

Sitka Bear Task Force Minutes

Thursday, July 7, 2022 12:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Task Force Members: Robert Baty, Stephen Bethune, Lillian Feldpausch, Harry Greene or Michael Harmon, Olivia Magni, Martha Moses, Alix Snelling, Andrew Thoms, Claire Turner

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Feldpausch called the meeting to order at approximately 12:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Task Force members present: Stephen Bethune, Lillian Feldpausch, Harry Green, Olivia Magni, Martha Moses, Alix Snelling, Andrew Thoms

Absent: Claire Turner (excused), Robert Baty (excused)

Staff: Administrative Coordinator, Holley Dennison

Others: Assembly Liaison Dave Miller

III. CORRESPONDENCE /AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda)*

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 2, 2022

Moses moved to approve the May 5, 2022, minutes. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

VI. REPORTS

None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Overview from Member Magni on geospatial data

Member Magni summarized a report which suggested bears access residential neighborhoods connected to the trail system at a higher rate than those areas not connected to a trail system. She suggested to focus on areas which indicate more bear activity. An airhorn hazing protocol was implemented at the park recently and she referred a question about park closures to the park resource manager.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

C. Discussion on garbage storage – Item “B” in Member Thom’s 04/21/22 handout

Member Thoms summarized garbage storage issues and solutions the prior bear task force considered. Current efforts include PSA’s, door hanger distribution, and residential education. Member Green said the Transfer Station offers a free account for residents

having bear issues to dispose of garbage, which does not count toward their monthly disposal limit. Chair Feldpausch reminded to be aware of residents with limited transportation. Member Moses shared concerns from the tribe of those with limited transportation, difficulty following the garbage policy, and wondered of a digital stream identification map. Member Magni reiterated house locations are disproportionately affected, e.g., near rivers or trail systems, and told of a stream catalogue available through Fish and Game. Chair Feldpausch supported a small working group of 3 members to combine garbage storage ideas in areas of high bear traffic. Member Snelling spoke to the Transfer Station hours.

D. Discussion on scheduling an evening Sitka Bear Task Force meeting

City staff summarized options for an evening meeting. Member Greene was in support of an evening meeting with the normal Sitka Bear Task Force structure. Member Magni added that bear education opportunities were planned at the park. Chair Feldpausch confirmed the meeting date will be decided at the next meeting, and planned to be held at the end of August or beginning of September.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda)*
None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Feldpausch asked for agenda items. An item suggested was to discuss objectives from the working group for a presentation. Next meeting was scheduled for August 4, 2022, at 12:00 p.m., Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Attest:
Holley Denison, Staff Liaison