



Parks and Recreation Committee Agenda

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 12:00 PM
Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive

Members: Chair - Candace Rutledge, Vice Chair – Steve Black, Ben Hughey
Brandon Marx, Katherine Prussian, Manoj Battar
Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rutledge called the meeting to order at approximately 12:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Candace Rutledge, Ben Hughey (zoom), Steve Black, Manoj Battar, and Katherine Prussian (arrived 12:03 p.m.)

Absent: Brandon Marx (unexcused)

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Staff Present: Parks and Recreation Coordinator Kevin Knox, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Kent Smith, and Deputy Municipal Clerk Holley Bayne

Others: None.

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 10, 2026

Battar moved to approve the March 10, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion passed 4-0.

V. REPORTS

Chair: None.

Members: None.

City Staff: Smith reported on current projects and his recent Playground Safety Inspector certification. Knox provided an overview of current and upcoming Parks and Recreation programs, noted some staffing positions remain unfilled, and a new chlorinator has arrived.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): Sitka Trail Works - Hughey reported snow-related cancellations of Sitka Trail Works volunteer events and noted an upcoming volunteer event at the Orthodox Cemetery.

VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(For items OFF the agenda - not to exceed 3 minutes)*

None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Approval of Commercial Recreation Land Use Permits – requests not in 2026 Land Use Plan

a. Whaler’s Cove Lodge

Riley Nolan introduced the application on behalf of Whaler’s Cove Lodge.

Jay Erie commented.

Committee members reviewed guest numbers and compared them to annual application totals.

Black moved to recommend approval of the commercial recreational land use permit as requested by Whaler’s Cove Lodge and hereby make the required determinations regarding this use as listed in SGC 14.10.030(B)(1-3). Motion passed 4-0 by a roll call vote.

C. Discussion on Tobacco and Smoke Free Parks

SEARHC Health Educator Amanda Roberts presented on implementing tobacco-free parks in Sitka. Members spoke in support and raised considerations about self-enforcement, signage, separate rules for playgrounds versus fields, and survey validity. Roberts noted she has started a draft ordinance for tobacco-free parks in Sitka.

D. Discussion/Decision/Direction on Parks and Recreation Budget Items

Knox reviewed the administrators’ budget, noting deficit reductions and cuts, including the removal of athletic field sand. Committee members asked questions about Parks & Recreation items, program costs, and potential advocacy. Knox said further discussion will occur at next week’s budget meeting and he plans to provide the committee with earlier budget updates in the future.

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 12, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall. Hearing no objection, Chair Rutledge called the meeting to adjournment at 1:10 PM.

Attest:
Holley Bayne, Deputy Municipal Clerk