



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**

SITKA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE April 3, 2008 - Meeting Minutes Third Floor Municipal Conference Room

Present: Ken Corson, Kendra Pountney, Hans VonRekowski, Tim Riley, Michelle Gundaker

Excused: Lesa Way, Blake Hagerman

Absent:

Ex Officio: Deborah Lyons, STW

Staff: Lynne McGowan, Shawn McLeod

Others:

Approval of Minutes: *(M/S: Corson/Riley): To approve minutes of the April 2008 meeting. Unanimously approved.*

Changes to the Agenda: None.

Correspondence: None reported.

Persons to be Heard: None.

Old Business:

New Business:

Path of Hope Artwork: Deborah shared information on and a drawing of the sculpture that the Cancer Survivor's group has commissioned for the Path of Hope adjacent to Swan Lake. The tall, potential 30' aluminum and stainless sculpture has four figures holding the flame of hope. It has been designed with much thought to ease of maintenance and vandal-proofness. The LED five year lights will pull a minimal load. The lights will emulate the flickering of a flame.

The group also supported encouraging the Electric Department to charge only for the actual electric usage.

(M/S: Riley/VonRekowski): To support the installation of the Steve Lawrie sculpture at the Cancer Survivor's Park. Passed unanimously.

Skillet Liquors Music Festival: The Committee discussed the request by the organizers to use either Moller Field or Turnaround Park for their festival. Nick Galanin proposed a new venue for the festival since they were having difficulty working with the Golf Association to hold the festival at the golf course again this year. The request also includes a request to set up a beer tent and extend park hours.

The Committee was disinclined to recommend the use of either area. The group was familiar with the Festival since they had been in attendance previous years. Some of the music attracted rowdier, rougher groups. Some of the issues included noise, rowdy behavior, drinking in the park, and the extended hours. Lynne encouraged the group to also look at ways to put specific limits on the organizers so it might work for everyone.

The SPRC thought that the organizers should consider holding the festival at Sawmill Cove Industrial Park or trying to work with Roger to continue to hold the festival there.

Discussion Items:

Dogs on Ballfields and Playgrounds: There continues to be a problem with dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs even though doggie bags dispensers are now everywhere. Dogs are also dig holes in the field surface. At the June meeting the group wants to discuss the issue and recommend solutions to the problem. One alternative would be make ballfields and playgrounds off limits to dogs after the dog park is built.

(M/S:Riley/VonRekowski): To put out a PSA to let public know where the SPRC is in their planning. Passed unanimously.

Nancy Buckmaster will be invited to the next meeting for fact finding and information on the history of dog use in park, enforcement issues and potential solutions. Once alternatives are determined, PSA's will go out to allow for public input on the proposals at a subsequent meeting. The cost of providing doggie bag dispensers and bags has become significant. Joe suggested raising dog license fees to offset this cost.

Reports:

Trails: Cross Trail is at 95% design. Construction will begin in May. Wood from the trail pioneering will be available for a donation to Trail Works, probably at the Turnaround, while construction is occurring.

Herring-Beaver funding package is nearing completion with a \$170,000 Rasmuson Grant pending for the parking lot and handicap accessible trail. Construction is potentially this fall.

Groundkeeper's Greenspace, Parks and Ball Fields: Shawn has staffing problems this time of year due to the fact he is hiring back returning college students who aren't available until mid-May. Lots of start up activity but not enough help.

Parks Manager Report: Update on Kimsham. The project will be delayed at least six months due to issues with the pitrun fill.

Comments: Community Health Summit will be held May 14 – 16. Dan Burden will be the keynote speaker and will be discussing his efforts to create more walkable, liveable communities. All are invited to attend. A new set of community health goals will be established for the upcoming year.

Next meeting: Thursday, June 5, at noon at City Hall.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM