

Minutes  
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, August 1, 2006  
**Assembly Chambers, 6PM**

**I. ROLL CALL** Meeting called to order at 6:03pm

Members Present: Joan Herbage-O'Keefe, Jeff Wilson, Jeff Sloss, Jim King, Barbara Murray, Sierra Kaden, Tom Rutecki

Members Absent: Dixie Hood, Mike Chambers

Staff Present: Di- Cathcart, Marc Matsil, Bob Grochow

Assembly Member Jonathan Anderson, Director Marc Matsil and PRAC Chair Joan Herbage-O'Keefe presented Sierra Kaden with a Certificate of Appreciation for her service to the PRAC and CBJ. This is Sierra's last meeting.

**II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** None

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Barbara Murray motioned to approve agenda, agenda approved with one change per the Chair under Information Items, moved Item D to Item A.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A. June 6, 2006 Jeff Wilson motioned to approve minutes, Sierra Kaden 2<sup>nd</sup> with one change. Sierra Kaden requested that her nay vote under **Renaming the former Tonsgard Property be clarified to state the reason for her nay vote was due to lack of sufficient background information regarding Mr. Gelsing**. No objections; Minutes approved.

**V. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIAISON** Assembly Member Anderson was present to answer any questions that PRAC may have. Tom Rutecki asked what we need to do to get Indian Point turned into a CBJ Park. Assembly Member Anderson deferred to Marc Matsil who stated that he had reached out to the National Park Service to collaborate on safety enhancements and upgrades to the trail. Joan O'Keefe requested that PRAC take up Indian Point as an Action Item for the September meeting and make a formal recommendation to the Assembly.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS** None

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A.** Updating the PRAC Naming Policy –

The PRAC naming policy has not been updated since 1986. P&R would like to revisit the naming policy.

Jeff Wilson asked if this will become an action item and to look possible consistency with the School District and to make it easier for future PRAC boards. Tom Rutecki wondered if we could just delete the verbiage within section VI in the naming policy that states "Long-

established names of landmarks will not be changed...". Jeff Wilson and Sierra Kaden both liked the idea of waiting a minimum of 36 months following a person's death before recommending a park be named in their honor, similar to the Juneau School Districts policy. Joan requested that we have the School Districts and the CBJ Assembly's naming policy, as examples, on the next agenda. Updating the PRAC naming policy will be an action item for September.

**B.** False Outer Point Beach Access renaming to Paul Robert Emerson False Outer Point Beach Access. Request submitted by Andrew Pope:

Andrew Pope, 895 W. 12<sup>th</sup> St Apt 202, Mr. Pope spoke to PRAC re: his request to rename Outer Point Beach Access as a memorial to Paul Emerson, long time Juneau resident and trail advocate. Andrew requested that PRAC review this request under the present PRAC naming policy. The committee that is putting forward this request looked at different trails Paul Emerson had helped maintain. They chose False Outer Point because that area has been neglected and their hope is by incorporating Paul's name into the area it will generate funds to improve the trail and make it ADA accessible. It is also the committee's hope to one day make False Outer Point similar to Auke Rec, with picnic shelters and story boards. Jim King and Jeff Sloss both suggested calling it a park vs. a beach access to condense the name. Barb Murray requested that PRAC make recommendations to see what current upgrades could be done and not just renaming the area. **Joan requested PRAC put this item on as an action item for September.**

**C.** BMX/Mountain Bike Proposal for Aantiyeik Park by Steve Thornton –

Steve Thornton, 3053 Woodduck Ave. This request came about after some kids got kicked out of the skate park a year ago for using BMX bikes on the skate ramps. Steve Thornton, Bob Grochow and Marc Matsil went on a site visit to review Mr. Thornton's proposal. Steve stated that he would like to follow the contour of the land and use the trail year round. Bob and Steve are planning on flagging the proposed trail site. Jeff Wilson asked where the trail would be located at Aantiyeik. The trail will be approximately one mile long and commence from a fill area to the parking lot; and back up creating a small loop. Most of the work would be done by volunteers with a goal of not disturbing vegetation but to work with what is currently there. Volunteers would maintain the trail after it was built. Mr. Thornton stated that their goal is to create a trail for participants of this growing sport that would give users a venue to help develop their skills. The trail itself would consist of ladders over logs vs. jumps, more of an obstacle course trail for non motorized bikes only. Steve mentioned that he will visit Whistler, British Columbia to see how they've set up their BMX trails especially as they relate to drainage, since they have a similar climate to Juneau. Marc liked the fact that it is an emerging user group and they wouldn't be disturbing trees or vegetation. Jeff Wilson asked about insurance liabilities. Marc stated that the city is self-insured. Once the trail was complete the Department would sign-off and approve it. Joan asked if PRAC needs to address formally or can the department oversee this. Marc brought this to PRAC to get their ideas and inform them of potential new users. PRAC liked the idea of helping another user group.

**D.** Paint Ball Presentation by Scott Dybdahl

Scott Dybdahl, came to the Parks & Recreation Department with a desire to find a permanent location to set up their paintball field. The group is currently playing on a private lot. They need a field, cleared area or parking lot that is 100x150 to set up bunkers and netting. The bunkers inflate and the netting is used to control paint balls in the field. Barb Murray asked if the group has a current place in mind? Scott said that right now they are just exploring what options are available. When Taylor and Scott met with Marc he was impressed with their presentation and would like to assist in finding a viable location. Softball fields were mentioned as a good spot due to the gravel base and easy clean up, although finding one that isn't in use is difficult. Jeff Sloss brought up the possibility of the upper parking lot at

Eaglecrest. **PRAC recommended the group speak with Kirk Duncan and the Eaglecrest Board to see if use of the parking lot for paint balling would fit with Eaglecrest's long term goals of bringing more activities to Eaglecrest during the off season.**

**VIII. CHAIR REPORT** None

**IX. DEPARTMENT REPORT** Marc Matsil gave several department updates. Thirty community residents attended the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting held by P&R and CDD concerning Montana Creek Subdivision Tracts 3 & 4 trails. Parks will work on updating the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan by 2008, and pending the plan revisions and public input will make a determination about a trail connection to the Mendenhall campground. Jeff Wilson wondered if the contractor has a bond hanging on this past trail project. Marc stated there are still two pieces that need to be fulfilled and CDD was working with the contractor to meet those requirements. Marc also discussed the proposed field house at Dimond Park update. Reed Stoops is the point person for the Juneau Community Foundation that is spearheading the project. Parks is cooperating with Reed, and has requested a site and business plan that includes a schedule for use by the high school and open sessions for Juneau youth and others. Tom Rutecki asked if Hooptime Basketball fit into this facility? Marc said that Reed had touched base with Jim Ayers regarding baseball use and to incorporate a practice field and batting cages and other users. Marc stated that Hooptime has yet to approach Parks & Recreation. The Master Gardeners annual garden tour of notable Juneau gardens included CBJ's new addition, the Jensen-Olson Arboretum. There were over 100 visitors to the Arboretum. Parks generated an interest to establish a Friends of the Arboretum that will be developed over the next year. Channel/Wayside facility is presently under Docks and Harbors jurisdiction; P&R will work with D&H to maintain for a reasonable fee. P&R is planning a grand opening of the West Juneau Rotary Park, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am. We hope that all in PRAC can attend.

**X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Youth Activities Board, Tom Rutecki* - Had a meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> for a contingency grant that was a rather unusual request. The Youth Activities Board may look at refining the rules of requests of contingency grants. The request was for travel funds to a national beauty pageant for an applicant to attend if they sold enough ads, hence winning their regional area.

*State Parks Board and Green Zone Subcommittee, Jim King* - None

*Lands Committee, Jeff Wilson* – Attended a meeting Monday July 24<sup>th</sup>. The Lands Committee accepted the request by PRAC to obtain Strawberry Creek Lot 4 for addition to the Amalga Meadows Natural Area Park, presented by Diane Mayer of SEALTrust. The next Lands Meeting is August 14<sup>th</sup>; Auke Lake use will be discussed. Jeff asked PRAC if the recommendations PRAC made at the June meeting should be voiced. Joan mentioned that consideration should be given to Auke Lake as a non-motorized venue due to safety concerns and the small size of the lake. Barbara Murray echoed Joan's concerns. Jeff asked for staff opinions. Marc stated that Parks was working with Lands staff to recommend to the Lands Committee a compromise between motorized and passive use that included required buffers, limitations on vessel size and an enforcement component. Following discussion by PRAC members in attendance, it was agreed that Joan would draft a letter making a recommendation to the Lands Committee stating PRAC's concerns for safety and noise issues and request the Lands Committee look at excluding motorized use on Auke Lake.

**XI. CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Letter from Representative Beth Kerttula in support of naming False Outer Point Beach Access to Paul R. Emerson False Outer Point Beach Access.
- B. Letter from Gladi Kulp, Head of Alaska Historical Collections and Jon Pond, State Parks Advisory Board in support of naming False Outer Point Beach Access to Paul R. Emerson False Outer Point Beach Access
- C. Letter from PRAC to Dale Pernula of CDD in support for funding the proposed turnouts and trailheads for the proposed Juneau Access Road.

**XII. BOARD COMMENTS**

Barbara Murray - We will miss Sierra on the board, 2<sup>nd</sup> by everyone.

Jim King – Thanked the City Museum for putting the new large oil painting on the back wall of the Assembly Chambers; it's a nice addition.

Jeff Wilson – Wanted to know what is happening with the Treadwell Ditch Trail, is it getting worked on? Marc stated that the Department is working on an cooperative agreement with the Forest Service.

Joan O'Keefe – Joan was pleased that Docks & Harbors and Parks & Recreation are working together on Wayside Park and hope the two boards can partner more, possibly consider placing a PRAC member as a non voting member on the Harbor Board?

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT** Sierra Kaden motioned to adjourn, no objections, meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.