

Douglas Advisory Board (DAB) – MINUTES
Wednesday, December 20, 2023 - 5:00pm
DOUGLAS LIBRARY

I. Call to Order: 5:05pm

Roll Call: Teri Tibbett (chair), Ed Schoenfeld (vice-chair), Joyce Vick, Jo Wulfenstein, Ann Simard, Shannon Crossley.

Guest: Matt Cresswell, CBJ Harbormaster

II. Approval of Agenda. Approved.

III. Approval of Minutes for 10.4.22. Approved.

IV. Public Participation on non-agenda items. None.

- V. Presentation(s):** Matt Cresswell offered brief background and history of the Docks & Harbors enterprise board, which is self-sustaining and operates in the black, with revenues from some grants, DOT matching funds, harbor fees, and some cruise ship tax. He noted grant funds won't pay for anything "in the uplands" like landscaping, parking lot, bathrooms, lighting, etc., so they need to look for additional funds to pay for projects such as those. D&H have recently raised their moorage and launch rates. Douglas Harbor floats were rebuilt in 2007 and 2017. Recently, because Seacon used the Douglas Harbor parking lot as a staging area during their rebuild of the Savikko fields, in exchange, the harbor benefited from some electrical and pavement improvements. They're working on lighting the gangways, which will be finished in January. They're looking at \$400,000 to light all the parking lots in Douglas, hopefully in next year's CBJ budget. There is no current estimate for paving or landscaping. Plans for improving the rest rooms (with showers) at the harbor/bus turnaround will accommodate harbor users, park users, and bus drivers. There is currently no funding for this however. He noted a breaker broke last month and harbor residents were eight days without power. The part to fix it cost \$20,000. He noted Douglas Harbor improvements don't qualify for cruise ship tax dollars. He also noted that D&H regularly meets with harbor residents to give them updates and hear their concerns. Mr. Cresswell is available for a future public meeting with Douglas residents, and suggested spring when people are using the harbor more.

VI. Unfinished Business:

- Douglas Island Cemeteries. Community efforts are underway by Douglas Island community members to solicit support for requesting the Assembly prioritize accepting ownership and perpetual care of nine cemeteries on Douglas Island, as CBJ has done for Evergreen Cemetery on the mainland. Current efforts to maintain the cemeteries are performed by volunteers, many of whom are aging and unable to continue to do the work. Since DAB as a body may not lobby or speak to the media on this topic, and may only advocate directly to the Assembly, individual members are free to join the community effort.

Motion: DAB will send a new letter to the Assembly with the previously-sent packet (after the election) outlining four points: 1) prioritize this item at the Assembly's December work retreat; 2) direct Legal and Lands staff to complete the work on ownership details; 3) pass a resolution to accept the deeds from former mayor Merrill Sanford and the Archdiocese of Juneau and Anchorage; and 4) support the .4 position recommended by Parks & Recreation for perpetual maintenance of the cemeteries. Further, the DAB requests the Assembly acknowledge that this issue has been discussed for 40+ years, passing from committee to committee and department to department within CBJ without resolution, that Douglas Island cemeteries are a community responsibility, just as Evergreen Cemetery is, and that the Douglas deceased—which includes

veterans, historical figures, Alaska Natives, religious and political leaders, families, and others—are no longer ignored and deserve respect, honor, and dignity.

- “Welcome To Douglas Island” Sign at Roundabout. Jo reported that she’s been in contact with Goldbelt Inc. who is willing to pay for the sign, but they don’t want to organize or coordinate the effort. It was suggested to work with the Juneau Arts Council or Crystal Worl to organize an effort to solicit designs and create the signs, paid for by Goldbelt.
- Rest Rooms at Savikko Park. Remove from Old Business and add as needed.
- Assembly Liaison to DAB. Teri will contact the mayor and ask if a liaison can be appointed, not to attend DAB meetings, but to be a contact for DAB business.
- DAB Regular Meetings. Remove from Old Business and add as needed.
- Douglas Harbor Improvements. Teri will invite Matt Cresswell, Harbormaster, to present on plans for Douglas Harbor, including discussion about lighting, paving, and bathrooms.
- DAB Member Recruitment. Ed will post on Douglas Facebook page, Teri will post on Bonnie Brae Facebook pages.

VII. New Business:

- Welcome new DAB member Ann Simard. The board welcomed new member Ann Simard.
- Future Presentations to DAB. Members will send their suggestions to Teri.

VIII. Reports

- Juneau Area Plans (Joyce). The committee hasn’t met since before Covid, and it’s not certain when the meetings will begin again.
- Planning Commission/Community Development (Jo). No update.
- Lands & Resources (Mary Kay). No update.
- CBJ Assembly (Ann). No update.
- Parks & Rec (Jo). The city is finishing the Savikko Park improvements, including drainage and fixing a few additional problems that came up. The ball fields will remain closed until next summer so the grass can become firmly established. Exposed metal was cleared away.
- Docks & Harbors (Joyce). No update.
- Treadwell Society (Mary Kay/Joyce). The society met recently. Disc Golf has brought additional traffic to the area, which has improved security.
- Douglas 4th of July Committee (Joyce). Upcoming Ghost Walk and public ice skating sessions.
- Treadwell Ditch Renovation Project (Ed). This summer’s focus was on the section between Bonnie Brae subdivision and Eaglecrest. Plans include adding mile markers and signs on bridges with the names of creeks. Access routes will be fixed or re-routed at Mt. Jumbo and Bonnie Brae access trails.
- Eaglecrest Ski Area (Teri). No update.
- Juneau-Douglas North Crossing (Teri). Environmental fieldwork and analysis have been undertaken and five alternatives have been identified. A draft PEL study has been completed. Next steps are a 30-day public comment period and finalization of the PEL Study. Public members of the committee are concerned that research and comments offered by wetlands experts has not been considered.

IX. Public Participation on agenda items. None.

X. Comments/Questions/Announcements from DAB Members

XI. Adjourn: 6:26pm

CBJ Monitoring/Tracking

SEE ALL CBJ Meetings, Agendas, Minutes: <https://juneau.org/assembly/assembly-minutes-and-agendas>

Joyce

- **Juneau Area Plans/Steering Committee:** <https://juneau.org/community-development/juneau-area-plans>
 - Comprehensive Plan: (webpage under construction)
 - Douglas/West Juneau Area Plan: <https://juneau.org/community-development/douglas-west-juneau>
 - Blueprint Downtown Area Plan: <https://juneau.org/community-development/blueprint-downtown>
- **CBJ Docks & Harbors:** <https://juneau.org/harbors>

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- **Planning Commission:** <https://juneau.org/community-development/planning-commission>
- **Community Development:** <https://juneau.org/community-development> (Irene Gallion, 586-0758)

Mary Kay

- **Lands & Resources:** <https://juneau.org/lands>
- **Lands Committee:** <https://juneau.org/lands/lands-committee>
- **Land Studies & Plans:** <https://juneau.org/lands/land-studies-and-plans-2>

Ann

- **CBJ Assembly and Standing Committees:** <https://juneau.org/assembly/assembly-minutes-and-agendas>

Ed

- **Treadwell Ditch Renovation Project:** <https://www.juneaucf.org/index.php/treadwell-ditch/>

Jo

- **Parks & Recreation:** <https://juneau.org/parksrec>

Teri

- **Eaglecrest Ski Area:** <https://skieaglecrest.com/taskforce/>
- **Second Crossing North Douglas:** https://juneau.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/MOA-JNU-NORTH-CHANNEL-2ND-XING-PEL-STUDY_White-approved.pdf or contact rorie.watt@juneau.org 586-5240, or DOTPF Southeast Region Planning Chief Mari Heidemann, marie.heidemann@alaska.gov, 465-4477.