



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

June 03, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/94184441385> or +1 669 444 9171 US Webinar ID: 941 8444 1385

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL
- C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - 1. Minutes from May 6, 2025
- E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS
- F. AGENDA TOPICS
 - G. INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES
 - 2. 35 Mile ORV Park
 - 3. Sigooowu Ye and Si't Tuwan Playground Update
 - H. ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND COMMENT - NONE
- I. STAFF & PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS
 - 4. Treadwell Arena Division Update
 - 5. Department Monthly Summary – May 2025
- J. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
- K. NEXT MEETING DATE - July 1, 2025
- L. ADJOURNMENT

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.gov.

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE **DRAFT** MINUTES

May 06, 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 5:31 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Jennifer Gross

Staff Present: Donna Pierce, Parks & Recreation Director; Terra Patterson, Acting Parks & Recreation Deputy Director & Aquatics Manager; 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 April 1, 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. May 6th Director's Report— *Presented by D. Pierce*

Ms. Pierce updated the PRAC on the City's search to hire a Parks & Recreation Director. She shared that the City Manager Katie Koester, Deputy City Manager Robert Barr, and previous Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Michelle Elfers, will act as the hiring committee for the department's new director. They have narrowed the search down to 5 applicants and will begin conducting interviews soon and arranging for a meet & greet with senior staff for the finalists.

Ms. Pierce also shared that the Adair Kennedy Grand Opening and Rededication held on Saturday, April 26, was a great success with well over 800 people in attendance for the ribbon cutting ceremony and opening day celebration, including the families of Jimmy Kennedy and Richard Adair.

G. AGENDA TOPICS

H. INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES

3. **Hank Harmon Public Range:** Closed for construction as Island Contractors have started work on the upgrade project. Substantial completion for down-range work is expected by July 15th, and final completion by November 1st.

4. **Marine Park Schedule:** Awaiting additional secured funding for this project. Funding to complete the project is included on the Marine Passenger Fee list for this year's budget. If funding is made available, the soonest work will begin is after the last cruise ship of the year.
5. **Outer Point Trail:** Our long semi-affectionate relationship with the beavers at Outer Point is about to resume. No more fooling around with pond levelers, workarounds, and persuasion, we are going out for design for an elevated boardwalk for portions of both the front and back loops (In other words, they won). An RFP for design services will be issued shortly.
6. **Homestead Park:** Closed for construction. The expected June 2 completion date is delayed by at least a month. However, we've worked out an arrangement with the contractor to allow limited access beginning June 2, to accommodate permitted tour operators.

7. **Trail Mix 2025 Workplan**

Mr. O'Shaughnessy asked for an update on the contract rate increase for Trail Mix that was discussed at the April PRAC Meeting. Ms. Pierce let him know that after looking into this staff confirmed that the Trail Mix contract rate had already been increased in FY25 from \$60,000 to \$75,000, and it will remain at that increased rate for FY26.

8. **CBJ Policy Memo Public Camping and Homelessness**

Ms. Pierce shared that the policy memorandum was drafted by the Deputy City Manager Robert Barr with the purpose of giving management guidance for addressing issues that may arise with camping in the Juneau area. The memo provides information about what actions can be taken to resolve issues, and what activities may warrant enforcement so that the city can address issues with a consistent approach in collaboration with different departments.

I. **ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND COMMENT**

9. **Draft Trespass Policy:** In lieu of this policy staff is drafting conduct rules for each facility.

Ms. Pierce explained that after receiving feedback from the PRAC on the draft trespass policy, and reconsidering the department's approach to this solution, they have decided to instead focus on crafting conduct rules and staff guidance for all facilities similar to the structure the Juneau Libraries use. She shares that this will try to balance the rights of the public to use facilities while also supporting staff by giving them the tools and guidance they need to do their job and make sure facilities are safe. They plan to do a trial of the new conduct rules to field test them before bringing this topic back to PRAC for discussion and comment.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy thanks Ms. Pierce for approaching this change with care, and assuring that Parks & Rec is consistent with policies and messaging across CBJ.

Ms. Scott agrees and says she appreciates the department taking a step back and being thoughtful about this. She asks if the consequences, such as being trespassed, will be clearly laid out in the new conduct rules. Ms. Pierce confirms that they will be, and clarifies that trespassing someone is the last resort, and that staff will make every attempt to first engage with people and help them, with consequences being progressive depending on repeat behavior.

Ms. Swanson asked if the Juneau Libraries have struck a good balance with the rules they have. Ms. Pierce answers that she believes they have, but that they could be simplified to be made more readable, which is what Parks & Rec will be striving for.

Mr. Anderson asks what enforcement actions are available for officers currently when it comes to trespassing people. Ms. Pierce answered that an officer on their own cannot issue a trespass letter, as that authority is held by the Facility Manager.

Mr. Kaasáank' asked if there is any alternative for people experiencing homelessness. Mr. O'Shaughnessy shared that previously there was the Thane Campground, and the Mill Campground but recently the Assembly decided to transition away from that model and back towards a dispersed camping model.

J. STAFF & PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

10. Aquatics Division Update – presented by T. Patterson

Ms. Patterson gives the PRAC an overview of the Juneau Pools facilities, programing, and services. She shares that Juneau Pools have focused on career development for full-time staff and have strived to create advancement opportunities. She highlights the expanded offerings for swim lessons which have resulted in considerable participation increases and reduced waitlists. Since her last update to PRAC the pools have also held their first Floating Pumpkin Patch Halloween event, and Dimond Dash Triathlon.

Ms. Swanson asks about the physical therapy offerings at the pool. Ms. Patterson answers that SEARHC offers a physical therapy program using the facilities, and shared that the Juneau Bone and Joint Center have also showed interest in renting the facility space to offer therapy as well.

Mr. Kaasáank' shares his appreciation for the pools and asks if the monthly and annual family pass will be returning as an option for users. Ms. Patterson answers that those passes were discontinued when the department switched over to their new registration system CivicRec, but that the Family Day Pass has returned, which covers 5 family members for \$22. Another option for families is to purchase a 10-Visit Pass which can be used for guests that accompany you along to the pool. Mr. Kaasáank' asks if the name plates that were at the Augustus Brown Swimming Pool (AGB) Sauna have been replaced after the renovation. Ms. Patterson answers that they were not reinstalled after work was completed on the area as the City Manager's office decided they would not continue with the program since there isn't a clear policy in place.

Ms. Van Nes asked if the pools will be having another dog day at the AGB pool in the future. Ms. Patterson answers that there is interest in doing dog day again, but that there is a lot of administrative work associated with vetting registered dogs and preparing to hold the event. She concludes that they didn't have the time or capacity to prepare for the event ahead of the annual maintenance closure this year.

Ms. Scott shares that she and her family are avid users of the pools and asks why the Dimond Park Aquatic Center (DPAC) pool is colder than the AGB pool to which Ms. Patterson answers that it costs quite a lot to heat the rec pool at DPAC because it is larger.

K. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Anderson shared that the Youth Actives Board's recommended grant amounts were approved by the Assembly Finance Committee, and next they will be presented to the Assembly for approval in the overall budget

Ms. Schirmer shared that the Lands Housing and Economic Development Committee meeting had been canceled and rescheduled without her knowledge, so she was not in attendance.

Mr. Steininger shared that the Lands Housing and Economic Development Committee discussed the progress towards transferring ownership of Mayflower Island over to the Douglas Indian Association. Additionally, they discussed an ordinance that would change the way that sales tax gets applied for short-term rentals as well as peer-to-peer car rentals. The joint School Board and Assembly meeting held that day discussed moving forward with a playground project at Dzantik'i Heeni School.

Mr. Kaasáank' and his grandson Randy shared the Tlingit phrase *yagaxtoodláak* meaning "lets go!". They picked this phrase to share because of the recent reopening of the Adair Kennedy baseball field where Randy

plays with his team the Marlins. Kaasáank' invites everyone to attend a game and help cheer them on "yagaxtoodláak Marlins!"

L. NEXT MEETING DATE - June 3, 2025

M. ADJOURNMENT– With no further business to discuss the committee meeting adjourned at 6:52pm

Respectfully submitted by Annie Carroll on 5/30/2025

DRAFT



TO: Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
FROM: Donna Pierce, Interim Parks & Recreation Director
DATE: May 30, 2025
RE: June 3, 2025 Meeting

AGENDA TOPICS

Please find enclosed the information supporting your agenda topics for this meeting. The meeting is anticipated to last 60 minutes and will take place in the City Hall Chambers and via **Zoom Webinar**. To join the Zoom Webinar, go to <https://juneau.zoom.us/j/94184441385> or call 1-253-205-0468. **Webinar ID: 87003674124.**

INFORMATION ITEMS AND UPDATES

35-Mile ORV Update

Park Maintenance is still working with Engineering to finalize an RFP for a contract to complete the first 3/4 of a mile of trail and to install 40' of 5' culvert to cross a large stream. We hope to have the work done by mid-August so the trail can be used this summer. The Juneau Off-Road Association has plans to coordinate several volunteer events this summer to work on the southern loop. Trail Mix will continue to help with the final trail layout for future development.

Sigoowu Ye and Si't Tuwan Playground Update

The contractor for Sigoowu Ye Construction has been given a limited Notice to Proceed (NTP) with procurement of materials, with full NTP to follow shortly. The contractor will be required to complete work and be off-site by August 4 so the playground installation can begin on August 11. The playground equipment should be installed and ready for opening in early September.

The Si't Tuwan playground will be constructed in the Spring/early Summer 2026, with the playground equipment scheduled for installation on June 1. Construction on Si't Tuwan playground could begin as early as March 2026, and is required to be completed before June, or 60 days from start, whichever comes first.

ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION & COMMENT

None.

STAFF & PARTNER AGENCY REPORTS

Treadwell Arena Division Update

Nate Ploof, Treadwell Arena Manager, will be giving a short presentation on Treadwell Arena's ice and cement season.



TO: Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
FROM: Lauren Verrelli, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director
DATE: May 30, 2025
RE: Department Monthly Summary – May 2025

Aquatics

The Augustus G. Brown Swimming Pool is currently closed for annual maintenance and is expected to reopen on Monday, June 9. This routine closure allows staff to perform essential upkeep to ensure the facility remains safe, efficient, and ready for summer programming. The Dimond Park Aquatic Center remains open to the public during this time.

Registration for summer swim lesson Sessions 1 and 2 opened on May 9 and quickly filled. Registration for Session 3 will open on June 6 and includes preschool and youth swim lessons at both DPAC and AGB. Session 3 classes will take place in July.

Dimond Park Field House

The Dimond Park Adventure Camp, a partnership between DPAC and DPFH, is in full swing with 15 kids spending the week exploring, swimming, and enjoying activities throughout Dimond Park.

The highly anticipated construction to install an elevator at the Dimond Park Field House will begin on Monday, June 2, improving accessibility for the facility. Construction is expected to continue through August 2025. During this period, the stairs, mezzanine, batting cage, and indoor track will be closed to the public. The Field House will remain open weekdays for *Turf for Tots* only, which will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday–Friday. The facility will close daily after the program ends and remain closed on weekends. All other programs, including *Open Turf*, will be paused.

Treadwell Arena

Treadwell Arena's cement season is currently underway, offering two popular drop-in programs for all ages and skill levels. Drop-in pickleball is available Monday through Friday, May 19–June 27, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. for just \$5—equipment is provided, and no registration is required. Roller skating is offered Wednesdays and Fridays from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. for \$5 + tax; participants must bring their own skates. Both programs have seen steady community participation.



Jensen-Olson Arboretum

May was a busy month at the Arboretum, starting with a beloved community event—the Mother’s Day Celebration in the garden. Over 300 community members came out to enjoy Juneau’s first sunny day in a while, with live music, refreshments, and self-guided exploration of the grounds.

The Arboretum also hosted several free garden tours. One highlighted the Primula collection as part of the American Primrose Society National Show that was held in Juneau this year. Another was a Native Plant Walk, guiding participants through Southeast Alaska’s native trees and shrubs.

The month wraps up with the Arboretum’s first children’s educational event of the season—*Family Beach Exploration Day*. Children ages 6–12 will participate in hands-on, low-tide programming to learn about the beach habitat in action.



Eagle Valley Center

Kristi West, EVC Coordinator since the facility returned to city management in 2016, retired for the second time from Parks & Recreation this month. We’re incredibly grateful for the care, passion, and hard work Kristi dedicated to the lodge over the past nine years. The EVC wouldn’t be the cherished community space it is today without her.

We're thrilled to welcome Amanda as the new EVC Coordinator and are excited to have her join the Parks & Recreation team!

Zach Gordon Youth Center

Spring is a busy time for Youth Services! We celebrated the proms, promotions, and graduations. We planned summer camps and wrapped up our afterschool programs at TMMS, Cedar Park, and Geneva Woods. We will run a six-week summer program at Cedar Park and Geneva Woods starting mid-June.

The drop-in center continues to have high numbers, with well over 50 youth visiting most days. Shéiyi Xaat Hit had a busy spring on the shelter side and is full on the transitional living side. We are all ready for the sun to come out!

Areawide Recreation

It's been a lively month with movies, bingo, hikes, biking, and more! *Walk Southeast* registration closed on May 8 with a record-breaking 1,664 participants across Southeast Alaska—1,161 of them from Juneau! The walking challenge began on May 1 and will continue throughout the summer.

Our first *WSE Group Hike* was held May 17, with 30 participants completing the 8-mile round trip on the Horse Tram Trail to Boy South Beach. The next group hike is scheduled for Saturday, June 14, at 9 a.m. on the Under Thunder Trail, with a crossover to Dredge Lake.



On May 18, we hosted our first *Movie in the Park + Bingo* event at the Dimond Park Field House. Thanks to our sponsor, Jared Lee, D.D.S., we handed out prizes and gift cards throughout the day, which culminated in two showings of *Sonic the Hedgehog 3*. One showing was a sensory-friendly screening with lights up, sound down, and the freedom to move around—perfect for those who benefit from a relaxed movie environment.



In partnership with the Mendenhall Valley Library, we also joined in the *Bike to the Library* event. Despite a bit of rain, turnout was great! Families enjoyed cotton candy, games, prizes, and a visit from Salty the Sea Otter.

Coming up next: *StoryPath*! This wonderful collaboration with Juneau Public Libraries features three books by Alaskan authors or illustrators, displayed in framed pages along the Seawalk at Overstreet Park. Each book will be featured for one week in June:

- **June 4–10:** *Raven and the Hidden Halibut* – Published by Sealaska Heritage, adapted from a story by the 2015 Tlingit Culture, Language & Literacy students, illustrated by Nick Alan Foote
- **June 11–17:** *Alaska is for the Birds!* – Written by Susan Ewing, illustrated by Evon Zerbetz
- **June 18–24:** *When You See Flukes* – Written by Kathy Hocker and Cheryl Cook, illustrated by Kathy Hocker