

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 01, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar



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A. CALL TO ORDER

PRAC Chair Ryan O'Shaughnessy called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Josh Anderson, Danika Swanson, Emma Van Nes, Jennifer Gross, Kaasáank' Andrew Williams, Paulette Schirmer, & Ren Scott

Absent: none

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Parks & Recreation Director; Donna Pierce, Interim Parks & Recreation Director; Terra Patterson, Acting Parks & Recreation Deputy Director; Neil Steininger, Assembly Liaison; & Annie Carroll, Parks & Recreation Staff Liaison

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Mr. Anderson to approve the agenda. *No objections were heard, and the agenda was approved.*

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes from March 4, 2025

MOTION by Ms. Scott to approve the minutes. *No objections were heard, and the minutes were approved.*

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - None

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2. April 1 Agenda Overview – Presented by G. Schaaf

Mr. Schaaf begins by introducing Donna Pierce who will be the Interim Parks & Recreation director after his last day on Friday, April 4. Ms. Pierce previously worked for CBJ as the Deputy City Manager and as Library Director. He also takes a moment to reintroduce Terra Patterson, the department's Aquatic Manager who has stepped up to serve as Acting Deputy Director while Lauren Verrelli is on family leave. Ms. Pierce briefly introduces herself, sharing that this is her 4th time through City Hall, and she looks forward to working with the department's stellar senior staff team, and the PRAC during her time here. Ms. Patterson shares that she has been with CBJ since 2022 and has enjoyed her time filling in for Ms. Verrelli and learning about the other aspects of the department besides aquatics. She speaks for the senior staff team to say that they will all miss George greatly, but are looking forward to working with Donna, and appreciate her stepping up to lead the department.

G. NEW BUSINESS

3. Draft Trespass Policy – Presented by G. Schaaf

Mr. Schaaf begins by stating that part of managing public facilities is dealing with situations where people use the facilities in ways they weren't intended which negatively impacts the public's ability to use those spaces. He explains that this has been an increasing challenge as he's issued around 50 trespass letters to individuals this year for different types of behavior in different facilities. They have

realized as a department that they don't have a lot of consistency in how they approach these issues. Their solution was to draft a trespass policy applicable specifically to Parks & Rec facilities. He asks the committee for feedback and comments as it will affect the public.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy asked if the criteria for 90-day and 1-year exclusions are consistent with what other departments have established. Mr. Schaaf answers that they are aiming to be more specific.

Ms. Scott asked if there is a broad code of conduct for Parks & Rec facilities or if it varies depending on the facility to which Mr. Schaaf answers that there is not, but that there should be as the rules may be different in a parking garage than in a park for example. He shares that an official code of conduct is something the department would like to bring forward for review and submit to the assembly.

Ms. Swanson asked if the violations listed on the draft policy are defined anywhere, as some of the behaviors don't have corresponding criminal citations. Mr. Schaaf answered that oftentimes behavior may not be criminal in nature but is still not consistent with the intended use for the public's enjoyment of that facility; for example, lingering in an elevator or bathroom and refusing to leave after an extended period. Ms. Swanson also asks how the appeal process would work in the event that an individual was found, by the court, not to be in violation of any court order. Mr. Schaaf answers that there is an appeal process through the City Manager's office, however the department is dependent on the Juneau Police Department to provide that information. Ms. Swanson expresses concern over the vague nature of the draft and explains how the policy in this form could be applied unequally and lead to problems. Mr. Schaaf thanks her for the feedback, and explains that the goal is to set guidelines for the department to apply the existing code on criminal trespass, which does not go into specifics about behaviors.

Mr. Anderson asked what the department can do to discourage the behaviors which are not strictly criminal, but make other facility and park users uneasy. Mr. Schaaf answered that they are limited in the capacity to control how people use the parks, which is why they are focusing the guidelines to specific behaviors which prevent other users from using facilities and parks as intended.

Ms. Scott shared that she appreciated how the draft is laid out, including specific behaviors and what the consequences of them are. This way the public knows what is accepted and allowed, and staff also have a clear guide to follow.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy adds that he would like to see more specificity and clarity as he is concerned about selective enforcement.

Ms. Van Nes asks if the department has considered giving fines instead of trespassing people, as it could be more effective in certain circumstances. Mr. Schaaf answers that for minor offenses there are usually fines associated, but that a ticket must be written and Parks & rec staff are not authorized to do so.

Mr. Kaasáank' shared that he agrees with much of the feedback his fellow committee members shared, in particular the possibility that the policy may be enforced inequitably, especially if the guidelines are vague. He suggests that longer exclusionary times could be tied to specific criminal violations, and shorter times for less severe offences.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4. Adair-Kennedy Memorial Park – Presented by G. Schaaf

Mr. Schaaf presented the PRAC with cost estimates for several priority fixes the department identified with the help of feedback from user groups. He asks the PRAC for recommendations on how the department should use the remaining general obligation bond funds.

Mr. Kaasáank' asks if the scoreboard will be replaced to which Mr. Schaaf responds that it is being replaced through a combination of financial support from CBJ as well as the football community.

Ms. Scott shares that she appreciated staff reaching out to user groups. She asks if the current track at Adair-Kennedy is a safety concern, and what the plans are to address it. Mr. Schaaf answers that they are going to address immediate concerns from the bubbles using existing minor maintenance funding.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy asks if they expect the safety issues to continue popping up at the track, to which Mr. Schaaf answers that they likely will as the 50-year-old asphalt below the track is failing and the only long-term solution would be to replace it.

Mr. Kaasáank' asks if a disclosure could be made about the condition of the track to which Mr. Schaaf says he will pass this along to risk management for input.

MOTION by Ms. Van Nes for The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee recommends that the Department use the remaining general obligation bond funds to proceed with improvements at Adair-Kennedy Memorial Park, as presented. *No objections were heard, and the motion passed.*

I. STAFF REPORTS

J. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Anderson shared that the Youth Activities Board has scored all grants, and April 16th is the date applicants can meet with the board to go over questions and get feedback,

Ms. Schirmer shared that the Lands, housing and Economic Development Committee met to discuss Housing tracker and program updates. She also shared that the lease from Tlingit and Haida for childcare at the Floyd Dryden School building is moving forward.

Mr. Steininger shared that the Committee of the whole met and had an extensive discussion on proposed ordinance for the release of body worn camera footage after traumatic incidents happen. They also had discussion on terms for the proposed new cruise ship Dock with Huna Totem, and the terms that the city might place on its lease.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy acknowledged that he would like to see further discussion of the Trail Mix budget line item for their contractual obligation with the city for standard maintenance on the next PRAC meeting agenda. He concludes by giving George Schaaf a heartfelt and sincere thank you for everything that you've done for the Parks Department.

Mr. Schaaf shares a thank you to his staff, community partners, and the PRAC for their help, cooperation, and support during his time with Parks & Rec.

Mr. Kaasáank' shared the Tlingit word *awdigaan*, meaning it's sunshining outside. He says that it's a fitting word for this meeting because it's the last meeting for Mr. Schaaf who's work and professionalism are on par with the sentiment.

K. NEXT MEETING DATE - May 6, 2025

L. ADJOURNMENT– With no further business to discuss the committee meeting adjourned at 6:27p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Annie Carroll on 05/02/2025, approved at the 05/06/2025 PRAC meeting.