

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, August 7, 2007
Assembly Chambers, 6PM

I. ROLL CALL meeting called to order 6:05pm

Present: Joan O'Keefe (Chair), Mike Chambers, Jim King, Dixie Hood, Alyssa Ellsworth, Ray Howard, Patrick Owen

Members Absent: Jeff Wilson, Jeff Sloss

Assembly Liaison present: Jonathan Anderson

Staff Present: Marc Matsil, Brenda Wright

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Hood moved to approve, 2nd, no objections, agenda approved

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

July 5, 2007, Mr. King moved to approve, Ms. Hood 2nd, no objections, minutes approved.

V. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIASION

Mr. Anderson: Tom Rutecki appointed to YAB at Juneau Assembly meeting 8/6/07.

Ms. Hood inquired: what the public meeting at the library was? It is the CBJ Community Development Department as a public scoping forum for ATV use in the community.

VI. CHAIR REPORT None

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Marc Matsil: The Douglas 4th of July committee is planning for the construction of a viewing pavilion at Savikko Park. It will be gifted to CBJ and has been in the planning phase for some time.

Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority is planning to construct a new playground in the valley at Granite/Canyon Drive. It will be given to CBJ Parks & Recreation to manage and one that is needed in the neighborhood.

Skip Wallen, Juneau sculptor, has created a breaching whale sculpture project that is proposed to be located the Marine Park area in Juneau. Mr. Wallen is an artist of international acclaim. Mr. Wallen presented his project idea to the CBJ Assembly on 8/6/07 and they directed staff to provide a site plan and ground preparation.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Youth Activity Board budget/funding

Chair O'Keefe turned this portion of the meeting over to 2nd Vice-Chair Chambers due to conflict of interest.

Official position: Assembly Member Anderson: YAB grants were flat funded since the committee was formed in ~1996. A certain amount is guaranteed to schools and the rest is

divided up with all other requests. There has not been an increase to cover inflation and the processing of grants. Will PRAC recommend to CBJ Assembly some incremental increase to YAB funding? Mr. Owen: Is this an interest bearing account? Mr. Anderson: All CBJ accounts are in interest bearing accounts. Mr. Chambers: Is this general fund money? Mr. Matsil: It is part of 1% sales tax. YAB had requests exceeding \$440,000 this year. All requests are scored and the money divided up by the ranking. Ms. Hood: Is there a figure you would recommend as an increase? Mr. Anderson: I proposed a \$50,000 increase to equal the amount of inflation since '96. What more is needed to complete projects and fulfill community goals. Mr. Owen: In favor of increasing, scrutinize the requestors. Mr. Anderson: Jeff Sloss serves on YAB. Ms. Ellsworth is interested in support of higher funding from PRAC. Mr. Chambers: What is the history of the funding for YAB? Was it always funded from CBJ Assembly? Individual groups would not keep coming to assembly for \$ and the Assembly created groups to funding. Mr. Matsil YAB established by ordinance. Mr. Matsil suggests inviting John White, Chair of YAB to next PRAC meeting to discuss the proposed increases by the Youth Activity Board.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Skip Wallen & Bill Overstreet: Site & funding for a breaching whale sculpture dedicated in Marine Park. They propose to solicit private funding for the cost of the sculpture. They are sure there will be broad community support. They feel it will be a uniquely Alaskan way to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Alaskan statehood. They already have a donation of \$50,000. To be able to solicit private funds they need to have a budget, a specific site, and a total cost estimate for producing the 28' tall sculpture and reflection pool. After carefully reviewing locations along the Juneau shore front, they propose Marine Park near the Pavilion. Mr. Wallen presented the maquette (scale model) of a breaching whale and described the setting with a pool and fountain. Ms. O'Keefe: I am very excited about a piece like this in Marine Park. Ms. Hood asked about specific size? Mr. Wallen: It will be a diameter of 66' wide for the entire base and that space is possible next to the Pavilion. Mr. Chambers: How much funding do they have at this point. Mr. Overstreet: \$50,000 plus applications into two foundations. Juneau Arts & Humanities Council is a sponsor for this project and it has non-profit standing. They may also solicit local funding in a "buy-a-brick" type of contributions. Lorraine and Romer Derr are heading up fund raising for this project. Mr. Chambers: Total project cost? Mr. Wallen: Casting, assembly, and mold making, site preparation, temporary shelter, and sculpting ~\$3 million includes pool and sculpture preparation. Mr. Anderson: There is enthusiastic support for site preparation and maintenance from the City. Mr. Owen: The cruise ship industry may donate some money for such a highly visible attraction. Mr. Wallen: Pilings under whale will anchor internal structure. Flippers would be structurally sound. Mr. Chambers: Cost of site work? Not known at this time. Ms. Ellsworth: Beautiful and iconic symbol for Juneau.
- b. Ed Phillips, Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority: Granite/Canyon Drive Playground proposal (at the base of Thunder Mountain, off Valley Boulevard)
Handouts of the site layout and types of play equipment were handed out to the committee. The equipment is of extremely good quality and built to last. The playground is meant for children from 2 to 14. There will not be a basketball court. They do not want to encourage night activities. Newer equipment is proposed: "the wave" and the whirligig. The property is worth ~\$60,000 and equipment ~ \$50,000. Since there are lots of bears in the neighborhood, it is safer to have homes facing it. Tlingit-Haida built 66 homes in the neighborhood and the children presently play in the streets. Mr. Chambers: Does Tlingit-Haida want CBJ to take over maintenance and it to become a public park? Yes. Mr. Owen: You will build and CBJ will take it

over. Yes. Ms. O'Keefe: What type of surfacing is being used? Mr. Phillips: Shredded colorized car tires around main structure and sand for the others. Mr. Anderson: It was good to hear that THRHA worked with local residents for input on information and construction. The locals are encouraged to have a neighborhood watch. Mr. Chambers: What is the traffic count in that location? Would it need a fence for the city to take over? Mr. Phillips: It is a dead end street and there are only 20 homes in that corner. They do not want to build a fence because of the numerous bears. Mr. Matsil: It would not require a fence for the city to accept it. Ms. Hood: Have you experienced Project Playground? The safety covering helps prevent minor injuries. Mr. King: Will there be a grandparents grandstand (i.e. a place to sit)? Mr. Phillips: There will be 2 benches.

c. Dixie Hood: Biodegradable dog dropping equipment and bags (Mutt Mitt): Ms. Hood would like to encourage the use of biodegradable bags in Juneau? Could they be sold at the recycle center or be distributed at trail heads. Mr. Owen: Signs and availability do not help much. Should do more for enforcement to pay for maintenance. Ms. O'Keefe: Is the product truly biodegradable? Do we have any idea what CBJ pays for the current doggy bags? Staff will invite Chava Lee, Executive Director of Gastineau Humane Society to come to PRAC for presentation on the products currently in use costs.

d.

Sandy Williams/Rich Poor (Douglas 4th of July Committee) information on the proposed construction of a pavilion in Savikko Park: unable to attend

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Youth Activities Board: Jeff Sloss absent

State Parks Board: Jim King the Board does not meet in summer. The Territorial Sportsman Association is working on the cabin in Hand Trollers Cove and the cabin roof is up. The request for funding for a work boat was halved, but staff is working on finding a suitable boat. The boat is used to travel to maintain and repair cabins.

Lands Committee: Jeff Wilson absent. The next meeting is scheduled for 8/13/07.

Tree Committee: Alyssa Ellsworth: no meetings

Pool Committee: Joan O'Keefe: A valley pool proposal is on the fall ballot. It is proposed as geo bond, no sales tax portion, it has a reimbursable for Department of Education. The whole project budget is under \$20 million. The Department of Education reimbursable will bring the total cost to finance to approximately \$12 million. Ms. Hood: Is there any mention of a private pool? Ms. O'Keefe: I have not heard of anything. Mr. Owen: Is the \$12 million price with future construction costs? Ms O'Keefe: The price includes a scale with forward construction prices. Mr. Chambers: Is \$8M reimburse or reimbursement share. Ms. O'Keefe: That is the amount. Mr. Chambers: Has any one approached the Racquet Club to construct a pool as a private venture? Ms. O'Keefe: No.

XI. CORRESPONDENCE None

XII. BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Hood: Today's paper had an article about the Coast Guard Cutter proposed as museum. Has Mr. Geldorf contacted anyone in P&R? It would combine with old sea planes around Merchants Wharf.

Ms. Hood would like more information on the park aspect. Harbor people are looking into it?

Mr. Owens: Will there be trails established on the Jensen-Olson Arboretum property?

Mr. Matsil: The Jensen-Olson Arboretum Advisory Board had their first meeting on August 1. Mr. Matsil invites and encourages all the PRAC members to visit and thanked Jim King for representing PRAC at the Arboretum opening presided over by Deputy Mayor Sanford. A future project may include a modest native plant trail.

Mr. King: When he traveled up Crow Hill road to see the new Trail Mix trail, there was a barrier gate on road. 1) Why is the trail behind a barrier. 2) Mr. King would like to have PRAC support Skip Wallen whale sculpture project. PRAC supports the Assembly decision.

Ms. Hood moves that PRAC write a letter to CBJ Assembly expressing appreciation for their action at the Assembly meeting last night (8-6-07) and being interested in getting follow-up information about the Skip Wallen whale sculpture. , and find out more information on project as it continues.

Ray Howard: What are the city's future liabilities for the project? The City would be responsible for maintenance and upkeep and assume all liabilities. Mr. Chambers offered to write first draft of letter. Mr. Howard: a multi use group is working toward development of more winter sports. The group is the Alpine Working Group. Its members include both motorized and non-motorized users. Identify ideas and intended development on many different land owners. Would like to present to PRAC. Please put on agenda for September PRAC meeting.

Ms Hood: Graffiti around town, especially on walls and doorways downtown. Can P&R maintenance cover with spray paint? Mr. Matsil: If it is not park or City property CBJ has no jurisdiction over private property. On CBJ parkland, we have a two hour rule where we will remove graffiti within two hours of notification.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hood moved to adjourn; no objections, meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.