



Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 12:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall / Teleconference

Members: Chair – James Poulson, Sarah Lawrie, Barbara Morse,
Brandon Marx, Rich Krupa, Susan Compagno, Ben Hughey
Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Poulson called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: James Poulson, Sarah Lawrie (arrived at 12:10 p.m. video conferenced), Barbara Morse (video conferenced), Rich Krupa (video conferenced), Ben Hughey, Brandon Marx, Susan Compagno (arrived at 12:03 p.m.)

Absent:

Staff Present: Building, Grounds, and Parks Supervisor, Michael Colliver, Public and Government Relations Director, Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk, Jess Earnshaw

Others: Amy Volz (video conferenced), Loyd Platson, Paula Moreno, Blaine Anderson (video conferenced), John Dunlap (video conferenced)

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 9, 2021

M- Marx moved to approve the March 9, 2021 minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

V. REPORTS

Chair: None.

Members: Marx addressed his concerns on the Crescent Harbor Shelter that the birds were roosting on the rafters of the Crescent Harbor Shelter. Poulson suggested putting up bird spikes.

City Staff: Henshaw, introduced Jess Earnshaw as the new Deputy City Clerk. Colliver reported they were currently working on a work order data system. He gave an update on ongoing projects: Moller East playground mitigation, operational comprehensive plan, rock face sluffing along City Hall parking lot, and conducted custodial contract tours of the Airport. He also reported City Clean up would be on April 24th-May 2nd.

Assembly Liaison: None

Other(s): Ben Hughey gave an update on the cross trails.

VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (For items OFF the agenda - Not to Exceed 3 Minutes)

None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Sitka Cycling Club Pump Track

Amy Volz with Sitka Cycling Club gave an update on the pump track project. She said that they would like to get approval from the Parks and Recreation Committee and Assembly to use the site and amend the current MOU to include the pump track. Marx asked about the location of the site. Volz informed the location was the sea plane turnaround, by Halibut Point Road/Katlilan intersection.

M- Marx moved to recommend to the Assembly approval of the Sitka Cycling Club pump track at the seaplane turn around complex subject to obtain necessary funding but not rely on the city funding. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

C. Upper Moller Field Use

Marx reported that baseball was going on full fledge and that they were grateful for the City's responsiveness to the Upper Moller Field maintenance issues. Krupa said little league would start on May 8th.

D. Lower Moller Field

Morse said she participated in the meetings with Field Turf. Colliver he would like to see improvements done at Lower Moller Field. He stated Field Turf was going to provide an estimate of what it would cost to do some improvements to the field. Morse stated that she felt that Field Turf had the expertise to give a good proposal.

E. Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan

Hughey reported had been awarded assistance from the National Park Service. He said RTCA would help Parks and Recreation Committee and the City in a planning process. He met with Michael Harmon, Director of Public Works and discussed having a facilities focus. Commission discussed the Parks and Recreation Committee mission statement.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

F. Gathering of the Peoples Benches and Birds Project

Loyd Platson explained they were available to answer questions and requested the commissions support. Hughey questioned if they would require the Assembly's approval on every single bench. Colliver responded that changes to infrastructure typically need to go an approval process however standalone benches were exempt from the requirement. Paula Moreno spoke about the Peoples Benches and Birds project and requested support. Hughey thanked the presenters for their work on this project.

M- Hughey moved to recommend that the first of the benches be accepted and for the city to install. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

G. Commercial Use Permit Applications

Alaska Sailing Expeditions (dba Sound Sailing)

Blaine Anderson provided history they had been permitted by the City since 2014 to do recreational guiding on Warms Springs Bay and add Goddard a year later. The only change to the permit was that they had a new kayak, and it was renamed. Chair Poulson asked how many clients were expected this year? Mr. Anderson in response to a question stated anticipated six.

M-Marx moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Alaskan Sailing expeditions dba Sound Sailing at Warm Springs Bay and to include the Goddard area with the understanding that there will be two trips this year with maximum of eight participants per trip, as it has been determined that the use as proposed: 1. Will not pollute or degrade the environment, resources, facilities, or atmosphere of the area; and 2. Will not endanger the public health, safety, and welfare; and 3. Will not significantly interfere with the use and enjoyment of the area by other members of the public. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Adventure Sitka (dba Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures)

John Dunlap stated this is something that they have been doing for the past 10 years. He said the location was mostly around the islands in northern Sitka Sound within City and Borough jurisdiction.

M- Marx moved to approve the Adventure Sitka dba Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures renewal of his permit. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (For items on or off the agenda - Not to Exceed 3 Minutes)

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting would be May 11, 2021 at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall and via Zoom.

Hearing no objection, the Chair Poulson called the meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk