

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

*August 4, 1997
Room 211, City Hall
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.*

The meeting began at 7:20 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Members Present: Nancy Waterman, Tim Kelly, Alex Lukshin, Jim King

Members Absent: Dan King, Paul Grossi, Kay Gouyton, Tom Thornton, Ken Dean

Staff Present: Therese Ambrosi Smith, Director; James King, Planner; Edra Lewis, Secretary

Public Present: Judy Murphy, Anne Fuller

II. Agenda Item

A. Juneau Non-motorized Transportation Plan

Mr. James King briefly described the changes made to the Non-motorized Transportation Plan since the last public meeting, which was the PRAC meeting of July 15, 1997. First of all, the name was changed from the Juneau Bike Plan in order to incorporate all types of users into the plan.

The second major change was removing trails such as the Herbert River, Windfall Lake, Montana Creek, and Dan Moller trails (among others) from the plan. This change was at the request of the public and the Forest Service who did not want the trails considered as part of the non-motorized transportation system.

Mr. King stressed the importance of the non-motorized transportation plan being a chapter in an overall area-wide transportation plan, not a separate document.

Mr. King reviewed the list of changes and additions to this second draft of the plan, citing such things as ADA accessibility, the changing of terms in order to include a broad range of user types, the addition of criteria for ranking projects, and the incorporation of comments and suggestions made by the public.

Ms. Waterman inquired why the issue of bicycling on Egan Drive was excluded from this version of the plan. Mr. King stated that DOT has not indicated a willingness to open Egan Drive to bicycle traffic.

Ms. Waterman suggested that a recommendation should be in the non-motorized plan for DOT to open Egan Drive to bicycle traffic.

Mr. Lukshin stated that DOT has made their decision, which must be based on reliable information, and therefore it would be useless to put it in the plan. Judy Murphy and Anne Fuller both stated that DOT's decision wasn't based on anything. Ms. Murphy also stated that in many other states bicycles are allowed on interstate highways.

Ms. Fuller stated that she would like to see the Salmon Creek area bike paths on the priority projects list in the plan.

Ms. Murphy stated that it appeared the public comments made at previous meetings were ignored when the changes were made to the non-motorized plan.

Mr. Jim King stated that the classification of “novice” in the plan should be changed to “low speed”, because wheelchair users, and many other users, are not necessarily novices.

Mr. Kelly stated that it would be a good idea to incorporate kids in the promotion of non-motorized transportation; this could be accomplished by adding summer classes on bicycling to the Community Schools courses and sponsored community bike rides.

Ms. Fuller stated that the high school incorporates bicycling into summer P.E. classes. She also stated that she is committed to getting a map published for cyclists from outside the community to place at the ferry terminal and the youth hostel. Mr. James King stated that it would only be a matter of fund raising to have the maps printed.

Ms. Fuller asked Ms. Smith if she was aware of any inter-agency plans to publish a map of regional recreation facilities. Ms. Smith stated that it has been a project in the works for many years now. She also stated that Mary Lou King has been interested in publishing a map of Juneau recreation facilities accessible by public transit.

Mr. James King stated that he has spoken with Ernie Mueller from Public Works, and he has indicated that there is money to purchase bike racks for several city buses.

It was suggested that there be an annual meeting between users, the Public Works Department, and DOT managers to assess the immediate low cost needs of the non-motorized transportation system.

Mr. Kelly asked if once the document is adopted by the Assembly, if it becomes an official document which must be followed. Ms. Smith stated that the document will merely be a guideline, and the projects within it will be constructed/implemented as funding becomes available, which will not necessarily be in order.

Ms. Smith reviewed the deadlines for getting the plan to the various committees, the Assembly, and finally DOT for the ISTEA funding request.

Ms. Murphy illustrated how bike lanes cause problems for cyclists at intersections. She stated that there are many problems with the current non-motorized transportation system, including sensors at intersections, maintenance problems, and that the system needs to conform to AASHTO guidelines for safety. Mr. King stated that he has obtained a copy of the newest draft of AASHTO guidelines.

III. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:57 p.m.