



City and Borough of Sitka

Parks & Recreation Division • 100 Lincoln Street •

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SITKA PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

September 1, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Third Floor Conference Room, City Hall

Present: Ken Corson, Tim Riley, Alice Marcus, Mike Vieira, Jeff Mossige,

Excused: Hans VonRekowski, Jeff Feldpausch

Absent:

Ex Officio: Deborah Lyons, Randy Larsen

Staff: Lynne McGowan, Shawn McLeod, Gary Baugher

Others: Pete Esquiro, Ethan Windahl

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

Changes to the Agenda: Crescent Harbor Park sale added to New Business.

Correspondence: None.

Persons to be Heard: Ethan Windahl came to the meeting to request that the Committee support the construction of a cover the Crescent tennis courts. He proposed his patented system that uses used drill pipe from the North Slope. The pipe is used in conjunction with a cable/tarp system. The roof can also be metal or other materials. He touted the low initial cost (\$5/sq.ft.), longevity and low maintenance of this cover. Lynne promised to provide Senior Engineer, Lance Henrie, with a copy of the information Mr. Windahl brought for his consideration.

Old Business:

Community Playground Project: Alice Marcus presented information on efforts to get a Community Playground built in Sitka. The site under consideration is the “Putting Green” adjacent to Moller baseball field. It has parking, restrooms, a covered shelter and would then replace the two postage-stamp playgrounds at lower Moller. The new ADA compliant playground will achieve the CBS Parks Division’s goal of providing a public playground at Moller that is up to standard and provides for healthy and safe play for Sitka’s children. Upgrading the two lower Moller playgrounds would be costly and require removal of most of the equipment to bring them into fall zone/surfacing compliance and to provide ADA accessibility. When the Moller track and field are funded the East playground will be eliminated.

Alice will hold another meeting on September 6 to recruit more volunteers. The playground design group, Play by Design, who helped Juneau, Haines and Soldotna successfully complete their playground projects are scheduled to come to Sitka to do a design workshop in the spring at the schools. They will also oversee the actual construction of the playground.

The approximately 11,000 to 12,000 square foot playground will be funded by donations, grants and built with volunteer labor. Alice said that the fundraising includes raising money for a maintenance fund.

Mike Vieira expressed concern that a playground might not be compatible with the baseball field and high school players. Other members felt it wasn't a conflict and stated that it is important to co-exist and integrate uses since space for recreation is a valuable commodity in Sitka.

(M/S:Corson/Mossige): To support the efforts and initiative of the parents to create a community playground. Passed unanimously.

Crescent Harbor Park Land Sale: The Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee discussed Thad Poulson's offer regarding working with the City to purchase the Sheldon Jackson Trustees' portion of the Crescent Harbor Park area. The Committee members agreed that Mr. Poulson's proposal regarding the sale of the lot is an opportunity to move forward with acquisition of this vital piece of property.

The members discussed again how the ownership of this key portion of the Crescent Harbor Park greenstrip is critical to the parks public use and re-iterated the importance of this property with its proximity to the tennis courts, playground and proposed Seawalk. Private ownership could eliminate direct access to and parking for these facilities. The Committee also discussed how the Community has repeatedly voiced how they value the entire Crescent greenstrip, viewshed and open space from downtown to the Sitka National Historical Park.

After discussion, Committee members decided to ask the Assembly to consider funding the \$24,400 for the purchase of the property. The committee felt that the expenditure of CPET funds would be should be investigated since the potential alignments of the Seawalk, as well as the overall interests of the tourist industry in this area. This property is an integral and valuable part of a major visitor walking route that links Sitka's premier visitor destinations.

Concerns were expressed that other offers for purchase of the property by private parties are on the table so action by the City is needed soon. Another concern relates to that future legal action might be necessary to enforce easement terms. Legal expenses could easily exceed purchase costs.

(M/S:Vieira/Marcus): Recommend to write another letter to the Assembly via the Administrator to encourage investigating all options for the purchase of the SJC Crescent Harbor Park parcel. Passed unanimously.

New Business:

Election of Officers: Deferred until next meeting.

Discussion Items:

Reports:

P& R Manager: Goddard Tubs: First tub installed and the project will be completed the following weekend. CPET Projects: Design charette for the Seawalk on 9/12, Centennial Building public meeting 9/20. Wayfinding/interpretive signage project will be worked on by the Tourism Commission and coordinated by Gary Baugher and Lynne. Fees: Park & Rec Fee - \$8,325.00 in revenue for FY11 and rent -Tom Young Cabin - \$6,738 in revenue for FY11. Skatepark: Assembly approval to proceed with design build for cover on 8/30. USCG Day: Sept. 10 at 11AM. THSR Caretaker: Volunteer on board for the Shooting Range and the contract is in being reviewed by the Attorney. Maintenance Plan for CBS Parks is in final draft form.

Trails: Cascade-Kramer Cross: Eagle fledged, MHLT construction license complete, bridge stringers arrived from POW, Barth and Travis have staked the bridge alignment. Trail will be realigned to improve the grade by the eagle nest. The bridge will be put in next year.

Ballfields: Mudball for four days on Moller and Kimsham and a football game at Moller over Labor Day weekend. Community schools soccer and football will go on until October.

Comments: none.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

Next meeting: Thursday, October 6, at noon at City Hall.