

**MINUTES**  
**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Tuesday, May 5, 2009**  
**Assembly Chambers, 6PM**

I. **ROLL CALL:** Jeff Wilson, Alyssa Ellsworth, Kate Walters, Melissa Goldstein, Jim King, Dixie Hood, James Tipps, Jeff Sloss.  
Members Absent: Ray Howard.  
Staff Liaison: Marc Matsil, Helene Bennett.

II. **PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** - none

III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Jeff Sloss motion to approve. Approved.

IV. **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

A. March 3, 2009 – Dixie Hood motion to approve. Approved.

V. **REPORT FROM ASSEMBLY LIASION** – not in attendance.

VI. **CHAIR REPORT** – Mr. Wilson deferred to board comments.

VII. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Action Items:**

**Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan**

The 2009 Draft Non-Motorized Transportation Plan updates and revises the 1997 Plan. The 2009 Draft Plan has received significant input and comments from the public. The present draft reflects public comments received in five public meetings attended by more than 100 residents; a questionnaire, map mark-up that generated more than 400 individual comments from meetings and the website; research and field surveys; safety and data analysis from JPD and DOT—and recommendations from Parks & Recreation, CDD, Land & Resources, and Engineering, ADOT and a suite of community organizations.

CBJ plans were also consulted for consistency. Pending recommended adoption by the PRAC, the JNMTP Draft Update will be presented to the Planning Commission for formal hearing and recommendation on May 26th.

**Information Items:**

- A. **Park Naming Proposal:** a proposal from representatives of the Veterans For Peace to name the pocket park on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Seward Street the "Bishop Michael H. Kenny Memorial Peace Park".
- B. **OHV Discussion:** over the past year Parks & Recreation staff and the PRAC has discussed and investigated several options for an OHV Park including Fish Creek Quarry, Hidden Valley, Goldbelt property, and 25 Mile/USFS land. Tonight we will discuss next steps—including potential CBJ lands that may offer potential.
- C. **Presentations:** Volunteer Appreciation Day. Last Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, Parks & Recreation celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Day at Centennial Hall. Our wonderful volunteers, more than 500 strong, contributed more than 10,000 hours to Parks & Recreation facilities and programs in 2008. Special thanks to our esteemed PRAC for your contributions and Assembly Member Wanamaker who attended the event along with PRAC Members Jeff Sloss, Melissa Goldstein and Kate Walters.

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS

### A. Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan (JNMTP) Update

Parks & Recreation consultant Ms. Barbara Sheinberg thanked the PRAC for the opportunity to present the draft update of JNMTP. She thanked City staff—especially Parks & Recreation, CDD, Engineering, Lands and Resources and the public for their extensive input. The public provided substantial input. The draft plan has been divided into nine chapters. These include 18 high priority projects which are included in Chapter 7; Chapter 8 delineates recommended policies and implementing actions; specific and updated design standards and regulations at the direction of the PRAC. According to Ms. Sheinberg, there is no point in developing a plan if we cannot implement the process. Hence, Chapter 8 recommends Policies and Implementing Actions. Policy 1: Complete Preliminary Engineering and Cost Estimation for highest priority Non-Motorized Infrastructure Improvements; Policy 2: adopt a policy to require routine consideration of complete streets and context sensitive solutions in road planning, design and review; Policy 3 recommends that CBJ develop a procedure to make process routine, create a pre-application process to give updates; Policy 4: work with ADOT to establish a process to allow front-end input early in the design stage of DOT projects—and enhance cooperation; Policy 5 considered Sub-Division, work with current plans to improve in subdivision design and review; Policy 6: Parks & Recreation has had responsibility and oversight for the 2009 and 1997 Plans. Shift responsibility to CDD for subsequent plan updates; Policy 8 establish a regular maintenance program after creating priorities for maintenance; Policy 9: actively support a safe routes to schools programs, currently a State funding program; Policy 10 commit to becoming a bicycle friendly community; Policy 11 provide more bike racks; Policy 12 support non-motorized advocacies, Policy 13 designate and support a cross-town bikeway.

The Treadwell Ditch and Under Thunder trails have moved up in priority (high priority) as an alternate and safe bicycling and walking corridor that connects several neighborhoods.

Alyssa Ellsworth commented that she enjoyed the photos of non-traditional bike racks and would like “artistic-type” racks added to local parks.

Jeff Wilson: Standards on Chapter 6 look really good. Likes recommended infrastructure improvements. Mr. Wilson stated that Policies seem to be the core of the plan and recommended that it be adopted by ordinance, which carries more weight than by resolution. If PRAC recommends the plan for adoption by the Assembly, the next step is Planning Commission presentation on May 26.

Public comment: Dan Lesh thanked Parks & Recreation and Sheinberg Associates for the time and commitment put-forth in the plan. He stated that an updated and adopted JNMTP would be good for the community and that so many bicycle users share his appreciation to provide more opportunities for bicycles and pedestrians.

Public comment: Christine Apathy, a new bike commuter, uses that as a primary mode of transportation between downtown and Douglas.

Jeff Sloss queried if covered bike racks would be a better option? Mr. Lesh said that at least one per main area would be good.

Jeff Wilson suggested that artistic bicycle racks have shown to be favored fundamentally. Parks & Recreation should apply for some new art-type bike racks.

Public comment: Lisa Arehart has worked with the City and commented on the plan. Ms. Arehart stated that she thoroughly read the 1997 plan and agrees that non-motorized planning represents a huge need in our community. Ms Arehart has seen revised plans where needs shift,

and the older plans—or parts of the plan-- may than be obsolete. She stated that there was a lot of information in the plan, and was pleased to see the progress.

Ms. Hood thanked Ms Arehart for her energy.

Ms. Hood made a motion that the “PRAC recommend that the Assembly adopt the 2009 Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan by ordinance as a supplement to the 2008 CBJ Comprehensive plan.” 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Sloss. Motion unanimously approved.

## IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. **Park Naming Proposal** - Bishop Michael H. Kenny Memorial Peace Park. Director Matsil noted the letter from Mr. Phillip J. Smith, President of Veterans For Peace, Chapter 100, dated April 28, 2009.

Public comment: Mr. Paul DeSloover, Vice President of Veterans for Peace. The park has been used for protests for various peace gatherings. Bishop Kenny used peace as a means of coexisting with neighbors.

Public comment: Mr. KJ Metcalf knew Bishop Kenny quite well, would like a park named after him along with a plaque for his great advocacy for peace. Chairman Wilson queried if the group would provide funding for a plaque? Mr. Metcalf believes a community group should come forward to fund a plaque and commit to maintaining the park.

Public comment: Ms. Amy Paige People for Peace and Justice, was a great admirer of Bishop Kenny and what he stood for and supports the naming of the park for Bishop Kenny.

Public testimony is closed.

Ms. Hood stated she agreed with those that testified and admired Bishop Kenny.

This will be brought back to PRAC on June 2<sup>nd</sup> as an Action Item.

- B. **OHV Discussion—next steps** - Potential site Mile 25, Pete Griffin, USFS, sent email stating that the Forest Service is willing to look at OHV use at Mile 25. Mr. James Tipps stated that the present 1.6 mile trail is rather small for OHV use. Mr. Wilson stated that at the Lands Committee meeting last week that Eaglecrest was suggested as an option. Mr. Tipps said that the cost to prepare the OHV park would be prohibitive. He stated that geogrid track funding is \$1.50 per square foot. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Tipps about potential next step. Mr. Tipps asked how Lands and Resources determined that there was not enough land available at Hidden Valley for OHV use. Director Matsil stated that the best medium-range option could be Mile 25—if the ability to expand the footprint is an option.

- C. **Presentation: Volunteer Appreciation Day** – Director Matsil thanked PRAC members for their service and those who attended the volunteer ceremony and event.

## X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Youth Activities Board (YAB):** Jeff Sloss - two evening meetings were held to discuss distribution of \$350,000 in Youth Activity grants to 29 organizations that requested nearly \$500,000. Assembly meets tomorrow night to discuss this budget item. John White, chair of YAB will be in attendance. Director Matsil and Recreation Superintendent Fisher will also be in attendance. Mr. Sloss shared the list of applicants with the PRAC.

**State Parks Board:** Jim King –State Parks attempted to convene a meeting last night; there was no quorum. Staff report approval to spend up to \$5,000 for a facilitator for Islands Park planning session. State Parks still has not hired anyone.

**Lands Committee:** Jeff Wilson – April 20; three information items: OHV use in Hidden Valley; illegal dumping in harbors and CBJ properties, and discussion to increase fees; wood smoke enforcement in Valley and how to augment enforcement in the future.

**Urban Forestry Committee:** Alyssa Ellsworth – meeting later this week.

**Dimond Park Aquatic Center Task Force:** Dr. Melissa Goldstein – April 13, discussion of adding two lanes and a whirlpool to the Dimond Park Pool, pending design revision and if contractor bid can support the construction—without exceeding available funds. We are presently awaiting design revisions.

**Jensen-Olson Arboretum Board:** Ray Howard (not in attendance).

**Docks & Harbors Board:** Dixie Hood – April 30, (8:01), list of CIP's as Head Tax was approved, Port Director said hospital and Airport were on hold, but D&H received approval. N. Douglas launch will be redone by June. Standard parking meters of \$1.50/hr was approved for Statter Harbor. Mercury testing is complete—according to Gary Gillette; CBJ is awaiting reports from EPA regarding the Douglas and breakwater project. According to Docks & Harbors, the reports state that mercury is not at a level of concern. Dr. Goldstein, an ecotoxicologist, requested that she review the toxicological report. Director Matsil said he would get her a copy of the full report.

**XI. CORRESPONDENCE** – none.

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

**XIII. BOARD COMMENTS** –

**James Tipps:** would like follow through on ATV issue, shares concern of issue going back and forth to different committees, as opposed to receiving a yes or no answer. Mr. Wilson urges his continued pursuit.

**Jim King:** appreciates the sunshine—and was pleased to see so many parks and trail users out over the past several weeks.

**Melissa Goldstein:** pleased to see such good progress on the Juneau Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. It is moving forward and is very well organized.

**Kate Walters:** attended the recent Alaska Parks & Recreation Association meeting in Anchorage. There was discussion on potential stimulus funds for parks that included more efficient lighting and more fuel efficient vehicles.

**Jeff Sloss:** commended the Volunteer Appreciation Day event. It was very well attended. Bike Week is coming up. “Stop the Local Tours” signs are appearing around town. The Juneau-Douglas City Museum is not the tour destination as the State Museum is, due to lack of bus parking.

**Jeff Wilson:** Gunakadeit Park is behind schedule, as the gate was only recently ordered. The Dimond Pool discussion is exciting. In the stimulus plan, are there any funds for trails that have been announced? Director Matsil said not at this time.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

8:19pm