

DRAFT MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, July 2, 2013
CBJ Assembly Chambers, 6 p.m.

- I. Call to Order 6:00 p.m.
Present: Jeff Wilson, Chair; Odin Brudie, Traci Gilmour, Gerry Landry; Chris Mertl; Eric Morrison; Tom Rutecki; and Kate Walters.
Absent: Dixie Hood.
A quorum was present.

CBJ Staff Present: Brent Fischer, P&R Director; Fran Compton, P&R staff; Mr. Skye Stekoll, Engineering Dept.

- II. Agenda Changes:
A. Mr. Fischer requested addition to Unfinished business – Channel Dr. fishing access request;
B. Mr. Wilson asked that items pertaining to Liaison reports be removed from the agenda.
C. Ms. Gilmour made the motion to approve agenda changes, no objections.

III. Public Participation of Non-Agenda Items – none

- IV. Approval of meeting minutes:
• May 7, 2013 PRAC Advisory Board Regular Meeting; Ms. Gilmour motion to approve, no opposition.

- V. Unfinished Business –
A. Brent Fischer: Ms. Becker and Mr. Glynn approached the PRAC requesting information to pursue a fishing dock. Mr. Fischer requested information from the Lands Director, Mr. Chaney, who confirmed the two lots requested are still under long term lease, for two years. It will be 1.5 to 2 years before we can approach Lands again.
B. Mr. Wilson requested an update on the Seal Trust Montana Creek proposal; Mr. Fischer stated it was reviewed by the Lands Committee last night to have 150 acres donated to Lands Division. SEAL Trust is doing a survey. Mr. Fischer will work with Lands Director, Mr. Chaney. There are has no plans for development, will use as wetlands.

- VI. New Business
A. Cope Park Master Plan – Introduction by Mr. Fischer: Mr. Skye Stekoll and Mr. Mertl have done a lot of preliminary work. Thank you Mr. Mertl for your support in providing a Master Plan drawing for this project. Mr. Stekoll's presentation: Ten years ago Parks and Recreation started to develop a Cope Park Plan. Cope Park has historic roots and was started in mining days to provide the city a pool. The Fire Department put in a softball field. This Park has been a part of our community for a long time. A prior plan was an effort to install new restrooms. CBJ now has funding available to upgrade the Park with the 1% Sales Tax revenue, and money is set aside for Cope Park. [slide presentation]

The existing park and conditions, playground equipment is outdated and needs replacing; rock walls crumbling; swings have been taken out due to vandalism. The old restroom building is still on site. There are grading issues. The trees in poor health have been looked at and the arborist marked for trimming and other options. The old dugouts and bleachers are still there – opportunity to remove hazards, primarily the low lying roof on dugouts. There has been a change since last plan in the tennis courts' condition. Nice things: used for lunch parking and eating lunch, Gold Creek is very beautiful and important; families still use the park, less from school groups.

P&R did a Survey on-line starting in October 2011 to present, and still taking comments. There has been a large response.

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- “How do you use?”: Walking/Hiking; people walk through it, Gold Creek access for gold panning, playground still heavily used; baseball and softball use, kickball practices; Frisbee Golf basket with request for more.
- “How safe?”: Changed a lot in the last 10 years, during the day relatively safe except in the back of the park. In the evening people do not feel safe.
- “How often do you visit?” a large number of folks use it several times a week and some every day. The most relevant park improvements suggested was better lighting, had to do with evening safety; varied picnic areas, resurface tennis courts, and new playground equipment. This is a very popular family park.
- Regarding the proposed fenced dog park, frequent responses were more about conflict with off leash dogs.
- Other suggestions include getting rid of inebriates and drug users, better visibility into park, with more frequent JPD visits; remove hiding areas, etc.
- Requests for more grilling areas, closer to parking lot.
- We note that existing tennis courts are not regulation size, there was discussion of lighting the courts.

New Master Plan proposes more organized parking, with access and seating overlooking Gold Creek and fixing trails that link to park with a loop trail for exercise or biking. Also there will be Historic area signage installed. The CBJ working group included the Juneau Police Dept., Juneau Fire Department, P&R and Engineering Design Team with Chris Mertl and Mark Pusich; summarized the survey comments and put into plan. Requests comments on tonight’s draft Master Plan.

- Site lines deeper into Park, and area along Gold Creek;
- Shelter with picnic area; Shelter is open and see through;
- Improved loop trail around the perimeter;
- The Ball Field is fenced with gates which can use as fenced in off-leash dog park;
- In the center of park another shelter;
- Improved playground equipment;
- New lighted tennis courts in the existing playground area;
- Restoring the grandstand and making dugout safe;
- Sledding Hill preserved;
- Summarize: Get us through current funding cycle, FY 2015-2016; construction will be phased. Demolition first of restrooms, shelter, rock wall, dugout and then move forward as funding becomes available.

VII. Public Comment:

Greta Wade, 115 B St.; thank you for all the work done and loved the survey. She has an idea and getting people together to get a seasonal ice rink – maintained by citizens like the ski trails in Mendenhall. Group coalition and work this idea. This idea wouldn’t take away from any other ice rink ideas; this would be a grass roots public effort. Will this be a consideration and where it could go and how we can provide winter activity? Mr. Stekoll deferred response to Mr. Mertl: he can see where this ball field is located there isn’t any problem for engineering; doesn’t see any problem. Ms. Wade said there was an ice rink in the 30s. Mr. Wilson believes that idea could be supported. Want to mention that this meeting wasn’t well advertised and would like to see future meetings be advertised better. Discussion.

Kevin Nurocki, 617 W 11th St.; regards the ball park – what was purpose to reorienting home plate? Comments: he has played in Cope Park with this orientation, around 7 pm in the summer it is impossible to see the pitched ball – left center field can’t see at current orientation. Maybe the ball park rotated 90 degrees home plate closer to toboggan hill. Mr. Stekoll: wants to use the grandstands with this orientation. The field got flipped in the last master plan, and he will look at orientation. Mr. Wilson to Mr. Fischer: use has diminished greatly, is there organized play? Mr. Fischer: discussion inviting little league group bringing back to the park – looking at that. If we

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don't have organized play then grandstands are not important. Mr. Mertl: two little league teams are practicing – if we build it they should come; is this a full sized little league diamond? Ms. Gilmour: softball moved off field because it is too small with bat technology. Mr. Brudie: Little League field can second as soccer? Mr. Wilson: Too small for regulation soccer. Mr. Rutecki: this field would be good for small kids soccer play. Mr. Mertl: 4 foot fence to keep dogs in, there are drainage issues with this field which is biggest cost for upgrading the field. Discussion.

Mr. Wilson: Where is the playground? Mr. Stekoll: There are spaces with open labels where playground spaces with open/natural play areas. Mr. Wilson would like to see younger kids have play area for families. Will there be lighting on the stairway to 7th St? Mr. Stekoll: no budget for lighting; Mr. Wilson: security lighting needed because stairwell is dark and scary – spend money on general access lighting. Mr. Wilson: Any plans for snow storage/plowing? Mr. Fischer: P&R would do that. Mr. Brudie: is there a lighting plan coming? Mr. Mertl: has heard that public wants low level pedestrian lighting on the perimeters and larger in the parking lot; don't want to create glare into housing above. Mr. Wilson: The drug user situation is scary – have we had any police activity? Is it perceived or real problem? Mr. Stekoll: It is not a perception; police regularly patrols and things happen. Not aware violence towards other park users; has kept school groups away. Mr. Rutecki: Gold mining popular activity -- are there gold mining claims? Mr. Fischer: can't offer this activity because Gold Creek is the CBJ water reservoir. Mr. Rutecki: a lot of requests for dog park, what's the cleanup plan? How to enforce that? What do other dog parks do? Mr. Stekoll: owners would be responsible for their own dog's product – owners responsible. Mr. Fischer: new part time ranger and P&R will have more enforcement opportunity – we are finding that dog walkers are responsible. The designated dog park will keep dogs contained – Mr. Schaaf has accumulated lots of dog parks information on his vacation. This survey has helped us develop this off-leash area. Mr. Mertl: his research is large open gravel areas owners are more motivated to clean up rather than vegetative areas. Mr. Wilson: people need to feel safe with lighting and open spaces to get the public back in. Mr. Stekoll: Water utility is going to have to replace water lines may affect trees. Mr. Wilson: really wants public utilizing this park, encouraging anything that makes families feel safe is primary goal. Can we post the plan at the site with a comment email on it to advise the public of what is happening? Utilizing Gold Creek access is good, any beach/low access in fairly shallow area. Trail leaves CP and goes to Gold Creek – connecting trail to bridge would be important. Mr. Mertl: Christopher Trail, the water utility may help with trail improvement. Ms. Wade: fireplace would be nice for a warming hut for ice rink. Mr. Wilson: worried about pallets being brought in and burning down the shelter, so maybe a fire pit away from shelter is a better idea. Mr. Landry: Did we vote for timing and closure of Cope Park? Mr. Fischer: yes, 10 pm. Mr. Morrison: Basketball Court along the tennis courts? Mr. Stekoll will come back with revisions and move forward on demolition.

Rich Ethridge - 3774 McGinnis: exciting to see it going forward, Cope Park made by Firefighters and named after a former fighter. They do occasional rescues. Excited to see the improvements and interest in using for recreation. Mr. Mertl: would like to see annual fireman baseball game. Bringing back history of fire fighters. Mr. Fischer: Want FD to know what P&R is doing. Took a lot of history of the Park and scanned and will be on website.

VIII. Committee, Liaison, and/or Staff Reports

- Mr. Wilson: Sept the Committee will have retreat to work with P&R, Mr. Fischer will bring staff recommendations so we can coordinate our goals with P&R. Requesting update on Whale Park for next month. \$250K Rasmussen funding – whale may arrive next summer.
- Mr. Fischer: Has some exciting new released today: ZGYC Rasmussen grant of \$50K to have the kitchen remodeled – healthy snacks and meals for community youth.

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- Liaison to the Assembly Report: Jerry Nankervis - Mr. Fischer read notes: City Attorney, Amy Mead, 4 great applicants and appreciated all those who applied. Noise abatement sent back to committee. North Wood Dr. repaving.
- Kate Walters: Pool report – Whirlpool has been repaired.

IX. Other Business – none

X. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business, Mr. Wilson adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted this 19th day of August, 2013.
Fran Compton, Secretary

NEXT MEETING – September 3, 2013