



Parks and Recreation Committee Agenda

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 12:00 PM
Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hughey called the meeting to order at approximately 12:02 pm

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Ben Hughey, Brandon Marx, James Poulson, Katherin Prussian, Steve Black, Candace Rutledge
Absent:

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Staff Present: 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. August 12, 2025

Marx moved to approve the August 12, 2025, meeting minutes. Motion passed 6-0.

V. REPORTS

Chair: None.

Members: None.

City Staff: Kent Smith summarized current projects, bids, and planned trail repairs. Kevin Knox spoke about staffing shortages, summarized current programs, and reminded budget season was beginning. Bayne provided a summary of open seats on the commission and applications received.

Assembly Liaison: Mosher thanked those who helped on proposition #1.

Other(s): Sitka Trail Works - Hughey summarized volunteer work with Sitka Trail Works.

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

Aaron Prussian with Sitkans for Community Outdoor Recreation Enhancement (SCORE) gave an update of current and upcoming projects, and expressed a desire for more people to join SCORE.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Discussion/Direction/Decision on the Cooperative Resource Management Agreement with Alaska DNR for lands/trails/dock at Baranof Warm Springs

Knox provided an introduction on the proposed Cooperative Resource Management Agreement with Alaska DNR for Baranof Warm Springs. The agreement would let CBS manage commercial permits, remove the need for separate DNR permits and lower operator costs. Trail maintenance by CBS would be optional, with land and water rights remaining with the state. Members noted no downsides and agreed it would streamline management. The goal of this discussion today was to bring a recommendation from the committee to the assembly meeting tonight.

Poulson moved to recommend approval of the Cooperative Resource Management Agreement. Motion passed 6-0.

C. Discussion and public comment on the 2026 Commercial Recreational Land Use Plan

The committee discussed public feedback on the draft 2026 Commercial Recreational Land Use Plan. Key topics included guide limits, carrying capacity, and balanced access for local operators. Members discussed potential limits on group size, weekly use, and water taxi visits at Baranof and Goddard. Concerns were raised about restricting local businesses and ensuring community input before finalizing the plan. Staff noted the plan allows flexibility for existing permits and desire to move forward. The committee reached general consensus to move forward with refinements and to bring a recommendation forward to the assembly.

D. Discussion / Direction / Decision on rescheduling the November 11 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting

The members expressed consensus to reschedule their next meeting to the same day that the assembly decided to reschedule their November 11 meeting.

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 as decided in item D, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall. Hearing no objection, Chair Hughey called the meeting to adjournment at 12:04 PM.

Attest:

Holley Bayne, Deputy Municipal Clerk