



Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 12:00 p.m.
Videoconference / Teleconference

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: James Poulson, Barbara Morse, Brandon Marx, Rich Krupa, Sarah Lawrie

Absent: Susan Compagno (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Knox

Staff Present: Deputy Clerk Melissa Henshaw, Buildings, Grounds and Parks Supervisor Michael Colliver

Others: Anne Marie LaPalme, Karen Case

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 11, 2020 and March 10, 2020

M – Lawrie / S – Morse moved to approve the February 11, 2020 and March 10, 2020 minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

V. REPORTS

Chair:

Members: Morse shared concerns of ball fields up by Kimsham being used as dog parks.

City Staff: Colliver stated he noticed an increase of use for all areas especially use of dog parks and bags including use that are not allowed. He relayed that COVID-19 PSA went out for Baranof and Goddard Hot Springs closure to the public. He stated that the Tom Young cabin was still being utilized; public restrooms were reopened; and gave updates of painting and cleaning.

Assembly Liaison: Knox reported that budget meetings were ongoing. He stated the direction from Assembly was to focus on dealing with the COVID-19 situation and that budget changes would be forthcoming once revenue receipts and grants were known.

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Other(s): Anne Marie LaPalme updated that K&E resumed blasting on the Katlian Bay Road and in the vicinity of Mosquito Cove trail. She noted the Forrest Service help with regards to the single track bike project. She stated that the Starrigavan gate should be open soon. She relayed that bathrooms remained open and were cleaned daily along with the cabin between visitation. She relayed that at this time, no summer hosts are scheduled to come to Sitka.

VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (For items OFF the agenda - Not to Exceed 3 Minutes)
None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Upper Moller Field Use

Marx stated the sub-committee met in January and made the changes recommended by the Municipal Attorney.

M – Krupa / S – Morse moved to approve the Athletic Field Use Policy and Guidelines as written and recommend to the Assembly for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

Marx noted the closure and wondered how folks could collect their equipment. Colliver stated that a COVID-19 execution plan would need to be submitted. He told of the closures and the locks had been changed out.

C. Funding

Not discussed.

D. Lower Moller Field

Colliver stated there was a fee proposal that came in and it would be sent to the Committee.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

E. Commercial use permit applications

Adventure Sitka (dba Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures)

John Dunlap offered to answer questions. He gave his history with the company for the past 10 years and stated he is staying on with the new business in the first year of operation. He told of land use (camping) for multiday guided trips. Poulson noted that they would be required to follow the mandates.

M – Lawrie / S - Morse moved to recommend the Administrator issue a permit for commercial recreational activities on City and Borough land for Adventure Sitka (dba Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures). Motion passed unanimously.

The Boat Company – this item was pulled from the agenda, the owner is cancelling their season

Baranof Wilderness Lodge

M – Lawrie / S - Marx moved to recommend the Administrator issue a permit for commercial recreational activities on City and Borough land for Baranof Wilderness Lodge. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Discussion of facilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Chair Poulson wondered if there were closures and signs for different facilities. Colliver noted the signs posted of closures. Knox told of state mandate increases in the last week with regards to activities. Poulson offered to laminate the state recommendations to post. Colliver noted concerns with refunds for users that was not allowed by code and policy. Knox would work with Colliver to bring an item to the Assembly. Poulson stated the Committee could recommend allowing to put funds forward for next summer/season or allow refunds. Concurrence was to recommend refunds.

G. Nominations for Vice Chair

M – Morse / S - Marx moved to nominate Sarah Lawrie for Vice Chair. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (For items on or off the agenda - Not to Exceed 3 Minutes)
None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, the meeting adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Attest:
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk