

Minutes  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Thursday, November 3, 2005  
**DZ Middle School Library, 6PM**

**I. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Joan Herbage-O'Keefe (chair), Kathleen Adam, Mike Chambers, Dixie Hood, Jim King, Barbara Murray, Tom Rutecki

Members Absent: Sierra Kaden, Jeff Wilson

Staff Present: Kim Kiefer, Sheila Fisher, and Di- Cathcart

**II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** Kim Kiefer introduced Sheila Fisher our new Recreation Superintendent to PRAC. Jonathan Anderson a new Assembly member and our new Assembly liaison was also introduced.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Mike Chambers moved to approve agenda, Kathleen Adam 2<sup>nd</sup>. Agenda approved.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A. October 6, 2005 Mike Chambers made a motion to approve following an amendment to read as follows under Department Report on page 3 "*A comment was made in regard to the accuracy of the radio campaign against the swimming pool. In particular, they mentioned the office space that would be built. Mike Chambers asked whether that information was included in any documents associated with the project. Kim Kiefer replied that early design information foresaw a number of offices, but not sure what the total number was.*" Dixie Hood 2<sup>nd</sup>, also with an amendment to verbiage under Report from Assembly Liaison. Strike Hood's statement on page 1, Report from Assembly Liaison section, replace with: *Hood – It's unfortunate more people didn't notice or read what Joan O'Keefe wrote in the Juneau Empire's My Turn she wrote regarding the Dimond Park Pool.*  
**Minutes approved.**

**V. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIAISON** Jonathan Anderson introduced himself to PRAC. No particular report at this time other than to let us know that he is interested in borough wide trails and Parks and Recreation in general. Looking forward to being our Assembly Liaison.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS**

A. Community Built Playground – Dawn Welsh, who is heading up the Community Built Playground project spoke with PRAC and gave a Powerpoint presentation. Leather and Associates would come and oversee the build along with Park Maintenance employees trained in playground safety. After the basic structure is up, then the community pitches in, in a "barn raising" type of event over a 3-5 day period. It will cost approximately \$150,000 to build which would be raised through fundraising and in-kind donations of money and materials. Twin Lakes was looked at as the ideal location because of its accessibility, existing parking, restrooms, and central location. The overall playground would be 29,000 square feet, using less than half of the current field space. There are

currently 1600 playgrounds of this type in existence, Haines, Palmer, and Wasilla all have one and Girdwood is in the planning stages. The community designs the playground to best fit it's wants and needs. These playgrounds have a projected 20+ year life span. The structure would be a all plastic playground to help reduce yearly maintenance costs. The maintenance costs would just be absorbed as part of Parks and Receptions current budget. Cost of site preparation is still being determined. There is no Risk Management issue because the city is self insured and follows right in line with our current playgrounds. There is a fence that encircles the entire structure with one entrance/exit for safety.

Public Testimony:

**Heidi Nightingale, 8535 Steep Place, Juneau:** Have 2 small children that are dying for a fun park to play in. Read all the information on the community build and sounds like a great community effort. Her children are very excited to build "their park". Doesn't think vandalism would be an issue because it is a community built park.

**Becky Iverson, 3790 Glacier Hwy, Juneau:** Has a 3 year old daughter and appreciates the current Twin Lakes area but thinks it could use some new, creative ideas, there is so much potential for that area. \$150,000 seems a pretty reasonable amount to put towards a great park for our kids. Weather can be a hard thing and to have more covered play space is wonderful.

**April Gilbert, 418 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Juneau:** Lives downtown and loves the location of Twin Lakes. Excited about getting to design the play structures and that it would be fenced. It's a great way for the community to come together and build relationships. Urge the PRACs approval.

**Tom Manning, 622 Hemlock, Juneau:** Has 5 kids and thinks it's an awesome idea. Urge PRAC's approval.

**Erin Willis, 2912 Jackson, Juneau:** Lives in West Juneau and has 6 kids. Her husband is a business owner and he can't wait to write a check towards the build. Wonderful opportunity for kids to get together and parents to meet and have socialize. Wants to see better playgrounds.

**Tom Rutecki made a motion to approve, Barbara Murray 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5 in favor, 1 opposed, Joan O'Keefe abstained from voting. Motion carries and passes.**

B. Krestof Clam Company at Bridget Cove, Aquatic Farmsite Application-*Postponed until further notice. Moved to Information Item for December.*

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

A. Krestof Clam Company at Bridget Cove, Aquatic Farmsite Application

Tom Manning came and spoke about his current one acre inner tidal clam site at North Bridget Park. He would like to amend his lease to allow placing a platform at the area to help lengthen his nursery and growing time and overall survival rate. He currently has a survival rate of 1,000 and is hoping for a survival rate of at least 5,000. Mr. Manning showed the PRAC the types of PVC tubes he currently uses and 7 gallon buckets with predator netting, secured together that are submerged all the time that he would graduate to. He tries to work at being as invisible as possible. His goal is to hit a 2 or 3lb clam to sell to the SE Asia market.

Questions from PRAC:

Jim King: What type of platform?

Tom Manning: I'm below mean high tide so protected through most tides. The structure would be concrete post and wood structure with tubes, enclosure is important because I

have to maintain a certain amount of salt water, so it will have a cover. Don't think it's much different than people commercial fishing or crabbing.

Mike Chambers: How does this effect crab pots, beach walkers?

Tom Manning: It's invisible by 9-10am. Haven't heard of anyone that's complained.

Kayaks can go over current structure. People wouldn't anchor a boat there anyway because it's too rocky.

Dixie Hood: Seems like potential educational opportunities in the future.

Tom Manning: That's how the system started in Puget Sound, as an educational program.

B. Sub-Area 4 Comp. Plan: Switzer and Lemon Creek

C. Sub-Area 5 Comp. Plan: Salmon Creek, Twin Lakes, Mountainside Estates

Kim Kiefer gave an overview of the comprehensive plan for the Lemon Creek area. One of the main issues was the creation of a covered basketball court at DZ Middle School. Other projects brought up were: a site for ATV use, playground at Twin Lakes and a community garden site. Lemon Creek area is the hardest area to find build able land because of all the wetlands. Jonathan Anderson asked if there area any plans to connect from the Hospital to Pioneers Home to Old Mapco site by Switzer. Kim Kiefer mentioned that the Lemon Creek trailhead would most likely have to move locations once Home Depot came.

Public Comment:

**Barb Mecum, DZ Principal, 1072 Horizon Drive, Juneau:** Voice support for a covered basketball court. The neighborhood and school would benefit. On Saturday nights DZ has free open gym basketball and it's always very full. Would create a wonderful staging area for field and class use. Patrick Owen has been spearheading this effort for the community.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS** Jim King – State Park Advisory Board has not starting meeting again yet, so no report.

Tom Rutecki – Youth Activity Board will meet next week to review the changes made to FY07 grant applications, along with a number of contingency grants that came in.

Joan Herbage-O'Keefe – The Waterfront Committee is no longer, Mayor Botelho merged it into the Lands Committee. The PRAC can/will still have a liaison for the committee if it wishes. The Citizens for Dimond Park Pool is currently on hiatus.

**IX. CHAIR REPORT** Thanks to Jeff Wilson for covering the November PRAC meeting in my absence.

**X. DEPARTMENT REPORT** Youth Basketball registration begins on Saturday. The youth indoor soccer and basketball seasons were flipped this year to allow for more gym space of the larger indoor soccer program and better fit with various other youth programs. Marc Matsil was in town last week with his family looking at housing. He will return permanently on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Will attend the January PRAC meeting. PRAC should think about a retreat in the new year possibly a Saturday or evening.

**XI. EX-OFFICIO REPORTS** None

**XII. CORRESPONDENCE** PRAC received a letter from the Douglas Advisory Board regarding their recommendations to additions to Savikko Park.

**XIII. BOARD COMMENTS** Jim King – Was in Iowa the last couple of weeks looking at their natural areas. After draining and plowing up their lands they are now trying to recreate their natural areas. Concerned about our own park system such as Bridget Park, want to

make sure we can keep them natural and not create more and more growth such as the clam farming and platforms. Also concerned with SEALTrust and the Boy Scout property. The local scout council has been absorbed by the Anchorage scout council. Originally had a deal to purchase the property written into the Green Zone Agreement. Would be nice to invite the Boy Scouts to a PRAC meeting. We need to defend our waterfront parks. The University is promoting the Juneau environment.

Dixie Hood – None

Mike Chambers – Intrigued by Mr. Manning and the possibilities of dual use areas, seem like in would be enhancing and not interrupting. There is no shortage of recreation areas.

Barbara Murray – Concerned about the negative bent towards recreation from the Chamber of Commerce and businesses towards Gunakedeit Park.

Tom Rutecki – The Treadwell Arena staff did a great job for Halloween. Greg's done a great job trying to keep the balance at the facility. Hasn't been an issue to get games scheduled for the High School Hockey team.

Kathleen Adam – None

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT** Mike Chambers motioned to adjourn, Kathleen Adam 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting adjourned at 8:25pm

Next meeting set for December 6, 2005 6pm Assembly Chambers.