

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
May 6, 2004
Minutes
High School Library
6:30pm

I. Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 6:35p.m.

Members Present: Dixie Hood, Jim King, Joan Herbage O'Keefe, Tom Rutecki, Kathleen Adam, Jeff Wilson

Members Absent: Alex Lukshin, Barbara Murray

Staff Present: Kim Kiefer, Bob Grochow, Diane Mastin, Skye Stekoll

Assembly Liaison: Marc Wheeler

Ex-officio Present: None

II. Public Testimony on Non-Agenda Items – None

III. Approval of Agenda - Wilson motioned for approval of the Agenda. Unanimously approved.

IV. Approval of April 6, 2004 Meeting Minutes - King motioned for approval of Minutes, there were no objections.

V. Report from Assembly Liaison - Wheeler reported Assembly debating about a lot of different large projects. One of them is to put Dimond Community Center on the ballot this fall for 1%. He mentioned the park at So. Tee Harbor isn't very assessable and the PRAC might want to think about coming up with a So. Tee Harbor Master Plan.

Rutecki mentioned that Auke Cape would be an excellent place for a park and asked how to go about initiating. Wheeler said it should go to the Lands Committee first and would probably be controversial. Kiefer said area could possibly be used as a cultural park and have some trails.

VI. Action Items

Cope Park Master Plan – Kiefer reviewed the last Cope Park planning meeting and reminded everyone that this is a project for the next 30 years and currently only had money for the restrooms and were trying to determine the location. Stekoll did a Powerpoint presentation and reviewed the 3 current options and answered questions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Catherine Reardon, 633 Calhoun Ave - She prefers Option 3. Likes idea of basketball court. There might be a problem with having shelter in front of sledding hill. Likes shelter in upper area on #3 but there might be a problem with hitting balls into play area. Leave tennis courts where they are. Likes improved bridge. Would like to see a sidewalk that goes around parking lot near

river so kids wouldn't have to cross parking lot. Middle area of parking lot in the winter is a no mans land because you can't see lines. She would like to see steps or an easier way to get to top of sledding hill. She would like swings without puddles under them. Her daughter Madeline would like a castle with maze inside and bridge over river.

William Phillip Dunn, 11435 Glacier Hwy - He doesn't want any trees cut down by the creek. He would like to have the park renamed back to Evergreen Bowl. He saw lots of dogs even though there is a sign that says "no dogs". He hopes that whatever is done it won't diminish the topography of the scene. He is concerned about timbers on stairways and recommends they be replaced immediately. He does not want more signage. He recommends we think about lighting and its effect. Also, don't replace bushes with flowers.

Grochow mentioned that engineering was in the process of hiring an engineer to come up with a solution for the stairway. The city is considering an elevated system, which would not fight with mother nature.

Wilson motioned Option 3 be adopted but add tot area from Option 2 to Option 3. Put sidewalk around parking lot. Move bridge from Option 2 to Option 3. Add barbecue pit. Keep rock climbing area or Alaskan type structure. Recommend moving swings from tennis area. Unanimously approved.

B. Gunakadeit Park – Kiefer gave a brief review of past meetings regarding the park. Jensen, Yorba & Lott gave presentation of their ideas for the park. Gunakadeit means sea monster in Tlingit. Their idea was to create a glass wall, which has Tlingit symbols sandblasted into the glass. The glass would sparkle especially with light in winter. A waterfall could also be incorporated. A service alley would be behind this wall for a dumpster and postal truck. It would be 7' wide and have an ADA ramp. Their idea is to have a crash proof ramp for safety where people can't get through and hang out. Possibly bollards could be made into a bench so it doesn't look like a driveway. They recommend the large wooden panel be restored or removed since it is 20 years old. The idea is to not have areas in which to hide.

Public Comments:

Ann House, 211 Seward St – She likes the waterfall but do we really need? Would like to see big boulders and flowers.

Mark Johnson, 127 S. Franklin, building manager of Gastineau Apts. With this current recommended plan he would have to shovel a 90' long area instead of his current 30'. He asked how a dumpster would get into a 7' wide space. He mentioned lighting would be needed by steps. Why not move the bus stop? Apartment managers have been parking there for 18 years and if they give up, where's the payoff for them? Water and sewer could be plumbed off the apartment lines and now looking at the drawings you will have to completely redo. Tenants want an area where they aren't afraid to come home at nights.

Ginger Blaisdell, 8412 Decoy Blvd – Her store is impacted everyday. Stair area looks like a tunnel so no one will enter. She recommends the front be accessible and inviting and to put restroom in the back to bring people into the park. People sleep under stairways. Suggests putting the visitor center on the other side where visitors can see easily. Maybe put the water feature on

Jewelry store side. Likes idea of bus stop moving on other side because exhaust currently comes in her front door. She likes the idea of water feature because anything moving draws people, but it doesn't necessarily need to be water. Police check around every 30 minutes. Doesn't think having police will deter bad activity.

Jensen, Yorba & Lott mentioned they have had two meetings with the police. The police stated they need parking for two cruisers nearby. They also need a small private area for interrogation plus room for microwave etc.

Kiefer suggested moving the bus stop further up the street and also putting in a new form of seating in the bus shelter that people lean against rather than sit to discourage people using bus shelter who are not waiting for the bus.

Wilson motioned to approve concept but ask designers to keep fine tuning with owners and police. Adam seconded. King opposed.

The park is currently owned by both the city and the owners of Gastineau Apartments. Kiefer recommended getting something in writing from the owner before approval goes further and then taking it back to public works and assembly.

Mr. Johnson said the owners would like to see the PRAC agree first.

C. School Master Plan – Kiefer reviewed the various options for the long range plan for the area that includes the downtown high school, pool, Marie Drake school, old Alaska Marine Highway area and school district office. Kiefer explained the various sections could be mixed and matched. For the pool users she recommends A2 because it provides closer parking to the pool and B3 which has more parking spots for the pool and high school and doesn't eliminate parking spots with a turn-a-round.

King motioned to endorse the directors' recommendations and also recommend that the old large trees not be cut down. Hood seconded. There were no objections.

VII. Information Items - West Juneau Park

After public comment was heard, two drawings from the previous presentation were combined to form the new West Juneau Park Master Plan.

VIII. Committee Reports

Waterfront Development Committee - The committee is meeting every Tuesday night through June. Some of the things they are looking at are: the seawalk, private parking on waterfront and making buildings taller to create more green space.

Citizen Task Force for Dimond Community Center - This is the number one priority for the League of Women Voters. Different Assembly members have other projects they consider the most important. Assembly wants design team to consider 26 million. Assembly needs to hear from the community and PRAC that this is a high priority. O'Keefe would like the PRAC to endorse a letter of support. O'Keefe is also willing to write letter to the newspaper. O'Keefe

encouraged all PRAC members to get as informed as possible to be able to talk to the public about this project. There were no objections to O'Keefe writing both letters.

State Parks - Memo enclosed in the packet from King regarding thoughts on developing a Letter of Agreement on management of the north half of the Green Zone.

Kiefer mentioned that Diane Mayer is currently working with the local Boy Scouts to get a conservation easement on their beach so national organization can't change. King recommended going out to get grant money to buy property similar to what was done to buy the Tongard property. **Wilson motioned director talk to Diane Mayer regarding letter. There were no objections.**

IX. Chair Reports – None

X. Department Report

Kiefer mentioned that at the June PRAC meeting they might be addressing a field house at Dimond Park.

XI. Ex-Officio Reports - None

XII. Correspondence- None
Board Comments

Adam won't be at June meeting.

XIII. Adjournment - Adam motioned to adjourn at 9:55.