

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PRAC) MINUTES



March 07, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chris Mertl called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chris Mertl, Makayla Chappell, Taylor Murph, Christina Mounce, Josh Anderson

Absent: Brandie Hofmeister, Will Muldoon, Danika Swanson

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Director; Michele Elfers, Deputy Director; Eric Moots, Administrative Assistant

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Unanimously approved

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Unanimously approved

1. Meeting of April 5, 2022
2. Meeting of May 3, 2022
3. Meeting of January 4, 2023

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

F. AGENDA TOPICS - None

G. NEW BUSINESS - None

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

I. STAFF REPORTS

4. Montana Creek Area Plan Comments *presented by M. Elfers*

Ms. Elfers presented the Montana Creek Area Master Plan, as worked on by the Parks and Recreation Department, US Forest Service, State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, and Trail Mix Inc.

Ms. Elfers discussed the goals of this project, and what the guidelines were. She then presented maps of the trails that were being proposed for the area. Mr. Anderson asked about proposed trail #9, a trail extending 25 Mile Road. He asked if that was meant to be an off-road vehicle trail to replace the Montana Creek trail. Ms. Elfers stated that it was not meant to replace anything, but instead be a new trail that would allow for longer winter access for motorized recreation in the area. Ms. Mounce asked if proposed trails #1 and #2 would mean nearby existing trails would be decommissioned. Ms. Elfers explained that it is possible if resources are put into reconstructing a trail or improving a trail that are 300 feet away from the creek, that then the main stem of the trail could be moved away from the creek to protect the stream banks. Ms. Chappell asked for clarification on why there was confusion for which areas allowed and didn't allow motorized use. Ms. Elfers explained that at this time, there is no confusion, but that previously there was confusion due to the nature of different agencies co-managing the land.

5. Board & Committee Reorganization *presented by G. Schaaf*

Mr. Schaaf discussed an ordinance recently adopted by the CBJ Assembly that would repeal the ordinances that established the Aquatics Board, the Treadwell Arena Advisory Board, the Jensen-Olson Arboretum Advisory Board, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee on April 30, 2023, and then reestablish

the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee with a permanent Arboretum subcommittee, and a permanent Facilities subcommittee. Mr. Schaaf explained that with the re-establishment of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee that all current members of the committee would need to reapply to continue serving, as the dissolution of the board would end all terms of those on the committee.

6. Staff Reports presented by G. Schaaf

Mr. Schaaf gave updates on the maintenance closing of Augustus Brown Swimming Pool, as well as events that are going to be taking place there before the closure.

Mr. Schaaf also commented on the problem facing the Parks and Recreation Department's ability to meet the demand for youth activities in Juneau.

Mr. Mertl asked Mr. Schaaf about the department's snow removal priority for their facilities. Mr. Schaaf responded that the priority list begins with the Building Maintenance shop, followed by the high-use facilities such as the pools and Treadwell Arena. Mr. Mertl expressed concerns specifically about the snow and ice removal at Centennial Hall, the Savikko Trailhead, and the Treadwell Arena parking lot. Mr. Mertl commented that it seems it would be helpful for the department to have another FTE for winter maintenance.

J. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

7. Chair Report - presented by C. Mertl

Mr. Mertl congratulated Mr. Murph and Mr. Schaaf on their newborns. He also expressed appreciation to all of the current PRAC members and urged them to reapply.

8. Liaison to the Assembly Report - presented by G. Smith

Mr. Smith confirmed the amendments to the board consolidation ordinance discussed by Mr. Schaaf. He also added that the Assembly moved forward a E-Bike proposal for Pioneer Road, which is not a Parks and Recreation land, but has Parks and Recreation affiliation. Mr. Mertl asked Mr. Schaaf how the Parks and Recreation department classifies e-bikes. Mr. Schaaf stated that if the bike requires you to pedal, even if it gives you a boost, it is classified as a non-motorized bicycle; if the e-bike is able to propel the rider without any effort, it is considered a motorized vehicle.

9. Board Member Liaison Reports

There were no updates from the Treadwell Arena Advisory Board, Aquatics Board, Jensen-Olson Advisory Board, or Eaglecrest Board Liaisons, as they were not present for this meeting. The Youth Activities Board failed to make quorum at their previous meeting and so they did not meet. The Trail Mix liaison informed the board that Trail Mix did not meet. Ryan O'Shaughnessy of Trail Mix Inc. confirmed this and commented that they are preparing for the summer season.

Mr. Mertl asked Mr. Schaaf about the Jim Parise land request. Ms. Elfers responded that the request is closed, because CDD found that there was no legal way to give the lease that was requested.

Mr. Mertl also asked Ms. Elfers about the Marine Park design. Ms. Elfers answered that the department is scheduling meetings with the public about the project in the near future, and that work will be done throughout the spring and summer.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Anderson moved to adjourn at 6:38p, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Eric Moots on March 9, 2023