



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

September 03, 2024 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. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. September 3rd Director's Report

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Minutes from June 4, 2024

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

G. NEW BUSINESS

3. Committee Member Introductions & Appointments

4. Treadwell Disc Golf Update

5. Relocation of Historic Douglas Fire Equipment to Savikko Park

6. RED FOLDER - Historic Douglas Fire Equipment History

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I. STAFF REPORTS

J. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

K. NEXT MEETING DATE

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, TDD 586-5351, e-mail: city.clerk@juneau.gov.



TO: Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
FROM: George Schaaf, Parks & Recreation Director
DATE: August 30, 2024
RE: August 6, 2024 Meeting

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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 person at City Hall and virtually 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.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Member Introductions & Appointments

Appointment of Chair

Staff will serve as the temporary chair to conduct the election of the Chair of the Committee. According to Robert's Rules of Order, nominations from the floor are subject to the following rules:

- Any member of the Committee may make a nomination.
- Recognition by the chair is not required.
- Nominations do not have to be seconded.
- A person can nominate themselves.
- A member can decline the nomination.

Recommended Motion:

I nominate _____ to serve as Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee for a term of one year.

Appointment of Vice-Chair

The elected Chair will conduct the election of the Vice-Chair according to the same rules above. If the Chair is unable to attend a meeting, the Vice-Chair will perform their duties.

Recommended Motion:

I nominate _____ to serve as Vice-Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee for a term of one year.

Treadwell Mine Historic Park Disc Golf Update

Following a recommendation from the PRAC in 2022, the Juneau Disc Golf Association installed a “pitch-and-putt” disc golf course in Treadwell Mine Historic Park near Savikko Park. To date, the Department has received several compliments on the course, with no complaints or incidents. The Juneau Disc Golf Club will provide an update on their efforts and future plans.

Donation of Historic Douglas Fire Pump

The Douglas Advisory Board has requested that Parks & Recreation accept several pieces of the “City Fire Pump,” which was used to provide water for fire protection in Douglas (ca. 1912). Several pieces are available and currently located on private property owned by Dale Henkins. The heaviest pieces weighs approximately 10,000 pounds.

Park Maintenance staff are interested in displaying a piece of the fire pump in Savikko Park near the Pioneer Pavilion, as proposed by the Douglas Advisory Board. Prior to accepting the pump, however, a number of requirements would have to be met to protect public safety and park infrastructure:

- The metal needs to be sandblasted to remove loose chunks of rust, then spraypainted to protect against future corrosion.
- A cradle made of wood or other suitable material is required to stabilize the heavy pump and prevent it from sinking into the asphalt plaza.

Recommended Motion:

I move that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee recommend that the Department accept the donation of the “City Fire Pump” from Dale Henkins and place it in Savikko Park once it has been made safe for public display.

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE **DRAFT** MINUTES

June 04, 2024 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

PRAC Chair Chris Mertl called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chris Mertl, Josh Anderson, Charles Westmoreland, Portland Highbaugh, Emma Van Nes, Danika Swanson, Paulette Schirmer

Absent: Makayla Pfaff

Staff Present: George Schaaf, Parks & Recreation Director; Lauren Verrelli, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director; Michelle Hale, Assembly Liaison; Annie Carroll, Parks & Recreation Staff Liaison

C. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. June 4th Director's Report

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. Minutes from April 2, 2024

MOTION by Mr. Westmoreland to approve the minutes. No objections were heard, and the minutes were approved.

F. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

G. NEW BUSINESS

3. PRAC Valley Facility & Park Tour Scheduling

Mr. Schaaf explained that the department wants to organize a 4-hour tour of the Mendenhall Valley Parks & Recreation facilities and parks for PRAC members. He presents them with a selection of Saturdays from June-July and asks the board to select the most suitable date to meet from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Mertl asks the PRAC to take a poll of how many members are available for each of the proposed dates.

- **June 15:** Three members available
- **June 22:** Five members available
- **June 29:** Three members available
- **July 13:** Two members available
- **July 20:** Four members available
- **July 27:** Six members available

June 27th received the highest number of available committee members, and is the decided date. Mr. Schaaf says that the department will come up with a proposed itinerary which will likely begin at the newly renovated Augustus Brown Swimming Pool.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I. STAFF REPORTS

4. Park Project Updates – *Presented by G. Schaaf*

Mr. Schaaf shares with the PRAC that the department has been working on construction of Adair Kennedy Turf baseball and softball field with contractor Dawson Construction. He explains that the color of the artificial turf in the infield has been changed from brown to green to better accommodate girls' softball games at the request of the Juneau School District. They will also be replacing the field lights with new LED lights; however, the scoreboard is still in good shape and won't be replaced.

Mr. Westmorland asks how well the artificial turf will accommodate players sliding. Mr. Schaaf answers that the turf is designed to respond like natural turf and the fibers lay flat. He further explains that the ratio of sand and rubber infill will determine how it responds to balls bouncing, and players sliding. Mr. Westmoreland asks if this type of turf helps facilitate snow melting. Mr. Schaaf answers that it does and explains that the dirt field holds snow much longer into the springtime due to the frozen soil causing ice to form. He explains that the artificial turf upgrade will allow the spring baseball season to be extended since the snow will be clear earlier.

Mr. Schaaf continues by sharing that Homestead Park in Douglas is a very popular location for tourists in the summertime who visit to get photos with their cruise ship from across the water. He explains that the boardwalks at the park were built with marine passenger fee funds close to 30 years ago and that the department will be replacing them. He shares that the bottom viewing platform will be slightly expanded, and it will be resurfaced with less slippery fiberglass decking. They plan to do the bulk of the construction work in the winter to avoid closure during the tourism season.

Mr. Schaaf then explains that the department has held two public meetings to discuss the design of Homestead Park and collect recommendations to develop a plan for the 5-acre parcel. Mr. Mertl shared that they also are working with Newline Skate parks out of California to design the park.

Mr. Schaaf informs the PRAC that the Kaxdigoowu Héen Dei bridge replacement is being executed by the State of Alaska Department of Transportation as they received a grant, and the Parks & Recreation department is working closely with them.

Finally, Mr. Schaaf shares that 3 playground replacement projects are happening now at Sigoowu Ye (Fun Place Park), Si't Tuwan (Beside the Glacier), and Steelhead Park. The design for Sigoowu Ye is mostly complete, and the department is waiting on a \$125,000 grant from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the project, but it won't be available until October. Si't Tuwan park's conceptual plan has been made and he is hopeful to have a final design ready this summer. Finally, there will be a public meeting at Steelhead Park on July 13th to receive feedback from the community on potential features and upgrades.

Ms. Swanson asks where the trails that start at Steelhead Park lead. Mr. Schaaf explains that there is a trail that connects to brotherhood park and one that leads to a city property under a conservation easement.

Mr. Schaaf updates the PRAC on the master plan for the department's renovation of Marine Park. He shares that the current planning drawings are still at 65% complete. The public has expressed a desire for more performance space, so the department is looking into adding performance structure. Additionally they are exploring the addition of covered seating, and permanent places for food vendors.

Mr. Mertl asks when construction will begin, to which Mr. Schaaf answers that it will hopefully begin at the end of the cruise ship season or early next year.

Mr. Westmoreland asks what happens to old playground equipment when parks are rebuilt. Mr. Schaaf answers that it's turned over to the contractors, and in the past they have been good at offering salvageable equipment to other communities.

J. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Ms. Hale shares that the assembly passed their budget. She adds that Celebration will be beginning in Downtown Juneau on June 5th. She shares that the assembly has been discussing enforcement ordinances regarding homeless camping. She adds that there is a supreme court ruling that is imminent which will decide if communities can ban camping in certain areas. The Assembly is waiting on the ruling to take their next steps.

Ms. Swanson shares that Trail Mix is working on putting in new bridges on Treadwell. Work is also being done on bike trails near Thunder Mountain and Perseverance Trail, and finally a crew is working on the trail to the Eagle Glacier Cabin. She shares that they have 10 employees this year and are clocking 300 volunteer hours.

Mr. Mertl shares that the Lands, Housing, and Economic Development Committee met on June 3rd to discuss manufactured homes and possible funding sources. He shares that they also had a fair bit of discussion about the area plan for Downtown Juneau.

Mr. Mertl updates the PRAC on the fact that there is a vacancy in the committee as Christina Mounce has resigned because she took a job with federal highways and did not wish to have a conflict of interest.

K. NEXT MEETING DATE – July 2, 2024

L. ADJOURNMENT With no further business to discuss the committee meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.

6/19/2024

TO: Director of Parks and Recreation, PRAC board members, Mayor Weldon and Assembly Members

FROM: The Douglas Advisory Board

Douglas has the opportunity to preserve a part of City history which was housed in the City Fire Pump House on Front Street in 1912. A brief history and photos from Dale Henkins are included; along with what we believe would be the ideal place at Savikko Park to relocate at least one piece of the equipment. There are dozens of sites at the Park that could accommodate this piece of Douglas history. We would prefer it to be on asphalt or concrete. Time is of the essence as Mr. Henkins needs to have them removed from his yard so that Secon can asphalt. We believe CBJ streets would have the equipment to move it down the block from Front Street to Savikko Park fairly easily. The one piece is approximately 10K pounds. Once the piece, or pieces are established at Savikko Park the following groups will have signage made to give the story of the City Fire Pump from 1912.

The following organizations, boards and committees support the preservation of Douglas history.

Douglas Advisory Board _____

Douglas Fourth of July Committee _____

Treadwell Historical Society _____

Gastineau Historical Society _____

CBJ Historical Board _____

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you soon regarding our request. The Douglas Advisory Board can be contacted through our interim chair, Ed Schoenfeld, email: Douglased17@gmail.com; cell 907-723-1597



CITY FIRE PUMP 1912

AT

820 FRONT STREET DOUGLAS ALASKA

1. A pipe line was put in place at 820 Front street in Douglas to provide access to tidal salt water that would not freeze during long cold winters.
2. A pump engine, a pump, and a pinion gear with shaft and clutch to connect the engine to the pump, which could engage and dis-engage the motor and pump.
3. The Fairbanks Morris Engine was a 32 horsepower "type N "engine that ran at 200 RPM, (revolutions per minute.)
4. The pump is a two-piston pump with a surge chamber designed to equalize surges of water, making for a smoother flow in the outflow piping.
5. The outflow of the pump was plumbed into the city potable water distribution pipe line, to be usable all along the city water lines and fire hydrants.
6. The two water lines were connected to each other through a system of pipes and valves located just on the street side of the concrete wall of the City Fire Pump 1912. This way the tidal salt water was always available to fight fires, whenever the Douglas City reservoir would run low of water for fighting a fire during cold weather and with no meltwater to refill the reservoir.



FAIRBANKS MORRIS ENGINE 32 HP



TWO PISTON WATER PUMP



PINION GEAR LT. SIDE SHAFT MIDDLE 4-ARM CLUTCH RT. SIDE



On March 9th. 1911, a terrible fire broke out in Douglas. With a strong North wind blowing and low temperatures, the fire spread and the water needed to fight the many blazing houses and structures ran low or maybe even ran out, possibly draining the Douglas reservoir. The assumption is that the City of Douglas got together and made the decision to provide a better and more constant supply of water for the City of Douglas to use for firefighting.

At some point in time the Treadwell gold mining company came up with the idea of using salt water from the ocean for mill processing water, because the salt water from the ocean was more certain and unlimited in availability, whereas rain water and snow melt was seasonal and unreliable at best.

This knowledge was not lost on the people of Douglas, so soon after the 1911 fire the decision was made to tap into the ocean and use the salt water as the main back up for firefighting. A plan was made to place a concrete iron doored pumphouse at 820 Front Street in Douglas. A pipe line approximately 10 inches in diameter was laid and buried all the way out onto the tide flats and buried to some depth below low tide elevation to insure the constant access to the salt water of the ocean.

A plumbing system was installed from the output side of the two-cylinder piston pump, piping the salt water from the pump through the 12-inch concrete walls of the CITY FIRE PUMP building out to the street side of the of the wall, just about 6 feet below the iron doors. A whole nest of piping and valves were located there and were used to switch the flow of salt water into the city's potable water lines when needed for fighting fires. After fighting a fire, the potable water supply pipe lines could be flushed out with chlorinated water to be sure the drinking water was safe again.

When the engine and pump became unusable, about 1947 or 1948 I think I remember, the iron door being open and some man working on the engine and maybe even starting the engine. I have been told that the starting mechanism used a shotgun cartridge to fire off the old engine. It may even be a good idea to reinstall such a good and positive water supply for firefighting in Douglas again.

In the late 1960's a 12-inch wooden flume was built to take water from Lawson Creek and position it to allow water to flow into the drainage of Bear Creek where the Douglas Dam is located. This allowed water flow into the Douglas Dam on Bear Creek. During the winter months this flume was buried under several feet of snow that acted as insulation allowing the water to flow down to the Dam area topping off the reservoir.