



City and Borough of Sitka

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SITKA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

April 7, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Third Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Present: Tim Riley, Hans VonRekowski, Ken Corson, Jeff Feldpausch, Jeff Mossige, Mike Vieira

Excused:

Absent:

Ex Officio:

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

Others: Pete Esquiro

Approval of Minutes: *(M/S: Corson/Feldpausch): Approve March 2011 minutes. Passed unanimously.*

Changes to the Agenda: None.

Correspondence: Covered under business and discussion items.

Persons to be Heard: None.

Old Business:

Lower Moller Track and Football Field: When the budget gets settled Lynne and Mike V. will meet with Steve Bradshaw to discuss options for funding. It is included on the school's CIP list but will require action on the School Board's behalf to move it forward. The list of 70:30 school bond CIP projects has an August deadline.

Lynne talked to Atlas, the track manufacturer, who said that three of the surfaces they have would be compatible with a sand field. This means that the project could be phased.

Mike mentioned that he thought it makes sense to include Upper Moller in funding requests.

Jeff Feldpausch brought up the issue of the necessity of fencing off an artificial turf field to the public. This makes reconsideration of the SHS site important. Lynne can check into revising the numbers in the 2002 concept design for the SHS site.

New Business:

Discussion Items:

2011 Goals Matrix – Per Committee request Lynne revised the matrix to include the Community Foundation under the Collaborative/Partnership goals and highlighted (shows as grey in the B&W print) the items that were also identified in the Sustainable Sitka Outdoor Rec Action Plan (SSORAP).

Discussion concluded with the decision to use 50 points for scoring 1 – 3 points per the projects listed under Trails, Parks, Playgrounds and Sports Fields/Courts.

Upper Moller Field Lights: Lynne arranged a meeting with the key folks from Sitka baseball and Little League to share preliminary cost estimate for the project. The group was enthusiastic about proceeding with the project even though the estimate for installation was over budget. Since the project was billed to Stedman as a volunteer project, the group thought they could get donations of services to bring down the price. They requested that the electric department donate their services. The scope of work is extensive and this would require Assembly action. They asked that SPRC request this via the Administrator. Lights will be needed to host a Statewide Tournament.

When asked later, the Public Works Director said that requesting the Electric Dept. to absorb this amount of work into their budget isn't feasible.

To assist the volunteer effort Lynne broke down the major scope items into tasks that the baseball group can "shop around" and get volunteers to sign up for. She also found out the costs for the Thunder Mountain lights that were installed last year in Juneau. They put in four poles with 18 lights per pole vs. our six with six to eight lights per for a little over one million.

Members thought that the next step is to wait and see what the baseball group members are able to come up with for volunteer assistance to offset the project expenses.

Hans is interested in how much the lights will cost to run. Juneau has a policy of not replacing bulbs until 25% are burned out, which occurs about every three years. Then they replace all bulbs at once due to the costs of hiring this out.

Swan Lake Dock: Lynne presented preliminary site concepts for Swan Lake park improvements and dock. The important features are repairs and hardening of the trail/walkway, a park kiosk with safety equipment (skating and boating) and the fishing/accessible dock and float. Other components in the site improvement include plantings to use as screens to the road (and to keep waterfowl "corralled"), a seating area to include a firepit. The "ramp" area would be maintained as a waterfowl feeding area. Members liked the project concept including the firepit.

Commercial Passenger Excise Tax (CPET) Projects: Several CPET projects have parks and grounds implications and Lynne would like to know what role the Committee would like to play in the planning. The site plans for the Lake and Lincoln Pedestrian Improvements and the downtown Wayfinding and Directional signage plan and construction are two projects from the City's \$5/visitor fund. The Seawalk and Centennial Building grounds are two State CPET legislative grants. Lynne explained the planning project is underway for the Centennial Building and asked members to submit their ideas for improvements to the building or area. Pedestrian, bus, and vendor use, museum, parking, an area for a visitor center and the library's expansion are all factors that may affect the Centennial's greenspace. Another RFP that just closed is the solicitation of design services for the Seawalk from O'Connell to Harbor Drive and from Crescent to the National Park as well as a 4,000 sq. ft. shelter/building under the bridge. The idea right now is that Lynne said she will be the project manager for the wayfinding and directional signage project and work with the Tourism Commission on and Mim McConnell on this. The Committee would like to provide input into the projects at the appropriate junctures.

Reports:

- P& R Mgr: SORAP: Plan is being finalized and Carol Goularte has distributed the draft MOU for the signatories, both agencies and non-profits. SMCIII – Out to bid this summer with an eight foot sidewalk. Goddard tubs: Quotes have been requested from four local vendors for their fabrication. Skatepark: CBS Engineer, Lance Henrie, has received quotes for a steel open-sided building. We're considering covering half the park so the project remains within the budget. We talked to kids down at the park and they would rather the east side was covered than the bowl. We will schedule a meeting

with the kids in May before school's out at one of the schools to discuss the project. The Administrator decided to put another \$50,000 in the budget for the cover.

- Trails: Cross Trail STIP: Staff is working on the MOU with DOT and will be requesting estimated project costs from DOT.
- Ballfields, Parks and Greenspace: There's a freeze on hiring temp's for the summer with FY'11 previously budgeted funds. The Committee members were not happy. They understand the financial restraints but the temp's are a cost effective way to get the needed work done.

(M/S: VonRekowski/Feldpausch): To draft a letter to the Assembly via the Administrator for the Chair's signature regarding the impacts to the CBS parks and grounds if temp's aren't hired. Pass Unanimously.

Comments: none.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

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