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## Parks and Recreation Committee Special Meeting

Thursday, April 12, 2018 12:00 PM  
City Hall Conference Room  
100 Lincoln Street

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**Members:** Chair – Allison Massey, V.Chair – Woody Widmark,  
Lorraine Lil, Barbara Morse, Cynthia Pickering Christianson, Beth Smith  
**Assembly Liaison:** Kevin Knox

- I. CALL TO ORDER 12:03 pm
- II. ROLL CALL  
**Present:** Massey, Widmark, Smith, Morse (teleconference)  
**Absent:** Lil, (e), Christianson (e)  
**Assembly Liaison:** None  
**Staff:** Bush  
**Other(s):** None
- III. Agenda Changes – None
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- V. REPORTS  
**Chair** – None  
**Members** – None  
**Staff** – None  
**Assembly Liaison** – None  
**Other(s)** – None
- VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE – None
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS  
**FY2019 Budget Support** – The committee discussed the letter of support to be presented to the Assembly.  
  
M – Smith/S – Widmark moved to approve the letter of support for budget FY2019.  
Passed unanimously.
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT Seeing no objection, Chair Massey adjourned at approximately 12:07pm

Attest:  
Wanda Bush, Asst. Contract Coordinator/Office Manager

## City of Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee

City of Sitka Assembly and Administrator,

The Parks and Recreation committee would like to discourage further cuts to the Parks and Recreation budget. Maintaining what we currently have will extend functional life of our facilities significantly and optimistically postpone the need for capital replacement. With the current budget and a retraction plan in place, the Maintenance Department is doing more with less already.

Understaffing in the Maintenance Department has continued to affect their ability to “catch up” on deferred maintenance. The City Maintenance Department is the backbone of the city infrastructure. They work day in and day out to extend the City’s infrastructure usable lifespan, which is in effect an overall cost savings. Take for example Upper Moller Field, the life span of this Sitka jewel could be significantly reduced without adequate staff and funding for maintenance. It takes a team to manage and complete the daily and annual maintenance that is required to maintain the proper appearance for the public and tourists.

It is important to make note of how parks and recreation can drive economic development, specifically to attract tourists. It should be important to protect what attracts visitors to our community. Sightseeing tours, planned excursions, biking, and hiking are all recreational attractions that entice tourists to visit our community. Identifying these opportunities for parks and recreation to participate in our community’s efforts to attract business is an effective way to increase its stature in your mind.

The local park areas are a high priority as they benefit all community members. In Sitka, our parks and access to recreation is inclusive to everyone, serving all sectors of our community regardless of their income. The Sitka parks provide a high level of benefit for our community. These benefits take the form of positive youth development, a sense of community, and promoting health. The Sitka parks system contributes to the overall beauty of Sitka and its appeal.

We are sure you are well aware of the economic impact to our community that any decline in appearance would have to business and tourism. We are not recommending an increase in the budget, but to maintain the current budget so we are able to protect the current infrastructure. Despite the tight fiscal environment, local government needs to dedicate financial resources to support and sustain local parks and recreation.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinion on this budget issue.