?

L. Johansen: Would be nice to go natural. We're looking for is a green baseball field to play on. I'm not sold on turf but there is another technology that deals better with rain.

T. Gilmour: If you could put together a business plan and bring it back to the board that would be great.

C. Mertl: We're currently in the process of a Master Plan for Adair Kennedy, this could be a way to get turf since its already in discussion. Drafting a letter in support of Adair Kennedy would be good idea too.

- **Bridge Park Naming:**

Bruce Botelho: I serve as the president of the Whale Project. The reason why I'm here tonight is to ask your consideration naming the park for Bill Overstreet as Mayor Bill Overstreet Park. There are two reasons for it; he was the inspiration of the whale itself. The second, Bill Overstreet is the most consequential Mayor Juneau has had since statehood. We have not, in any tangible way, honored the work he did as Mayor for this community, particularly his leadership and fighting to maintain the capitol here in Juneau.

G. Schaaf: Does the family have an opinion on the naming of the park?

B. Botelho: We have not discussed the matter with Jean Overstreet. We're trying to keep it a secret, so it can be a family surprise. We're looking at a dedication of the Whale on August 26<sup>th</sup> and the family is traveling to Juneau to be part of the effort. I have no doubt it would greatly and graciously received by the Overstreet family.

T. Gilmour: I make motion that we accept Mayor Botelho's suggestion and agree to name the park after Mayor Bill Overstreet.

*Aye: C. Mertl, J. Anderson, T. Gilmour, B. Ferrell, C. Prussing, G. Schaaf, E. Carillo, T. Rutecki  
Nay: None*

***Motion passes.***

- **Officer Elections**

T. Gilmour: I nominate Chris Mertl for Chair of PRAC and ask for unanimous consent. ***Passed.***

T. Rutecki: I nominate George Schaaf for Vice (1<sup>st</sup>) Chair and ask for unanimous consent. ***Passed.***

C. Mertl: I nominate Josh Anderson for Second Vice Chair and ask for unanimous consent. ***Passed.***

LIASON ELECTIONS

YAB: Tom Rutecki

JOAB: Traci Gilmour

Lands: Chris Mertl

1% of Arts: Josh Anderson

Treadwell: Edric Carillo

JNU Urban Forestry: Chris Mertl

Eaglecrest: VACANT

Aquatics: Tom Rutecki

Trail Mix: Brett Ferrell

Park Foundation: Chris Mertl

**VI. Director's Report – K. Duncan**

**A. FY18 Budget Recap:**

K. Duncan: Treadwell's budget was reduced by \$19,000 which reflects that Treadwell will be open at 4 o'clock Monday-Friday, rather than noon on Tuesday and Thursday. We feel this is minimal impact to the users. The Community Outreach Manager, which is a new position for FY17 ended up not getting staffed, which saves \$118,000/year. We did put \$20,000 back in for departmental marketing. The position does stay in the staffing schedule but it is unfunded for FY18. The Aquatics Budget was actually increased by \$14,000. All the other budgets remain at the FY17 level. It's important to understand that it's actually a reduction due to the cost of living. We anticipate absorbing that within departmental operations.

**VII. Unfinished Business –**

**A. Master Planning/Special Committee Update**

A. Pierce: We had one committee member, Ruby Hughes, decided she could not meet the time commitment. We received an application from Mariana Marino-Goodwin, she came with a letter of recommendation from the Alaska Native Sisterhood. Before Ms. Hughes decided she couldn't meet the time commitment I was already planning on asking PRAC if Ms. Marino-Goodwin could join the committee. I am asking for a replacement on the committee.

B. Farrell: I move that the PRAC approves Ms. Marino-Goodwin for the Master Plan Steering Committee and ask unanimous consent.

***Motion passes.***

**B. Project Playground Update**

A. Pierce: Chain link fencing has been placed around the perimeter to block access of the site until it can be cleaned up. G. R. Cheeseman construction will be doing the clean-up and we're hopeful they will start next week. We're holding a neighborhood meeting for the homes in the immediate area and we want to assure residents that the area is safe. In terms of fundraising, the Juneau Community Foundation has close to \$150,000 and in addition we have received many offers of in kind donations. The CBJ Risk Management fund is sufficiently funded to cover the \$100,000 deductible. We would like to steer community fundraising efforts towards improving safety and ADA accessibility in the new playground. Our insurance provider will allow us some redesign as long as we stay within the original footprint. Most of what has been talked about is opening up the structure so there is more visibility. We have some of the original project playground steering committee and it is their desire to partner as fully as possible with CBJ for the rebuild. We have had a large number of community members express interest and we're working with the original group to define rolls and determine how these people can be meaningfully involved. We don't have a fundraising goal at this time because we don't have a scope for redesign yet. Our tentative timeline is: We will be issuing the RFP for design in July. We're looking at working on design ideas from July through September and design put to paper

by November. By February 2018, we hope to have materials purchased and stored and the RFP for construction contractor out. Then site prep in the spring and construction in June/July 2018. There has been a lot of discussion on how we can spend additional funds—the accessibility issues we have discussed are really expensive, as are things like increased lighting, better security, less flammable playground materials. These are some core things that could be used for the additional funds raised.

C. **1% Temporary Sales Tax and CIP update**

Michele Elfers: The memo in the packet is an overview of the 1% temporary sales tax project, when the money was appropriated and what stage the project is currently in. Two of the parks specifically—Chicken Yard Park has \$93,000 and Capital School Park has \$150,000. We're looking for general comments on the ideas, not actions at this time. For Capital School Park, the issues we have identified are the retaining wall, drainage issues in the basketball area, playground equipment is not ADA accessible and safety issues addressed. These are the things we would like to look at and come back with more information. Chicken Yard Park has some play equipment but we're curious to see what comes out of the Parks & Rec Master Plan that determines the needs in that area for playground equipment. If we have a larger playground in Capital School Park, will we also want one in Chicken Yard Park? The area has started to be used as community gardens; there have been some requests for water. We're interested in seeing your comments and then we can bring back some more information to you all in the next few months.

A. Pierce: We received a lot of positive feedback on Capital School Park; it is well loved in the neighborhood. We did not hear much about Chicken Yard Park, some about the community garden.

E. Carillo: I see lots of usage at Capital School Park; do you have a general usage for each park?

M. Elfers: I don't know of any data but the Charter School and Discovery Preschool use Capital School Park as their school grounds. Not sure about Chicken Yard Park.

A. Pierce: Capital School Park was within the top five most used parks in Juneau from our survey.

T. Rutecki: I received an email from a resident on Starr Hill and their neighborhood association is alarmed by this discussion on Chicken Yard Park, they're going to meet on the topic and reach out.

G. Schaaf: We did put up a time lapse camera for a few days in Capital School Park. It was shocking to see how many kids do use the park, if you count each individual use one time, there is around 250/day. It is very intense use. On the Chicken Yard Park piece, I'm wondering if we should use some of the funding to resolve the property/ownership issues of the park that might affect the ability to develop and improve the park in the future.

M. Elfers: That was a request when we talked to Public Works and Facilities Committee, to look into that and do a little research on that conflict.

E. Carillo: What are some things in the Chicken Yard Park that need improvements?

M. Elfers: That is what we want to take a little time to research and come back to you with. We need to look at the equipment, the easement access situation, community garden use/hose bin, and other things that come out of the community.

C. Mertl: Do we have an update on who owns what in Chicken Yard Park?

B. Fischer: I reviewed all the properties adjacent to the park. The park property is the park property, there is no registered easement. There are drawings of the property and a driveway but there is nothing tying anything with deeds. There is no official easement from what the Accessors office tells me. Historically this has been going on since the 80s.

G. Schaaf: My suggestion is use Chicken Yard Park funding to fund a legal opinion of the ownership of the park. Right now we have a playground that people are driving vehicles through and that is a liability issue. The park cannot be meaningfully improved until it's fixed. For Capital School Park, it would be a start if we could get what a scope of work would look like for the amount of money available to make improvements to the park based on the master plan that was developed a few years ago.

B. Fischer: As for the CIP update there are four trail projects. Starting with the Treadwell Ditch Trail, specifically Parish Creek Bridge, the status of that is that they're staging materials now. The bridge should be in place in the next couple weeks. The Montana Creek Trail is too much money to restore

because of the flooding in there. The Auke Lake/Montana Creek connector trail is a new trail; I'm still working with UAS on the easement. UAS is very supportive of this trail and they want it to happen. The Horse Tram Trail, just began initial planning, it goes from the EVC/Amalga Meadows, up to the Boy Scout trail. Going back to the Montana Creek trail, I would like a recommendation in our next meeting to move money. Its \$150,000 for that project, take \$50,000 and move it over to Auke Lake Connector Trail so we have adequate funding for that project. Then I would like to take \$100,000 and put that into the Treadwell Ditch Renovation Project. They're looking for contributions from the City to help seed this project. This trail is a priority trail for Juneau. We don't have a lot of ownership in that trail but we contribute to maintenance of the creeks along that trail.

C. Mertl: Can you give an update on Riverside Rotary Park?

B. Fischer: We had a meeting on the Master Plan for Riverside Rotary Park and had about 20 members of the public there. There were engaging conversations about different uses of the park from radio controlled boats to keeping it natural to what to do with the island. Chris Mertl brought 3 or 4 different site plans and had discussions on the different site plans. We got some great input from these folks. The only disappointing thing was that there was only one child there. We really needed more children so we could get more input on what type of playground equipment. Other than that is was a very successful meeting.

M. Elfers: I was very impressed with how many people showed up and how strong advocates they were for the park. They really showed there is such a wide variety of use in the park for such a small space and it handles it pretty well. Our job is to allow that use and enhance it.

T. Gilmour: What we need to take away from this is that there was only one child at the meeting. The children definitely use the playground equipment but the first thing those families do before the go to the playground is feed the ducks. I think for our August meeting we should do a park tour.

#### D. **New 1% Sales Tax Proposal**

K. Duncan: What we're asking for the 2017 sales tax for Facilities are: Centennial Hall is \$8.4 million, \$5.8 million for AGB to survive for another 10 years, Treadwell Ice Arena roof for \$1 million and \$175,000 for the Arboretum. For Parks: Capital Park is \$75,000 for the retaining wall, \$800,000 for Adair Kenney, \$60,000 for Thane Campground, \$175,000 for Fish Creek, \$250,000 for Lemon Creek Neighborhood Park, \$250,000 for Riverside Rotary Park, \$150,000 Jackie Renninger Memorial Park, \$275,000 for Melvin Park and \$300,000 for Dimond Park. For Trails: \$50,000 for the trails plan, \$200,000 for the Christopher Trail, \$500,000 for Perseverance Trail, \$100,000 for Switzer Loop Trail, \$150,000 for Lena Loop Trail, \$100,000 for Breadline Trail, \$200,000 for Treadwell Ditch Trail, \$150,00 for North Douglas trail system and \$75,000 for area wide trail signage.

E. Carillo: How much does the 1% tax actually accrue annually?

K. Duncan: It generates \$44 million dollars over a 5 year period, so \$8.5 million dollars a year. That assumes a certain level of spending. \$22 million dollars has been slated for Water, Waste Water improvements, so we're left with \$22 million dollars for the rest of CBJ.

T. Gilmour: The sub-committee met in May and we did forward our recommendations along. Deferred maintenance was the top recommendation for money spent.

C. Mertl: If we're allocating money to make projects good, we shouldn't underfund the projects because it won't give us enough money to do anything with.

M. Gladziszewski: Have you sent along this preferred list of improvements to the Assembly?

*Summary of what PRAC came up with is attached to these minutes.*

G. Schaaf: Looking at the breakdowns, there is nothing on here that is not a good project. Looking at sending this to the voters on a ballot, I think it will be a very big challenge to include \$8.4 million dollars for centennial hall and only \$2.3 million dollars for parks. My recommendation is to move Centennial Hall and pool projects, separately as bonds. Then the 1% sales tax funding, look that to fund the trail and park projects and that gets it to a more reasonable number.

M. Gladziszewski: Whether or not the Assembly would do a bond, I have no idea. Its more helpful if you would prioritize and say these five things are really important.

C. Mertl: Will the subcommittee list be used for refining the list?

K. Duncan: From a department stand point, it is what the manager came up with. Your list is a value to the department.

B. Ferrell: The product that came out of the subcommittee needs to be voted on by the PRAC.

T. Gilmour: As a subcommittee, we were given a paper with parks recommendations for the 1% tax. We did not talk or include facilities or trails in our recommended list. We did discuss AGB and recommend that be put on the ballot as a standalone bond issues. We did not put each category in any preferred order, but did prioritize as to needs, deferred maintenance and recommended.

C. Mertl: Trail Mix helped develop the trails list, Parks & Rec facility managers helped develop the facilities list and we felt we were tasked for the Parks list.

G. Schaaf: As the PRAC, our role here is to advise the Director, not the Assembly. What we were trying to do with the committee was put down on paper our recommendations to the Director, ultimately it's the department and City Manager who will rank these and present them to the Assembly. We did only look at the parks. What I would like to suggest is to formerly share this with the Director and ask them as staff to incorporate these into what they present to the Assembly.

B. Ferrell: I move that the PRAC to formally recommends to Parks & Rec staff the park priorities developed by the CIP Sub-Committee are incorporated into the master 1% sales tax park priority list.

***Motion passes.***

**E. YAB Motion**

T. Rutecki: At the PRAC retreat, I provided everyone with material (attached to end of minutes) and overview of YAB grant standardized scoring process. I make a motion that the PRAC moves for the FY19 YAB grant evaluations the YAB have in place a text format standardized grant scoring process that is qualitative and quantitative and each of the 3 evaluating groups group has a percentage of the total available funds (budget) to work with. The PRAC also supports a third-party facilitator to help develop the standardized scoring document for scoring YAB grant applications

***Motion Passes.***

**VIII. Committee, Liaison, and Board Member Reports**

**A. Chair Report**— Start sending me places you would like to visit on the park tour.

**B. Liaison to the Assembly Report**— None.

**C. Liaison Reports**—

YAAB— T. Rutecki: None.

Aquatics – T. Rutecki: Reducing hours at AGB. Gaguine foundation is giving free pool passes to every 5<sup>th</sup> grade student in Juneau as a graduation gift.

Jensen-Olson Arboretum—E. Ouderkirk: None.

Lands – C. Mertl: None.

1% for Art— J. Anderson: None.

Treadwell Arena Board – C. Mertl: None.

JNU Urban Forestry – C. Mertl: None.

Eaglecrest – Vacant: None.

TrailMix—B. Farrell: None.

Park Foundation—C. Mertl: Had a meeting with Juneau Community Foundation and they're gathering money for their parks and trails interest group. No response from the City Manager yet about the 501C3.

**D. Other Member Business** – None.

**Adjournment – 8:50 p.m.** *Having no other business before the board.*

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Verrelli, P&R Administrative Assistant II, 7/3/2017