

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee  
December 7, 2004  
Minutes  
Assembly Chambers 6pm

I. Roll Call

Meeting called to order at: 6:00p.m.

Members Present: Barbara Murray, Jeff Wilson, Jim King, Tom Rutecki, Dixie Hood

Members Absent: Sierra Kaden, Kathleen Adam, Alex Lukshin

Staff Present: Kim Kiefer, Di Cathcart, Bob Grochow, Skye Stekoll

Assembly Liaison: None

Ex-officio Present: None

II. Public Testimony on Non-Agenda Items – None

III. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Rutecki moved to approve agenda, Ms. Murray 2<sup>nd</sup>. Agenda approved.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes, November 2, 2004 - Ms. Murray moved to approve November 2004 minutes, Mr. King 2<sup>nd</sup>, minutes approved.

V. Report from Assembly Liaison None

VI. Action Items –

**A: North Green Zone Letter**

Jim King spoke about the joint SPRAC/PRAC North Green Zone Letter and said he had received no comments on the letter so the draft letter was the one for approval. Mr. King outlined what the joint committees could do and suggested it start out with a lunch meeting of both committees. Ms. Hood, Ms. Murray and Mr. King are on this subcommittee. Everyone is welcome to attend. Agenda items to include: follow up phone calls, maybe a Saturday work session to work on specifics.

Public Comment: - Alice Rarig 4425 Taku Blvd SPRAC Rep., President of the board of Trail Mix: RE: Letter of agreement – affirms that city and state boards will collaborate. North Green Zone has a blend of city, state and federal land. PRAC to take the lead. Trail mix is a tool in the tool kit. Possibly assign Trail Mix some tasks? Chas Dense found an Alaska Coastal Conservation grant that may be able to be used for this project, the deadline is February 15. This grant helped support previous SEAL Trust project. Funds for the South Green Zone all came out of CBJ funds. No current funds in State Parks to pay for any Green Zone costs, unless they can pay for postage for the letters. Motion: Ms. Hood moves to join with SPRAC to send letter out. Mr. Rutecki 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion Passed.

Mr. King Comment: PRAC and SPRAC are all volunteers who receive no compensation and do useful work for the CBJ/State and are not costing CBJ or State any money. "Our mission is to present recommendations to the agencies," King said. Jim asked that the Directors should figure out the details for funding.

**B: West Juneau Park Play Equipment:**

Skye Stekoll (CBJ Engineering) and Bob Grochow (Parks) gave a power point presentation on possible play equipment for the future West Juneau Park. There are three separate areas proposed for the park - a preschool area, an older children's area and a lawn space area. 25 x 30 x 45 square feet (various areas).

All PRAC agrees about forgoing swings in favor of more play equipment since if you have a 10 foot high swing set, regulation requires that you have 20 feet clearance on either side of swing set. PRAC would like to see a variety of equipment that would accommodate the most people. People would potentially drive to various playgrounds to enjoy the different equipment.

After the department makes final decisions on equipment, it will be included on PRAC Agenda as an information item.

Equipment that PRAC members thought might work best at the park were: Treehouse, Space Net, Tunnel Climber, Bench Swing - for parents and toddlers, Country Club, Elevated sandboxes, panels along pathway (as a free standing unit)

Mr. Wilson worries about vandalism, so something that could hold up to possible abuse. Ms. Kiefer will send a letter to the previous owner of the property to see if he would like to contribute to play equipment. He had voiced support in the past that he may be interested in helping develop the park area.

Thanks to Bob and Skye for their presentation.

VII. Information Items

PRAC Members Terms Up in January (Lukshin, Kaden, Hood) Ms. Hood submitted her application today December 7.

Attendance List- PRAC members need to let Ms. Kiefer know if they are going to miss consecutive meetings. Mr. Wilson will miss January and February's meetings.

VIII. Committee Reports:

Waterfront Committee is meeting again, Mr. Wilson will be the (non-voting) PRAC representative. There is a meeting next Monday December 13<sup>th</sup>, at the meeting they will discuss the sea walk. Stan Ridgeway is the Chair of the Waterfront Committee.

IX. Chair Report: None

X. Department Reports:

Ms. Kiefer is in the process of reviewing the Parks and Recreation Codes. She will bring recommendations to code changes to the February PRAC meeting. It will then need to go to the Assembly for final recommendations and approval. The thought is to be able to take our codes that no longer make sense or that work for one park vs. another, also included in the changes will be dog task force recommendations.

Commercial Use-Ms. Kiefer defined commercial use to Ms. Hood's question of what was the commercial use ad in the paper regarding. The ad is to notify the public and commercial use

user groups/companies that Parks and Recreation is now taking permit requests for the upcoming season. Commercial use is for service based rather than merchandise or food.

XI. Ex-Officio Reports: None

XII. Correspondence:

Public comment letter for West Juneau Park play equipment request from Randy Ruaro.

XIII. Board Comments:

Ms. Murray - Has anything happened with Dimond Park Community Center? *Yes, a small group went to Denver in November to view different Community Centers and talk with facility managers. Group will be giving a power point presentation to the Committee of the Whole next Monday December 13 at 5pm to show the different sites they visited. At one facility, the group was amazed to find that it was in full use at 10:00am on a weekday with 35-40 people in the lazy river, people in the wading pool doing water weights, and exercises. There will be a planning meeting next week to discuss what is going to be happening over the next 10 months.*

Mr. Rutecki - Can we put the minutes on the website and the people who are on the different committees? Website seemed to have minimal information. *P&R staff will check on that. The minutes and agenda are currently on the Parks and Recreation website under the header -Other Information, titled: Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.*

Mr. King - At the SPRAC meeting, Mike Eberhardt of State Parks described Eagle River State Park as a showcase park-due to the handicap accessibility, and the way the outhouses are set up. Juneau can feel good about having such a great park. The down side is State Parks may consider charging a day use fee, which is \$40 for a year pass. It occurred to Mr. King that if State Parks really pushes for fee, people would stop going and end up going to borough parks instead. Mr. King recommended watching to see if State Parks is going to pursue charging. PRAC asked that Mr. Eberhardt attend next PRAC meeting and report on possible fees and status on them and if they are thinking of charging for Eagle Beach use also. *Ms. Kiefer will contact Mr. Eberhardt.*

Ms. Hood - Has been attending Collaboration Juneau meetings regarding possible sea walk congestion. What kind of a presentation will be available to PRAC? *Ms. Kiefer - Rorie Watt will give a presentation to the waterfront committee on the seawalk on Monday. In February or March - PRAC and Harbors will see the recommendations from the Waterfront Committee on the sea walk. A private developer is currently building part of the sea walk that runs along their private property. Ms. Hood - hopes the section of sea walk by the bridge is priority vs. the Taku Smokeries area. Ms. Kiefer - before sea walk by Douglas Bridge happens, Public Works has to move out of their current facility.*

Mr. Wilson - Merchants Wharf- will be a crucial piece of the puzzle for the waterfront.

Mr. Wilson - What is up with Cope Park? *Ms. Kiefer said Parks has money for the bathroom improvements and will proceed with that. We've been receiving positive comments on the trail upgrade from 7<sup>th</sup> street. Money for annual playground equipment replacement will go towards Sandy Beach this next summer season, with upgrades to ADA accessibility to play equipment. Ms. Kiefer suggested that at the next Parks Tour, PRAC tour the parks with the new play equipment and upgrades.*

XIV. Adjournment – Ms. Murray motioned to adjourn Ms. Hood 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 4, 2005 Assembly Chambers 6:00pm