

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee**  
**January 8, 2002**  
**Minutes**  
**Room 224 Conference Room**  
**6:00pm**

**I. Roll Call**

Meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

Members Present: Alex Lukshin, Joan-Herbage O'Keefe, Ken Dean, Jim Scholz, Lynn Bartlett, Jeff White, Tom Rutlecki, Jim King

Members Absent: Jeff Wilson

Staff Present: Kim Kiefer, Diane Mastin, Joe Buck, Ernie Mueller

Assembly Liaison: Marc Wheeler

Assembly Members: Frankie Pillifant, Jeannie Johnson

Exofficio Present: None

**II. Public Testimony on Non-Agenda Items - None**

**III. Approval of Agenda – O'Keefe *motioned* for approval of the Agenda. There were no objections.**

**III. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

O'Keefe *motioned* that minutes of December 4<sup>th</sup> be approved after the noted changes were completed. There were no objections.

**IV. Action Items**

A. Naming the Douglas Ice Arena

*Sandy Williams 670 Fifth Street* - The Douglas Fourth of July Committee, which contributed over \$70,000 towards the building of the arena, would like the arena named Treadwell Arena in honor of their 100 year Centennial that was celebrated in 1998. The name honors the old community of Treadwell and its important relationship to the community of Douglas.

Jim Scholz *motioned* that he had no objection to the arena being called the Treadwell Arena. Joan O'Keefe seconded the approval. There were no objections. Kim Kiefer will forward the recommendation to the Assembly.

B. Restroom at Gunakadeit Park - Joe Buck from the Engineering Department reviewed his memo that was included in the packet. Concept "A" would locate the restrooms in the back and Concept "B" would be located in the area of the bike racks but would not remove all of the bike racks. The cost is estimated to be around \$215 - 235,000 with Concept "A" costing more. The Director requested that each person giving testimony mention which concept they preferred and whether they would like to see the facility opened for 6 months or year round. The structures would be ADA compliant and the current permitted parking spot and dumpster would remain on the property.

Tom Rutecki asked how this was going to be funded. Passenger fees might be a possibility but it hasn't been included in the budget at this time. Lynn Bartlett asked about the funding for the ongoing maintenance fees. The costs could be split but this hasn't been determined yet.

*Ernie Mueller - 3990 Glacier Hwy*

He mentioned that there is a shortage of covered bike rack areas and if the project goes through he doesn't want this removed. He is also concerned about the safety issue and he believes the restrooms should be made so that they are uncomfortable to encourage people to not stay. He mentioned that the transit department is in the process of building a facility somewhere downtown and the restrooms could be located there. It would be open early in the morning and late at night. It would be good to incorporate with another facility. There is a lot of vandalism at bus shelters.

*Ann House 455 S. Franklin*

Ann a Downtown Business Association member and owner of the Summit Restaurant sees a real necessity for downtown restrooms. She would like to see them kept open year round.

*Kathryn Arlen 127 S Franklin St #312*

Kathryn has lived in the Gastineau Apartments for 4 years. The only door to the 41unit apartment is in the back corner. She favors Concept "b". She believes maintenance and policing the area is essential or else there will be vandalism. Adding something like tourism in the area would be great. She wants something year round and would like not to have to feel afraid.

*Valerie Fremlin 174 S. Franklin*

She has a business downtown and is in favor of restrooms downtown and in this area but it needs to be done right. A kiosk would be a good addition. She would like to see an area for the police be added. She favors a year round facility. Favors Concept "B" if the bike rack could be in another area.

*Dennis Harris Box 21214*

Mr. Harris is a member of the Downtown Neighborhood Assn. He stated that this is not the place unless it is totally supervised. People stand in Dockside Jewelers instead of the bus stop because of the obnoxious drunks. Until we have an ordinance where we can arrest drunks we are going to have a problem. The restroom would need to be very visible and not provide privacy. Needs to have an attendant the whole time, not every 2 hours. He is not in favor of putting a restroom in this area and he wouldn't leave a bike there.

*Ginger Blaisdell 8412 Decoy Blvd*

She owns Dockside Jewelers and is in favor of a year round facility. The only public restrooms she feels that are safe downtown are at McDonalds and the Baronoff. She favors Concept "B" because of the visibility. One area of concern is that the stairways are the only access to some homes and if the restroom is to close the residents might not be able to get some of their belongings up the stairs. She is in favor of the bus stop closer to the post office because of fumes from the bus and cars can't get by where the bus currently stops. She also recommends that the bus schedule be printed in larger font because many bus riders ask for assistance in reading.

*David Summers 127 S Franklin*

He is the owner of the "Edge of Town Cutlery". He sees a real need for downtown restrooms. He Favors Concept "b" and seasonally opened because of the budget. He would like Parks and Recreation to work with the Police department. He would also like to see a crossing guard placed in this area with an attendant. He thought this might be paid for with the Passenger Fee money. He was disappointed that McDonalds, Taco Time and Subway weren't represented at the meeting. He mentioned that this might be a good area for a Visitor Center. He doesn't want to see another tourism business because of the competition. He does not want to see the self cleaning toilets put in because of the security issue. His current strategy is to take pictures of various people and then he tells them to leave or he is going to call JPD.

*Larry Spencer - Senate Properties Manager*

He supports downtown restrooms. In other parts of the world travelers pay an attendant for toilet paper and in turn they keep the toilet clean. If a police monitoring unit was added they could monitor restroom. Possibly have the Visitor Center in this area, give money to them in turn for them to maintain restroom. He does not favor it be put in the back or screening be added. He does not want to see a single occupancy toilet or locks. He would only like it open in the summer unless a year round visitor center was open all year.

*Kirby Day 1302 Tarn Ct*

He finds it amazing that the Capital City has not provided adequate restrooms. He hopes that the Assembly members address this issue. Passenger fees could be an appropriate source of funding. He would like to try restrooms in this area for 6 months. Favors plan "B" but not losing bike rack. He believes that if restrooms were there people coming off the buses would use them also. He thought it might be good to add more lighting if it didn't bother the apartments.

Dennis Harris stated that in Seattle the self cleaning restrooms would only be allowed from the manufacturer if they could add advertising. Joe Buck to research.

*John Roa - Gastineau Apartment Manager*

He stated that the drunks urinated in his elevator. He hasn't seen more than one or two people use the bike racks at a time. He would like to see the police a lot more in the area. If Concept "a" were allowed they are concerned about the smell going into the apartments. He would like to see a crossing guard in the area, someone with a uniform. He has seen police pouring out alcohol but not making arrests. He would like to see restrooms all year round. Also there is not enough light in the area but it is a concern of the apartments.

Kirby Day asked about the possibility of fencing off at night.

Larry Spencer mentioned that Seattle fences off a waterfall at one of their parks at night.

What Jim King is hearing that it would not be a detriment to the park if restrooms were added. He mentioned that this issue encompasses a broad social view and it is his opinion this issue is beyond the purpose of this board. He is also concerned about the high funding cost and how this would take funding from other Parks and Recreation areas.

Lynn Bartlett said JPD should have been invited before the table and she thought this board was brought into the situation prematurely. She sees a definite need for restrooms downtown but is not convinced Pocket Park is the spot. She sees this as a bigger issue. The bicycle patrol is downtown but at times they can be tied up for hours. She would like to see restrooms for more than just tourists.

Jim Scholz stated that currently the park isn't functioning as a park. He *motioned* to bring forth to the Assembly the recommendation from the PRAC that restrooms be built plus possibly some other amenities. He stated that the two designs submitted wouldn't solve the current problem and asked that more work be done.

Tom Rutecki stated this area needs security and someone in attendance. He didn't think this was the area.

Kim Kiefer stated that other information was needed such as lighting, security. Also needed to work with JPD and Public Works and a united comprehensive plan should be done before anything was built.

Scholz mentioned he wasn't opposed to building restrooms in the park but only after scrutinizing the other issues.

Jeff White stated that the area wasn't functioning as a park but said it wasn't the boards issue.

Lynn Bartlett said the funding is soft at this point. Possibly money could come from Passenger Fees. If the money doesn't come from Passenger Fee money will it come out of the Parks and Recreation budget? She wondered if this area should be removed as a park.

Jeannie Johnson said this item was brought to her during her pre-election and that's why she asked for this issue to be addressed. She doesn't feel people should have to wade through inebriated people to access the park or catch the bus.

Ken Dean said he used the park for many years when he was younger. He thinks the area needs a strong police presence and more lights because the area isn't conducive to business or safe travel down the street. He suggested that reflectors be blackened on one side to cut down on the light into the apartments.

Lynn Bartlett suggested that the possibility of Public Works doing something should be considered and that the facility could get more facility for our dollars. She is not convinced that this area is where the restrooms should be.

Jim King wanted to add a friendly *amendment to motion* we don't object to a restroom being built provided it is properly managed and maintained and doesn't take money from other Parks and Recreation projects. Scholz had no objection.

Alex Lukshin asked what could be done for this year since the construction wouldn't happen this summer. Kim will look into the possibility of portable toilets but it isn't in the budget.

Jim Scholz asked Joe Buck about other options.

Buck replied that JCVB facility could be used, Harbors is looking at the possibility of putting restrooms in the Tram area and the bus facility also. He also mentioned that signage is being added to the historical area and restroom areas could be included.

Jeannie Johnson said that the biggest problem is in the core areas and not these areas.

Scholz said that we don't want to have our tourists put into situations where they have to beg.

Tom Rutecki mentioned that Dimond or the two new parks out the road do not have restrooms either. He is in favor if it doesn't come out of the Parks and Recreation budget.

It was *motioned* that the PRAC did not object to the restrooms being built in Gunakadeit Park as long as it was well maintained and managed and didn't take money away from other Parks and Recreation projects. The vote passed with 6 approvals and 2 objections.

Joe Buck stated that if money were made available right away construction could be done in 2003.

Lynn Bartlett suggested that it be built on the post office wall so police would be able to easily view.

It was suggested that Kim communicate with the Police department regarding the reports that were brought forth at this meeting. Kim will request the police address this issue at our February meeting.

## **VI. Information Items**

- A. Scholz, Lukshin and Bartlett's terms are expiring - all are interested in continuing for another term.

## **VII. Committee Reports - None**

## **VIII. Chair Reports - None**

## **IX. Department Reports**

- A. The department is in the middle of the budget process for the next two years. Kim requested if any of the board members have any concerns to notify her within two weeks. Bartlett mentioned that the electrical supply at Adair Kennedy was not adequate.
- B. Kiefer talked briefly about some of the upcoming projects - mainly the new West Juneau Park. Jeff White mentioned that it seemed from the last months minutes that a lot of the park equipment is very old. He mentioned that he just saw a new park on Bainbridge Island that was apparently done by volunteers. Kim requested that he bring pictures and exact address of park if possible.
- C. Kiefer will send out current CIP list to board members.

- D. Kiefer to talk to Risk Management regarding liability issue at Armory.
- E. Kiefer gave a brief review of the status of the Treadwell Arena.
- F. Kiefer gave a brief review of the upcoming Olympic Torch Relay events at Eaglecrest, Centennial Hall and Nugget Mall. Governor and City Manager to give possible leave to employees to support relay. Kiefer requested board members contact the Chamber of Commerce if interested in hosting a torchbearer. Merchandise available at the Nugget Mall.

**X. Ex-Officio Reports - None**

**XI. Correspondence/Board Comments**

- A. Additional Bridget Cove Comments - Kiefer briefly explained the process if the Planning Department approves the Permit for the Aquatic Farm. If approved it would be under the condition the operator work with the Parks and Recreation Department. He would be getting a lease from the State but not access. Access has to be approved through our Department. Kiefer to check with the Law Department regarding access.
- B. Board Comments

King stated that the wharf is full of dog droppings. Kim said the wharf is managed by the Harbor Department but she would contact Joe Graham.

O'Keefe asked about the status of the Marine deck over. Kiefer mentioned that a committee was formed represented by engineering, parks and recreation, public works and harbors. The assembly gave them around ten items to address and to come up with a criteria on how to evaluate each item.

Lukshin mentioned that a real football was being thrown at the pool and thought this was very dangerous. Kim to pass the information on.

Scholz mentioned that he had talked to Dave Lewis, pool manager, he hadn't ordered new mats yet and was having a hard time finding some. Bartlett suggested contacting Michael Lambert with Athletic Supply in Seattle.

Joan thanked the 3 members who asked to extend their terms. The continuity is beneficial.

Kim mentioned that at the February meeting she would have the Police Department represented, she would do a Proposition 3 update, Dayle Tennison would be there to talk about Centennial Hall and that Kim would like the PRAC to come up with a Mission Statement for the Board.

Kim talked about the new position at the museum, about the Bureau of Mines donating items and if anyone was aware of any heated temporary storage areas for these items. Kim mentioned that the lot next to the museum and the old Davis Log Cabin building was being reviewed by the Capital Complex Committee.

**XII. Adjournment was at 8:20.**