



Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 12:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall / Videoconference

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Poulson called the meeting to order at approximately 12:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: James Poulson, Barbara Morse (video conference), Sarah Lawrie (video conference), Rich Krupa (video conference), Ben Hughey (video conferenced), Kevin Knox (videoconference)

Absent: Brandon Marx (excused), Rick Krupa, (excused)

Staff Present: Jessica Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk

Others: None.

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 8, 2022

Lawrie move to approve the February 8, 2022, minutes as written. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

V. REPORTS

Chair: Chair Poulson said he had done some research on the history of the Moller Park.

Members: None.

City Staff: None.

Assembly Liaison: Knox said that the Parks and Recreation positions were still in the budget and that there was a potential of reconstituting a Parks and Recreation Department within the City structure.

Other(s): Ben Hughey with Sitka Trail Works reported that work was happening again on phase 6 of the cross trail, bridge crossing for the no-name creek, and on the Halibut Point Road cruise dock connector which would be the final trail construction. He also

mentioned that Sitka Trails Works would be doing a comprehensive trail plan and would distribute draft surveys to the community.

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Upper Moller Field Use
None.

C. Lower Moller Field
None.

D. Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan
Poulson reported on their previous meeting. He noted that they looked at Moller Field and Swan Lake. Hughey said that the RTCA staffer had collected more information and worked through some questions that would help with the frame on future planning plans for that facility.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

E. Naming the baseball field at Moller Park-Conway Field
Austin Inman expressed his admiration for former Sitka High baseball coach, Ed Conway. He stated that Conway had devoted thousands of volunteer hours to this community through baseball. He felt that naming this field Conway Field would be appropriate.

Lawrie move to recommend to the City and Borough Assembly that the upper field at Moller Park be named Conway Field.

Morse said she had some concerns about singling out one person and naming a field after one individual. She also questioned the process. Lawrie wondered about the costs of the renaming of the field. She questioned if there would be a plaque or signage for this name change. Chair Poulson gave a briefing on the history of the name of the field at Moller Park.

Hughey move to postpone this motion to the next regular meeting. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

F. Alaska State Parks Update
None.

G. Sitka Recreation Initiative Group
Lawrie told of the presentation that was presented to the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly.

Hughey moved to recommend to the City and Borough Assembly if the Parks and Recreation positions are finalized that they be placed within a Parks and Recreation Department. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting would be April 12, 2022, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall and via Zoom.

Hearing no objection, Chair Poulson called the meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk