

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 7, 2006
Assembly Chambers, 6PM

I. ROLL CALL meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Members Present: Joan Herbage-O'Keefe (chair), Kathleen Adam, Jim King, Dixie Hood, Sierra Kaden

Members Absent: Jeff Wilson, Barbara Murray, Tom Rutecki, Mike Chambers

Staff Present: Marc Matsil, Di- Cathcart

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS None

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Dixie Hood made a motion to approve the agenda, Kathleen Adam 2nd, no objections, agenda approved. **Jim made a motion to add, Forest Service Cabin abandonment and Green Zone plan section establishing a committee to deal with planning under Information items.**

Sierra Kaden requested to make a motion to reconsider the geoduck motion from January's meeting. Per Robert's Rules the PRAC is unable to reconsider the motion.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A. January 3, 2006 Dixie Hood motioned to approve, Kathleen Adam 2nd, minutes approved.

V. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIASION None

VI. CHAIR REPORT This is Kathleen Adams last PRAC meeting.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT Marc Matsil summarized Roberts Rules criteria for amending a motion and delivered the Director's Report. Draft resolution to Lands Committee in support of Channel Island State Park Proposal SB 190 and HB 292. Community Built Playground has a goal of raising \$200,000 for Twin Lakes, ADA accessible playground and planning to hold the build the week of May 8 2007. PRAC retreat: Sub-areas of Comp plan, add subdivision playgrounds to have some criteria for playground development in the community especially areas that lack open space. CBJ Parks submitted two proposals through CBJ Manager's office to Senator Murkowski requesting Federal funding for Artificial Turf enhancements (\$2.2 million) and Trails Initiative \$4.2 million for Under Thunder, Auke Lake Trail, and additional funding for Perseverance Trail restoration. Parks has been working with CDD Planning to develop a 1.5 acre playground and landscape pocket park for the proposed Montana Creek Subdivision. The request has be forwarded to the developer.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Proposed Covered Play Area at DZ Middle School

Patrick Owen, 659 Glacier Hwy 5261. Mr. Owen has been working on this project for quite some time, he has lived in the Lemon Creek area for 20+ years. Children in this area are lacking play areas in this largely underserved community. Having a positive recreational area that they can go to is really needed. Mr. Owen has initiated and championed a covered play area at DZ as a community member wanting to rectify the lack of recreational amenities. According to Mr. Owen, a covered play area would curb many problems that exist including drinking and health issues. He has witnessed children recreating at similar facilities for 5-6 hours at a time.

Deb Morse, Coordinator for facilities JSD, 1403 1st St Douglas. Ms. Morse reviewed the Juneau School District six year capital improvement plan. The Superintendent submits the plan to the State who rank the projects. Currently, there are more than \$400 million in projects competing from around the state. When DZ was first built, JSD chose to triple the size of the gym because of lack of outside space at DZ.

Ray Bradley, 1800 Northwood Drive G-52, Lemon Creek, Mr. Bradley commented that there is little for kids to do in the Lemon Creek community and a covered play area/basketball court is greatly needed. Gruening Park had a basketball court, but was removed. DZ gym is over-crowded on most open gym nights. Mr. Bradley was wondering if there was a covered court in the original DZ plan. He was under the impression that there had been a bond initiative to fund this project. Kids use the gym when they can, but are precluded if adults are using the gym.

Patrick Owen stated he was attempting to work with Representative Weyraugh's office. He stated that the Legislature can earmark discretionary funds for a DZ covered play area project, but if the Legislature gives general money to the school district, the money can be used for any school district project.

Sierra Kaden made a motion to write a letter of support for the DZ covered play area to the Juneau Delegation of the Legislature and CC the School Board and Assembly. Dixie Hood 2nd; no objections, motion passes.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Urban Forestry Partnership – **Jeff Barnard PO Box 33643 Juneau, AK 99803.** Co-chair of the JUFPP, local forestry and tree related group. Some of the projects they are working on includes email newsletters, and educating the public, April 15 Earth day celebration at Centennial Hall, and developing a Downtown Tree Walk Brochure and Tree Guide. In other communities Parks and Recreation usually does what JUFPP is doing. Fairbanks completed an inventory of their trees with aerial photos, and produced a booklet. Another project with CBJ is with Bruce Simonson, replicating an aerial photos project for Juneau and a tree inventory.

Sondra Stanway, JUFPP Co-chair 2935 Simpson Ave, got started in 1998 as Juneau Tree Committee. In 2003 became a nonprofit and became the JUFPP. Grant money from other sources vs. just the state. JUFPP will celebrate Arbor Day 3rd Monday in May. JUFPP is trying to educate the community to plant native trees. Juneau is a Tree City USA. Sponsored by National Arbor Day Organization. Would be nice to partner with CBJ for planting along with maintenance costs because JUFPP is too small an organization to keep up on all the tree maintenance.

Marc Matsil – Some ideas we are exploring include looking at ISTEPA funds for enhanced trail use, creating a Juneau Parks Foundation that could fund urban forestry projects, and initiating the basal area replacement formula required for replacement of vandalized trees.

Jim King - I thought we've needed some kind of an ordinance for trees, to identify the grand trees and require some type of a city permit to do anything with them. Dixie Hood - Suggest to Marc to create a tree ordinance like NYC, Berkeley and Portland has.

- B. March 2nd Retreat agenda was discussed. To finalize the Comprehensive plan. It will include next steps for funding the Dimond Park Aquatic Center. The agenda also includes upcoming priorities for the PRAC; discussion of the North and South Green Zone; and different funding options to help boost the Youth Scholarship program.
Kathleen Adam suggested leveraging some other funding sources to support Youth Scholarships.
- C. Forest Service Cabin- Jim King said at State Parks last Advisory Committee the proposal to close Forest Service Cabins was discussed. Jim felt it was a poorly done (in-house) analysis. Some

were built by CCC, and some were built by Juneau volunteers. Jim King gave a synopsis of history of the cabins. It's now managed through a for-profit agency that requires internet access to reserve a cabin. Kurt Iverson is writing a letter recommending that the Forest Service reevaluate their decision. Marc Matsil stated that City Manager Swope was sending a letter to the USFS objecting to the disposition of 6-acres of Forest Service lands in the midst of 147-acre tract of CBJ Park land. The recently purchased Gelsing property is adjacent to the Herbert River was purchased with a \$553,000 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant with a \$250,000 CBJ match.

Jim King made a motion that the PRAC write a letter to the Forest Service stating that the Forest Service re-evaluate the cabin program and have a Forest Service Manager address the issue at an upcoming meeting. Dixie Hood, 2nd, Kathleen Adam abstained due to conflict, no objections, motion passes. Jim King to write a letter and hand out to the PRAC for review.

- D. Green Zone Committee - State Parks discussed creating a subcommittee with PRAC and SPRAC. Committee would monitor potential trail impairments and opportunities such as highway construction, According to the SPRAC, DOT does not have the money to construct bike paths or address natural features such as waterfalls, that need to be considered on the proposed new road. Scenic turnouts should also be considered. Would be better to have a committee of recreation users and engineers. State Board appointed members to the Green Zone Committee.

Jim King made a motion that the Chair appoint members to the Green Zone Planning Committee, Sierra Kaden 2nd, no objections, motion passes. Jim King and Dixie Hood to be on the board.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

State Parks Board – They are working diligently on the passage of Marine Island Park. Two bills include SB 190/HB 292. City Assembly Member Bob Doll is supporting this proposal and introducing it to the Assembly. Wickersham House received funding. Pressure on State Parks to build more cabins.

YAB-No report.

Lands Committee-meets alternate Mondays. Issues that have been discussed include purchase of the Armory and triangle of land adjacent to Centennial Hall. Last night at the Lands Committee the (Marine) Channel Island Park was discussed and passed, and will advance to the Assembly. Coastal Management Plan was on the agenda along with Mendenhall Game Refuge.

XI. EX-OFFICIO REPORTS None

XII. CORRESPONDENCE Annual Report for the Human Resources Committee.

XIII. BOARD COMMENTS

Sierra Kaden – Kathleen Adams will be missed.

Dixie Hood - none

Jim King - none

Kathleen Adam - It's been a good three years. Thank you.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT Dixie Hood made a motion to adjourn, Kathleen Adam 2nd, no objections, meeting adjourned at 8:16pm