



City and Borough of Sitka

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**SITKA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
May 5, 2011 Meeting Minutes
Third Floor Conference Room, City Hall**

Present: Hans VonRekowski, Ken Corson, Jeff Feldpausch, Jeff Mossige, Mike Vieira
Excused: Tim Riley
Absent:
Ex Officio:
Staff: Lynne McGowan
Others: Pete Esquiro

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

Changes to the Agenda: Skatepark and Funding Strategy moved from Old Business to discussion.

Correspondence: Letter regarding funding Temp's.

Persons to be Heard: Jeff Mossige reported that he is GPS'ing the tees and baskets for the Disc Golf area adjacent to the High school to prepare for taking it to the Planning Commission for their approval.

Old Business:

Upper Moller Scoreboard: The Committee was informed that the scoreboard project is moving forward with a combination of City funds and volunteer assistance. Lynne said that a new structural engineer stamped foundation design had to be completed since the sign was moved to a spot with "better soils". Some additional City funds may need to be used from the Moller Park Legislative grant that is designated for Moller Baseball Field Improvements. This was okay'ed by the Moller baseball group but Michael Harmon wanted to get SPRC's support as well.

(M/S: Corson/Mossige): To support the use of funds from the Moller Park Improvements Legislative grant to complete the Moller Scoreboard project. Passed unanimously.

New Business:

Sitka Outdoor Recreation Action Plan: The MOU that accompanies the plan is similar to the Sitka Trail Plan MOU and calls for sharing of staff expertise but doesn't obligate any of the partners to fund or complete any of the projects. A resolution will be brought forward by the USFS to the Assembly to request support of the plan and to request the Administrator signature on the MOU on the City's behalf. Since SPRC has been involved and supportive of the SORAP plan and it is a recreation issue a motion from the group in support of CBS participation as a partner in the SORAP MOU is an appropriate step in the process.

The Committee suggested postponing this item until the next meeting when the full committee is present since Hans felt he should recuse himself from the vote since he works for USFS.

Discussion Items:

Turnaround Skatepark: Lynne shared the cost estimate work sheet put together by Lance Henrie. Funding for the skatepark cover will allow for covering half of the park. Lynne and Lance went to the Historical Commission to get the project vetted by them. They suggested that it may have been added to the Historic Register since 2007 when Lynne got SHPO clearance when she did the EA for the project. With some research Lynne found that Thad Poulson had added it to State SHPO's list of Alaska Historic Resources Survey (AHRs). Lynne spoke with and got email confirmation from Dave McMahan that this project didn't conflict with the site. Lynne will meet with the skaters on 5/17 to get their input.

Eliason Harbor Park: Stan Eliason wants to get the area officially designated as a park and add a picnic table, BBQ and bench. The Harbor dumpsters could be used as trash receptacles. Lynne suggested to Stan using concrete site furnishings and using Harbor staff to maintain. Members were in general agreement on the following points: It isn't a great place for a park due to high density of eagles perching there. Turnaround Park is really close and it has a picnic shelter and benches. If Harbors wants to develop it, that's great, it should then be under their purview. The group doesn't want to increase the number of park areas without a guarantee of additional funds for maintenance staff. The recent issue with the temp. funding only highlights the problem.

Funding Strategies for Parks and Grounds Maintenance: Tim requested this item be included on the agenda. On Monday, May 2 two temp's started working. The three week hiring freeze put Shawn behind. The \$53,000 budgeted annually provides 3200 hours for four temporary workers. This budget amount was reduced to \$50,000 for FY12 , essentially a reduction in five week's worth of labor. Some of the ideas the group had for relief include:

- Revise some sort of proposition for increasing taxes for roads and parks;
- Continue to utilize volunteers where possible and small contracts;
- Contract out downtown grounds maintenance. Pete said that this was an idea that was suggested by the Assembly but the CPET funds can't be used to replace services that are already provided.

Reports:

- P& R Mgr: SMCIII – Out to bid this summer with an eight foot sidewalk. Goddard tubs: Bid awarded to Lee Craft. Moller Lights: Haven't heard back from volunteer group but it's baseball season when they are all busy. Skatepark: Meeting with the skaters scheduled for 5/17 at Blatchley at 3:15 to discuss the cover and other options. Football Field and Track: Lynne said that she may be able to tweak the earlier estimate for track and field at the high school with 2010 numbers from Thunder Mountain's project. There will be four options to consider: Do nothing, Track and Field at Moller, Track and Field at SHS, two phases at Moller: Phase I -Track and Phase II - artificial field. The project will qualify for 70:30 funding through the school district. The School Board submits their CIP list in August. Mike Vieira said that it's important to complete upper Moller's improvements first. Kimsham: Adult softball is being run by Dallas Peavey this year, which is great. They came up with the rest of the equipment needed to get the Kimsham

Concession stand up and running and got everything squared away with the Building Official and DEC.

- Trails: Cross Trail STIP: Staff is working on the MOU with DOT. Cross Kramer-Cascade: Troy has started work. A USFS used glue-lam bridge will be used for Cascade Creek. Mtn. Bike Trail: Roles and responsibilities between STW, CBS and the Mountain Bike group are being clarified. The project needs to be presented to the Assembly to get their blessing.
- Ballfields, Parks and Greenspace: SHS spring sports soccer, track , baseball and fast pitch softball began March 1. Tournaments, meets, matches and other events every weekend through the end of May. Mike Vieira said there are three extra sports events this spring season. Adult baseball started mid-March, Little League began April 30 and adult softball started in April, too. Shawn and Jud are working a lot of overtime. Since the two temp's hired are new, it will take a lot of training to bring them up to speed. The other 2 temp's will be returning college students with experience.

Comments: none.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

Next meeting: **Thursday, June 2 at noon at City Hall.**