



## **City and Borough of Sitka**

**Parks & Recreation Division • 100 Lincoln Street •  
Sitka, Alaska 99835 • ph: 907.747.1852 • fax • 907.747.7403  
[parks@cityofsitka.com](mailto:parks@cityofsitka.com)**

### **SITKA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE November 2, 2006 – **DRAFT** Meeting Minutes Third Floor Municipal Conference Room**

**Present:** Jack Ozment, Sandy Russell, Hans von Rekowski, Rick McElrath, Lesa Way

**Excused:** Bart Meyer, Tim Riley

**Absent:**

**Ex Officio:** Greg Dudgeon, Deborah Lyons

**Staff:** Lynne McGowan, John Stein, Ray Majeski, Marlene Campbell

**Others:** Mary Emerick, Ken Corson

**Approval of Minutes:** *(M/S: Ozment/Way): To approve, October 12, 2006 minutes.  
Unanimously approved.*

**Changes to the Agenda:** Added agenda items on SMC Rd Phase III and Jack's resignation.  
*(M/S: Way/von Rekowski): To approve agenda as amended. Unanimously approved.*

**Correspondence:** None.

**Persons to be Heard:** None.

#### **New Business:**

USFS Outfitter/Guide Allocation on Sitka trails: Mary Emerick from the USFS came and spoke about their process for determining the capacity of local trails to support commercial guided groups. She provided members with a memo which outlined the capacity numbers in the proposed action. A service day is one paying client per day for any length of time. No guided use will be permitted for Verstovia or Starrigavan ATV.

Last summer they did individual trail capacity analysis and for each trail considered the trail users' experience, trail facilities, destination points, type of trail and its ability to sustain use, etc. The main issue was the social capacity for Sitka trails. After the capacity was determined each trail was assigned 12.5 - 25% of the total capacity to outfitter/guides. This was then converted to number of service days with a service day equaling one paying client per day for any length of time.

Comments on the proposed action (this is just a starting point) will be accepted through December. By January 1, USFS will have a more defined proposed action with alternatives. The group decided to put together comments at the next meeting.

**Old Business:**

Skatepark: Rick reviewed the Skate Park event. The event brought in over \$1100 with a lot of raffle tickets sold as well.

The skate park is listed on the State Legislative Capital Projects list for \$100,000. The Assembly will prioritize this list of projects at the 11/7 meeting.

Lynne mentioned her proposal to open up the area under the bridge to skaters during the non-tourist season until the skate park is built. There's very little damage to the facilities. The benches aren't used for "grinding" since they have arm rests and the kids primarily use the curbs. It's unfortunate that the area gets exclusive use for just a few months and is abandoned the rest of the year. Lynne suggested considering ways to make this arrangement work like pulling the benches, having Parks pay for repairs, etc.

Ray Majeski reported that the skaters are rude to him and do things like throw signs in the water and pull the phones off the walls. He doesn't think the Lightering facility is a "playground" but is for use by cruise ship visitors since NW Cruise paid for it.

Rick pointed out that it is unfair to blame all vandalism on skaters. There are a lot of wonderful skaters in town who just want a spot to legally skate.

The Parks Committee felt that it wasn't worth pursuing right now.

Dog Park: Members felt the proposed area at Moller is too small for the 8 -12 dogs anticipated to use the area at a time. Ken Corson said that Kimsham is working fine.

Lynne spoke with Nancy Buckmaster whose primary concern was that any dog area be fenced. Nancy allows dogs off leach at the ball fields with the understanding that if folks don't clean up the area that area will be closed.

Lynne suggested an annual permit for use of the ball fields during the off season just to have some accountability. Lynne will talk to Nancy about this.

SMC Phase III: Senator Stedman is working actively to secure the 2 million in funding for the bike path for Phase III. DOT is also assessing the guard rail and other safety needs along the length of the road. They will have a decision on Friday as to what they are going to do.

**Discussion Items:** None.

**Reports:** Deborah reported on the WWII Causeway project and the Cross Trail. There will be a third year of funding for the AK Trail Initiative. Deborah may have a retired USFS engineer who is willing to do the bid package and project management for the next section of the Cross Trail.

**Comments:** none.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, December 7, at noon at City Hall.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM