



## **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  
December 9, 2010 - Meeting Minutes  
Centennial Building**

**Present:** Tim Riley, Jeff Mossige, Hans VonRekowski, Ken Corson, Michelle Gundaker

**Excused:**

**Absent:** Blake Hagerman, Jeff Feldpausch

**Ex Officio:** Deborah Lyons

**Staff:** Lynne McGowan, Gary Baugher, Shawn McLeod, Jud Kirkness

**Others:** Matt Pinard, Blain Anderson, Richard Nelson

Jud Kirkness, the new Parks and Recreation Maintenance Specialist, was introduced!

**Approval of Minutes:** *(M/S: VonRekowski/Gundaker): Approve November minutes as written. Passed unanimously.*

**Changes to the Agenda:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Persons to be Heard:** Richard Nelson, 3902 HPR, a neighbor of Halibut Point Park spoke regarding the inadequate and dangerous parking situation at Halibut Point Park. He presented ideas for improving and increasing the number of parking spaces.

Lynne commented that this project is a priority for the local State Parks Citizens Advisory Board. The group requested that Nick True be invited to the next meeting to discuss this and that it be an action item for the next meeting.

*(M/S: Gundaker/Corson: To write a letter of support to State Parks for the expansion and redesign of the Halibut Point SRS parking lot.)*

Blain Anderson, STW Outdoor Recreation Specialist, announced the February 4 Mountain Biking Film Festival fundraiser for STW and the mountain bike trail. The event will be held at the Centennial Building. Beer and root beer will be served.

### **Old Business:**

**Harbor Mountain Bike Trail:** The group at the last meeting requested a list of users and more specific trail mapping and design/survey notes. This information was put together by Matt and Blain and was included in the December packet.

Blain Anderson reported that since the last meeting they went out and put together a trail profile/log. The trail has been shortened and will function as a demonstration, 800' trail, to show the public what this type of mountain biking is like. It will be hardened for the length and the grade goes down and then up and out back on the road. Matt and Blain created a Facebook page and put sign-up sheets at several stores for a month and were able to gather a list of supporters and folks who are willing to help with the construction. Von Hazel, USFS Engineer, is fine with their using some of the pitrun that has resulted from the road reconstruction project.

*(M/S: Mossige/Gundaker): Letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Administrator in support of the project. Passed unanimously.*

STIP Cross Project Baranof/Pherson/Yaw: Deborah would like to see Cross Trail STIP TRAAK project moved forward this budget cycle. STW is willing to commit to providing a half of the match for the project as described in the match proposal spreadsheet, \$20,000 from a Rasmuson grant and \$18,000 from a STW capital campaign. Dave Dapceвич has provided \$5,000 in seed money for a bench for Georgina. She will request that the rest of the match will come from CBS and/or a legislative grant. The Administrator said that he would find the \$5,000 match from FY'11 budget to start the design process. The item will appear on the 12/14 Assembly agenda.

*(M/S: Corson/VonRekowski): To support the funding strategy for the Cross Trail STIP match being proposed by Sitka Trail Works, with a big thank you to STW! Passed unanimously.*

SPRC Secretary Options: The group discussed this item again. It was the consensus that the ordinance change could wait until the municipal summit. Some of the Assembly members are proposing a municipal summit with City Commissions and Committees. This could provide the opportunity to bring up the topic of the housekeeping item for the Parks and Recreation Committee ordinance language. The language needs to be changed to be similar to other Commissions and Committees where only the chair is elected by the Committee. The Committee also would like staff to continue to act as a secretary and work with the Chair to develop the agenda.

### **New Business:**

USFS Scoping White Sulphur Springs Project: Lynne said that she brought this scoping document to the SPRC's attention since it's a recreation project within the City and Borough and Carol Goularte would like more public feedback on scoping documents. It is up to the Committee whether they would like to respond as a group and/or as individuals. Members agreed that a group comment made sense.

During member discussion, reconstructing structures was favored to facilitate the project's completion within the wilderness. The Committee was interested in reducing the probability of any opposition arising if new construction is proposed in a wilderness. During discussion the Committee members also agreed that trail reconstruction to provide improved access to the bathhouse and cabin is a priority. A motion was crafted to reflect the Committee's position but resultantly does not exactly match the listed alternatives.

*(M/S: Mossige/Gundaker): To support alternative three with an amendment to the language to reflect the Committee preference for existing cabin, bathhouse and gravel trail reconstruction. Passed with vonRekowski abstaining.*

SEARHC – Raven’s Way Fitness Trail: Blain said that he was working with Raven’s Way to layout a fitness trail in the wooded area between the Seward Ave. dead end (by the formerly officers’/doctors’ housing beyond SEARHC daycare ) and the USCG housing. The trail will be 4-6 feet wide, two loops and available for the public, too. There will be archeological issues due to the location. They could use a letter of support for their grant writing. Lynne mentioned that the need for a fitness trail was mentioned several times during the public scoping for the Sustainable OR Action Plan.

*(M/S:Mossige/vonRekowski): To support the development of a fitness trail by SEARHC- Raven’s Way. Passed unanimously.*

### **Discussion Items:**

Naming Recreation Facilities: The group reviewed the draft matrix and agreed with the criteria included. Deborah suggested looking online to see if other municipalities had naming policies or ordinances. Lynne will do some additional research and get back to the Committee with that information at the next meeting.

Tim suggested that a similar process be established for when folks come to them with project proposals.

### **Reports:**

Trails: Cross Trail Kramer Drive to Cascade Creek: Construction on the portion on CBS Lands is underway. The appraisal for the Mental Health property that the trail needs to cross was \$19,000. The Mental Health generally sets the price at 125% of appraised value. They instead chose to ignore the appraisal and set the value the same as a lot on Cascade Creek road which is \$87,000, putting the property value of the lot corner at \$119,000. Deborah thinks that this idea was in error and will be pursuing this further.

P& R Mgr: Disc Golf: Jeff and Lynne met with Chris Brewton, Electric Director, on site since the land being proposed for use is partially Electric Dept. reserve land. Chris was very positive about the project and didn’t see any problem with use of the land for disc golf. Since the disc golf area is next to neighborhoods Lynne suggested doing a revised map using GPS for the Planning and Zoning packet. The neighbors who will need to be contacted prior to the Planning and Zoning meeting will be able to see exactly where the holes are located in relation to their property. Tree and Landscape survey: Tree and Landscape is revising the Sitka Landscape Plan and is looking for public input. Their survey is online and accessible via the City’s Parks and Recreation page. Fruit Trees: Tree and Landscape is working with the fruit tree group and is considering doing a demonstration planting of fruit trees and fruiting bushes on CBS property for their Arbor Day project this year. SORAP: Working to finalize the projects matrix and set the Tier One projects. The projects are being organized by area and special user group. Draft out by the end of the year. Goddard: Kelly Pellett and Barth Hamberg will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the various options for the tubs for the SPRC to consider.

Ballfields, Parks and Greenspace: None given.

**Next meeting: Thursday, January 6 at noon at City Hall.**

**Comments:** none.

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