

Trails Working Group Public Meeting March 30, 2004

7-7:15 People looking at maps around the Hickel Room

Paul Zahasky – State Parks

Kim Kiefer:

James King

Bob Grochow

Larry Johansen

Ron Marvin

Sandy Warner

Merrill Sanford

James – history

Trail Mix responded to Assembly request – 2 year process –

Reconvened this fall to look at recs – go through list of trails and recommendations systematically hearing from agencies and public – hear from agencies about requests for permits for different users. Types of users, neighborhood characteristics, etc.

Going over list of recommendations – blue – James explains the recommendations. Points out Eaglecrest explanation is in the handout. Conceptually TWG approved of plans for lower mountain. Upper mountain: plans presented to TWG but very preliminary – could lead to cabins, trails to Cropley Lake to ridge and down.

Rainforest and Outer Point: Rainforest Trail built to accommodate commercial use. Guiding companies noted that interpretive opportunities are somewhat better on Outer Point. Switch proposed for 2005.

Alice Rarig clarifies that TWG makes recommendations to agencies who do the permitting.

Confused about Sunshine Cove – and Herbert – James explains.

Question about additions of commercial trails – is there a plan to keep adding commercial use trails?

Alice Rarig explains

Perseverance trail changes – to spread existing levels of use out.

Nancy Waterman – q about Rainforest Trail – is there need for investment on Outer Point trail

Kim Kiefer: need more feet on Outer Point to keep boards from being slippery – also want to enhance access on Outer Point Trail. Looking at various funding sources for it.

Comment – with increased accessibility there is increased use. Be aware of it.

Nancy asks about accessibility of Rainforest trail – James explains it is too steep and narrow but easier for people to walk who have some difficulties.

Q about beach access at Amalga – Willette – James explains no change.

Nancy – compliments good management -- some trails have different times for getting off trail – she suggests a single standard – another person wants to know a regular time –

Kim Kiefer: kayak trips, various trails – there are different times that make sense.

Mary – appreciates different times appropriate to different areas.

Sandy Warner – there was also concern at Treadwell about parking – buses being out in timely fashion.

Willette – any concern about bikers after work conflicting with commercial users? Kim Kiefer:

Nancy Waterman thanks MRSP and Tram for protecting the Gastineau Ridge trail – encourages protection theme for all trails – hopes TWG can encourage that.

Q about Eaglecrest process – Kim Kiefer: and James explain there will be public process as they develop business plan.

Comments: Sue McGregor – lives at Bayview – has submitted written comments. Her family uses N Douglas trails for family and for dogs – was surprised to see recommendations for Outer Point after reading minutes of January meeting, which said guiding companies were satisfied, etc. – Why change commercial use to Outer Point in 2005? Locals also prefer Outer Point because it is more interesting – reason for creating Rainforest trail was to reduce conflict. Comprehensive plan was expected to be basis for any change. Fish Creek identified as important for wildlife – by dog group and TWG – could be developed as wildlife area – doesn't want to see it opened to tour groups – she would object to opening Fish Creek to any commercial use. Would like it cleaned up. Increased use with fish stocking – lots of garbage. Any chance of dumpster?

James: three general recommendations – signs including fact of permits – improved trail to Nugget Creek Waterfall – and wildlife viewing areas.

Comment on dog walkers vs non dog walkers – she's noticed at Auk Rec more dogs on leashes – would like to see more education of the public before new rules.

Nancy: consistency is nice – keeping it as it is has merit as a consistent approach.

Kim Kiefer: asks how many want to keep it as is? 7

Any want Outer Point to become the commercial use trail? 0

Most folks don't care.

Larry: wonders if some locals wouldn't like access to different trails in different years. Also it looks as though “planning process” might in fact not be able to happen right away. Hoped to have opportunity for change sooner rather than way down the road.

Nancy W – any chance of improving management and behavior at Sunshine Cove? Sunshine Cove is being “loved to death” .

Kim Kiefer: commercial permits require cleaning up and reporting problems – commercial permit holders are helpful.

Next meeting of TWG – proposed for April 21st noon.

Adjourned 8:15.