

Meeting Minutes

Douglas Island Advisory Board – Aug. 28, 2024 - 5:00pm DOUGLAS LIBRARY Meeting Room

The Douglas Advisory Board was originally created as the Douglas Service Area Advisory Board in 1970 when the City of Douglas unified with the City of Juneau and the Greater Juneau Borough to become the City and Borough of Juneau. In 2007 the Assembly adopted Resolution 2331 which repealed the previous governing legislation for the board and recreated it as the Douglas Advisory Board giving it new focus to encompass issues related to all of Douglas Island rather than that portion of the island previously covered by the Douglas Service Area.

Member Attendance:

☒ Ed Schoenfeld
☐ Mary Kay Pusich
☐ Joyce Vick

☒ Matt Catterson
☒ Jackie McMaster
☒ Shannon Crossley

Call-in by phone: Note: DAB members may call into the meeting by phone (limit 2). For the call-in number, please email the chair.

Public: Willie Sheetz in attendance

I. Call to Order/Roll Call. 5:05pm called to order, 4 members present- we have a quorum

II. Introduction of new members.

- New and existing members introduced themselves: Jackie and Matt are new members
- Still space for 1 new member- if we know anybody- must live or work on Douglas

Land Acknowledgement- Shannon brought from HRAC- Historical Resources Advisory Committee

- Shannon did the land acknowledgment
 - Include all peoples
 - Willie mentioned 1965 burning of the village in the Savikko/Sandy Beach area

III. Approval of Agenda. Agenda approved

IV. Approval of Minutes for previous meeting.- approved via email previously to expediate finalization of minutes and transfer to City for public posting

V. Public Participation on non-agenda items.

- William (Willie) Sheetz- 1801 Douglas HWY #3
 - No sanitizer on City buses
 - Threatens health and safety of Douglas
 - Made appointment with assistant City manager- but it was cancelled and difficult to reschedule
 - Suggested it might be related to city elections
 - Covid rates locally have gone up- which is another reason why this is important
 - Supposedly replacement is on order, but didn't know when it was going to occur
 - If they don't respond responsibly- who ordered removal and no replacement? What is the logic replacing expired sanitation with nothing?
 - City has a legal right to provide

- Ed- as chair of board will contact City Manager, mayor, transportation division and ask the questions- no guarantee we'll get an answer
- Shannon- motion to write a letter to City manager letting them know that member of a public was concerned about sanitizer on public transportation, and attended our meeting to voice that concern. Jackie seconded the motion.
- Additional comment that new sidewalk in front of library was very nice

VI. Presentation(s).

- None Scheduled

VII. Unfinished Business.

- **Douglas Island Cemeteries-** DAB is advocating that City take responsibility for the cemeteries
 - Assembly put it on Committee of the Whole meeting agenda- several proposals were discussed by assembly- not enough votes to do anything but put out request for non-profits to get involved in getting funding for maintenance
 - Douglas Cemeteries Working Group- maintenance responsibilities should be up to the City
 - Complicated land ownership issues- don't really know who owns those properties
 - Pioneers of Alaska- Bruce Bothello- funding a title search- first company hired gave up, going to a second company
- **Treadwell Fire Pump Equipment Preservation-** Mary Kay Pusich brought this up- local landowner owns the historical building and equipment- trying to get the city to take equipment as a historical item
 - Parks and Rec will take it but has a list of requirements- sand blasting, etc...
 - Letter to CBJ was written and signed
 - Parks and Rec meeting will be attended to speak to this issue
- **“Welcome To Douglas Island” Sign at Roundabout**
 - Ongoing issue, several people have worked on it- no one has gotten very far
 - State owns right of way- there are rules about the size of signs in roundabouts
 - Need someone to take it on- Jackie volunteered
 - Goldbelt was contacted and may be interested in providing funding
- **Land Acknowledgement-** done by Shannon

VIII. New Business.

- **DAB officers: Chair and Vice-Chair/Secretary**
 - Ed is willing to drop interim status and stay on as Chair
 - Motion for Ed as Chair, Shannon vice chair, Matt for secretary- seconded, passed
- New member needed- looking North Douglas representation, Shannon may know some interested folks
 - Would be better to have full 7 people
- **Election forum Sept. 8-**
 - 2pm next Sunday
 - Not an official DAB activity, but many of the same people: Friends of Douglas organized the candidate forum-
 - Mayoral and Assembly
 - DAB is not allowed to formally be involved

- Ed will send out a poster
- It will be held at the library
- Important to recognize that Douglas is its own community and to educate the assembly and mayor of that fact and of Douglas issues
- Email Ed any questions if you can't attend
- Shannon suggested going on the radio to promote

▪ **Member responsibilities**

- In the past DAB has divided up City departments and have had board members track activities that impact Douglas and report on them- communicate through the chair
 - Look at agendas
- Jackie- Assembly- Committee of the Whole
- Matt- Eaglecrest and Docks and Harbors
- Some discussion of open meetings act requirements- can't have group emails/communications within DAB- must go through chair

Reports

- CBJ Assembly- Jackie will report next meeting
- Juneau Area Plans- Joyce- not present
 - Shannon- planning commission-
 - Trucano has renewed lease from City- another 35 year lease
 - Mayflower School has renewed their lease - Montessori
- Lands & Resources- Mary Kay- not present
- Treadwell Society- Mary Kay/Joyce- not present
- Douglas 4th of July Committee- Joyce- not present
- Docks & Harbors- Matt will report next meeting
- Planning Commission/Community Development- Shannon- nothing to report
- Parks & Rec- Shannon-
 - Tourism issues- public meetings for commercial tourism planning
 - Parks and Rec has not met- Juneau Disc Golf Club group looking to expand course at Treadwell
 - Some concerns with safety and dogs- but good design has led to no issues in 2 years
 - Added accessibility to trails for all age groups
- Treadwell Ditch Renovation Project- Ed
 - Finished installing 55-foot bridge- last bridge to connect the entire trail-ramp on South side of bridge needs to be finished
 - But there is actually one more bridge going in
 - Then they will be going back in to renovate/repair other small bridges around Blueberry Hill/Dan Moller area
 - Increase usability for bikes
 - Juneau community foundation has ongoing fund source
 - New Mt. Jumbo trail access through historic Treadwell mine area-
 - Substantial work has been done starting that trail- will not be finished this year
 - Also, some effort to rebuild the Bonnie Brae access
- Eaglecrest Ski Area- Matt will report next meeting
 - New GM hired
 - Design work is progressing on the Gondola

- Goldbelt is an investor- they are familiar with tram operation- Roberts tram is very crowded and popular- need to spread out the demand
- Juneau-Douglas North Crossing- TBA- no recent news
- Douglas Highway completion- Ed
 - Everyone is quite familiar- but recent issues with bumps that have formed- plan is to patch the bumps rather than re-paving those sections
 - Contractor has indicated that they will fix them soon
 - There was an issue with contractor finding animal bones and not following correct protocols

IX. Public Participation on agenda items.

- Willie- plaque at cemetery- needs restoration
- Noticed truck traffic
- Deck at the end of 5th near Bear Creek- falling apart, maze of trails- too bad it isn't being maintained- Gastineau school outdoor education project built it, but the program has changed and isn't being maintained

X. Comments/Questions/Announcements from DAB Members. -

- Shannon- Douglas Block Party was a great event

XI. Next meeting.

October 16th- put on calendars and let Ed know if there are problems or need to reschedule

XII. Adjourn- approximately 6:20pm