



Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 12:00 p.m. Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Ben Hughey, Brandon Marx, James Poulson, Katherine Prussian (via zoom)

Absent: Steven Black (excused), Candace Rutledge (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher (absent)

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

Others: None.

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. July 8, 2025

Poulson moved to approve the July 8, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion passed 4-0.

V. REPORTS

Chair: Provided an update on the Sitka Trail Works HPR trail work.

Members: None.

City Staff: Kent Smith Reported on school prep, grounds cleaning, upcoming seawalk roof repairs, signage needs, and basketball court cleaning. Kevin Knox summarized summer and upcoming programs; noted efforts to secure upper Moller Field due to vandalism. Holley Bayne reminded the group of an expired seat and asked members to inform staff if Zoom access was needed.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): None.

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

Paul Olsen suggested multi-year permits for commercial land use permitting.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Discussion/Direction/Decision of Special Use Area Limits/Guidelines

Knox led a discussion on the Land Use Plan, focusing on Goddard and Baranof Warm Springs, use limits, and water taxi operations. The draft plan will undergo a 3-week public comment period, followed by public and special meetings before Assembly review. Marx requested a summary of materials and boat use data; Knox noted current data is limited but will improve by 2026.

The committee discussed separating water taxis from other commercial operators, preferring local use but needing more data—possibly through a survey—before setting regulations. Advertising restrictions and the definition of “commercial” services were debated, along with concerns about distinguishing residents from visitors and legal risks. Amy cautioned against implementing permits regulations before the process was formalized. TBMP membership may be relevant in future permitting.

Liz, a seasonal worker in Sitka, spoke about trip frequency and onshore group limits. Marx emphasized avoiding conflicts with commercial fishers during peak season. No group size limits were recommended for water taxi use but permits and annual reports could help establish baseline use.

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 on September 9, 2025, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall. Hearing no objection, Chair Hughey called the meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Attest:
Holley Bayne, Deputy Municipal Clerk