DRAFT MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, March 3, 2009
Assembly Chambers, 6PM

I. ROLL CALL – Ray Howard, Dixie Hood, Kate Walters, Alyssa Ellsworth, Melissa Goldstein, Jeff Wilson, Jim King

Not Present – Jeff Sloss, James Tipps

Assembly Liaison – Randy Wanamaker, not present

Staff Liaison – Marc Matsil, Director; Helene Bennett, P&R Admin. Asst. II

Presentation – Barbara Sheinberg, Sheinberg Associates; Zoe Morrison, Sheinberg Associates

II. PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA -

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES –
   A. February 3, 2009 -
   Ms Hood: item 5; the statement should read “the list of City projects put forward for Federal stimulus, not ‘coming to Alaska’.”
   Ms. Ellsworth was in attendance.
   Motion to approve – Approved.

V. REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIASON - not in attendance.

VI. CHAIR REPORT - none.

VII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Director Matsil thanked and congratulated Messrs. Wilson, Sloss, and Dr. Goldstein for their service and reappointment to the PRAC. Director Matsil gave an overview of the Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update public process, and was pleased by the healthy amount of public participation and comments at the five public forums.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS - none.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS
   A. Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan Update; Barb Sheinberg & Zoe Morrison

Barbara Sheinberg and Zoe Morrison, consultants for the Juneau Non-Motorized Plan Update, presented an overview of public comments and methodologies employed for the plan.

The meeting goals included – Review & Discussion: 1) what is covered in plan, 2) who will use this plan, why and how, 3) the plan organization, and presentation to the PRAC for formal adoption.

The plan also must conform with AASHTO standards (American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials) and coincides with City plans.

Ms. Sheinberg and Morrison described the DEFINITIONS FOR DIFFERENT Non Motorized Transportation Uses that included:
Bicycles: shared roadway, shoulder lanes, bike lanes; Biking & Walking: separated multi-use paths, crosswalks and intersections, recreational trails; Walking: sidewalks; Design standard manuals;

Idea were solicited from PRAC and the public. PRAC member, Mr. Jim King emphasized that the Planning Commission, Assembly and ADOT use the plan to resolve sensitive solutions that improve safety and increase alternative transit use. Mr. Ray Howard appreciates the amount of great ideas and information in the plan. He has noticed a significant social change in the way people have become more health conscious and are willing to walk or bike more often, and feels this information would be great to integrate into the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).

PRAC Chair Wilson stated that after attending the High School Site Council meeting the concept of a Road Diet is particularly on-point as larger highways are not as necessary as people think, and traffic can be slowed through enhanced traffic calming and road utilization. Mr. Wilson was pleased that, in addition to the public and CBJ Parks & Recreation-- CDD, Land Resources, Engineering, Public Works and State DOT departments have provided input into the plan. With the numerous pending CIP plans including the parking garage, DOT widening bridge to Main Street, traffic circles, input from CDD is crucial in the JNMTP. Engineering also reviews subdivision plans for developers, and follow their blue book formats. Designers also need to be engaged. Mr. Wilson continued: Trail Mix is a great advocacy as PRAC is moving forward from CBJ and DOT and completing Non-Motorized Trails. We do need advocates for bike trails. DOT is looking at funding for Egan Drive from bridge to Main Street, and we do not know their plans for trails, street widening, etc. Seawalk has also been discussed in phases from the bridge to the Rock Dump, and cruise ship funds are available. The Assembly needs to be vigilant—and require DOT to work more directly with CBJ. There is a gap and we often learn about projects (or details of projects) after-the-fact. Mr. Wilson stated that we must move past the politics, and work closely with Assembly, CDD, Engineering to add more trails and bike paths, and improve current ones with proper width and lighting. Mr. Wilson felt that a new separated path between the high school’s two entrances should be added to this updated plan.

Ms. Sheinberg appreciated all of the feedback, as this was the goal of tonight’s presentation. She stated that the goal was to record all thoughts and comments while fresh in everyone’s mind. Sheinberg Associates met with CBJ Engineering Director Rorie Watt to discuss project coordination and solicit his input. A goal of this plan is to change the mindset, and accommodate increasing non-motorized population. This may be achieved by engaging early in the process the public and agencies that build the streets, the private sector, city project or state project managers, and determine who is the point of contact is for each system.

Director Matsil, echoing Mr. Howard, stated that project priorities delineated in the JNMTP and STIP enhance granting opportunities from transportation bond initiatives (SAFETEA-Lu) and the State—so the priorities are meaningful.

Ms. Morrison stated that Sheinberg Associates engaged in four tasks: 1) outreach through five public meetings attended by more than 100 residents; a questionnaire, map mark-up, that generated approximately 400 individual comments from meetings and website; 2) research and field surveys; 3) data analysis and establishing priorities (information gathered from JPD as to which areas has most accident/injury incidents, and DOT precisely asked for list of priorities as opposed to generic list of items) and 4) public review.

Recommendations included: improved maintenance, safe crosswalks, bridges and intersections, sidewalk and streetscape improvements, shoulder lanes, bike facilities, separated multi-use paths, education, and encouragement and signage. Proposed actions included: a. adopt a complete streets
policy; b. coordinate NMTP planning and review in the City; c. establish measurable non-motorized use targets; and d. commit to becoming a bicycle friendly community.

The 15 Top Priority Improvements recommended were: **Juneau Area Wide:** 1) Cross town bikeway; 2) maintenance; 3) improve non-motorized facilities on Glacier Hwy in Lemon Creek from Sunny Point intersection to Vanderbilt Hill Road; 4) Seawalk – from Aurora Harbor to Rock Dump; 5) paved shoulder lanes; 6) Bike lane along Glacier Hwy from DeHarts to Mendenhall Loop Road. **Mendenhall Valley West:** 7) sidewalk improvements in UAS and Auke Bay; **Mendenhall Valley East:** 8) improve five Mendenhall Loop Road intersections for pedestrians; 9) widen Brotherhood Bridge and add bike lanes; 10) improve Mendenhall Mall Road for non-motorized users by adding crosswalks, bike facilities and sidewalks; **Lemon Creek and Twin Lakes:** 11) add or improve crosswalks along Glacier Hwy at Anka street, Wal Mart and Concrete way; **Downtown and Thane:** 12) add bike lane on Egan Drive from the Juneau-Douglas Bridge to Main Street, 13) improve Egan Drive for pedestrians from the Juneau-Douglas Bridge to Main Street by adding traffic calming and improving or adding crosswalks at Gold Creek (Glacier Avenue) and Willoughby Avenue; **Douglas Island:** 14) complete Douglas Highway from where it ends near Gastineau School to Savikko Road intersection, 15) add or improve intersections on Douglas Highway at Cordova Street, Crow Hill Drive, Savikko Road and Douglas Library.

Mr. Wilson brought attention to item #72, which is Willoughby Ave to Glacier Ave, near school areas, and Whittier/Egan where new Office Building and parking lot will be built. Both are high traffic areas and it is best to get plans in now while project is still in motion; Mr. Wilson also suggested that design standards for bike paths, separated paths, etc. be placed back into the plan. These guidelines insure consistency.

Mr. Jim King commented on the Actions section: context Sensitivity Review for Assembly requires action before approving anything. Brotherhood Bridge has a trail that runs underneath the bridge and is highly used by kids, which needs improvement and feels this should be added. North Douglas Bayview Subdivision and Paul Emerson Park should have a separated path.

Sheinberg Associates suggests developing a committee to advocates to PRAC, CDD, Engineering, Public Works Facility progress made on updates. Small covered bike shelters have been suggested. Ms. Sheinberg stated that the goal was to present the Draft Pan again to the PRAC in May, prior to the presentation to the Planning Commission and Assembly.

**X. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Youth Activities Board:** Jeff Sloss – not in attendance; Director Matsil stated that YAB received 29 grant applications from organizations totaling $480,000. in grant requests.

**State Parks Board:** Jim King – the State Board met last night; there was a presentation on the SCORP process, required every five years. A questionnaire is available at: [www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org). Eagle River Park: the road from Eagle River to the new kayak launch will be rebuilt to improve traffic; Channel Islands plan draft-report will be forwarded to PRAC. The Eagle River parking fee will be removed this year.

**Lands Committee:** Jeff Wilson – Lemon Creek second access into Costco/Home Depot site and potential wetland impacts was discussed; also discussed development plan on Egan and Whittier for a four-story office building and parking lot. The land behind Fred Meyer's is for sale.

**Urban Forestry Committee:** Alyssa Ellsworth: Home Show – working to build up sponsorship and planning for Arbor Day in addition to enhancing partnerships

**Dimond Park Aquatic Center Task Force:** Melissa Goldstein – no meeting since last month; the construction bid process opened last week
**Jensen-Olson Arboretum Board:** Ray Howard - no meeting was scheduled since last PRAC; there will be a meeting next week.

**Docks & Harbors Board:** Dixie Hood - met last Thursday, 1) D&H will sell their ice machine to Taku smokeries for $1; 2) installing parking meters to use by cash or credit cards; 3) D&H had STIP list to prioritize for DOT, and Assembly requested top five priorities from each Department; 4) D&H anticipates their toxins report in Gastineau Channel this week.

**XI. CORRESPONDENCE** - none.

**XII. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** - none.

**XIII. BOARD COMMENTS** -
- Ray Howard attended meeting with State Rec and group is working to prepare grooming at Eagle Beach for cross country skiing. Several folks have signed up as volunteers for Juneau Snowmobile club to be developed on both sides of road allowing 3K and 5K in two areas. Mr. Wilson has noticed that cross country skiing has received a lot of support lately. Director Matsil skied Eagle Beach on Saturday and saw a lot of activity. Snowmobile club also working with USFS for more scouting on the Blackerby Ridge project, and pursuing trails in the Lemon Creek area for the remainder of the winter.
- Dixie Hood shared appreciation for Assembly Liaison Randy Wanamaker’s attendance at last month’s meeting, and stated that it was a great opportunity to provide the Assembly an update on PRAC activities.
- Jim King is pleased with the progress on the Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan update, and looks forward to the incorporation of PRAC comments.
- Dr. Goldstein is pleased to have been reappointed for another PRAC term.
- Kate Walters appreciated the progress on the JNMP update and also mentioned the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association April conference, and will attend and chair a session. Mr. Wilson requested a summary from Ms. Walters after the conference.
- Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Sloss and Dr. Goldstein for re-applying as board members and Mr. Wilson stated that there has been great progress on the PRAC. Mr. Wilson reminds everyone that Ms. Ellsworth is leaving Juneau in July, and encourages the committee to recruit people they feel would be an asset to this committee. Motion for adjournment. Approved.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT** - 8:26pm