



Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 12:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Members: Chair – James Poulson, Ben Hughey, Brandon Marx
Rich Krupa, Steve Black, Katherine Prussian
Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Poulson called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: James Poulson, Katherine Prussian, Rich Krupa, Brandon Marx, and Steve Black

Absent: Ben Hughey (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Staff Present: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk, Kevin Knox, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, and Connor Dunlap Buildings, Grounds & Parks Supervisor

Others: None.

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

V. REPORTS

Chair: None.

Members: Marx praised the successful baseball tournament and acknowledged the efforts of city staff in preparing the grounds.

City Staff: Kevin Knox, Parks, and Recreation Coordinator, told of the summer programs and challenges they faced in securing housing for Summer AmeriCorps Service

Members, with the proposal currently awaiting discussion at the Office of Management and Budget.

Connor Dunlap, Supervisor of Buildings, Grounds & Parks, reported on current projects including the Herring Cove Trail Bridge, potential hiring of temporary groundskeeping staff, and the upcoming Moller Field turf repair project.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): None.

VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (For items OFF the agenda - Not to Exceed 3 Minutes)
Paul Olsen spoke about the issue of increased unauthorized use of areas like Warm Springs Lake in southeast Alaska.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Update on Parks and Rec Plan

Knox stated that the plan was currently under review with a contractor, including the first public engagement scheduled for April 27th. The aim is to provide the public with an opportunity to express their priorities for parks and recreation planning.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

C. Commercial Use Permit Applications

Alaska Sailing Expeditions LLC dba Sound Sailing

Bridget Kaufman addressed the increasing impact of small cruise ship companies and private yachts on the community. She expressed concerns about the large numbers of visitors, with groups of up to 30 being dropped off multiple times a day, causing issues for the community. Ted Laufenberg raised concerns about the issuance of permits for large groups at Warm Springs, due to issues related to hygiene, crowd management, and potential liability. Dan Evans spoke about the lack of proper facilities and permits at the location, while also highlighting the issue of boats being tied to the dock despite size restrictions.

The Committee discussed the application process, with the specifics in relation to Alaska Sailing.

Krupa moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Alaska Sailing Expeditions dba Sound Sailing Lake at Baranof Warm Springs, and Goddard Hot Springs as it has been determined that the use as proposed: 1. Will not pollute or degrade the environment, resources, facilities, or atmosphere of the area; and 2. Will not endanger the public health, safety, and welfare; and 3. Will not significantly interfere with the use and enjoyment of the area by other members of the public. Motion passed by the following vote.

Yes: 5 – Marx, Poulsen, Krupa, and Black

The Boat Company

The Committee discussed the application by the Boat Company for a permit to bring up to 10 people to Warm Springs, expressing concerns about the potential impacts on the unique wilderness experience, safety, and facility management. The

Committee expressed the need for better enforcement and requested the administrator to consider their recommendations.

Marx moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for The Boat Company at Baranof Warm Springs with a restriction to limit the group to five clients, plus a guide as it has been determined that the use as proposed: 1. Will not pollute or degrade the environment, resources, facilities, or atmosphere of the area; and 2. Will not endanger the public health, safety, and welfare; and 3. Will not significantly interfere with the use and enjoyment of the area by other members of the public. Motion passed by the following vote.

Yes: 4 – Marx, Poulsen, Krupa, and Black
Prussian did not vote due to internet connection issues.

Baranof Wilderness Lodge

Bridget Kaufman spoke in support.

Black moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Baranof Wilderness Lodge at Cross Trail, Gavan Hill, Thimbleberry, and Herring Cove as it has been determined that the use as proposed: 1. Will not pollute or degrade the environment, resources, facilities, or atmosphere of the area; and 2. Will not endanger the public health, safety, and welfare; and 3. Will not significantly interfere with the use and enjoyment of the area by other members of the public. Motion passed by the following vote.

Yes: 4 – Black, Poulsen, Krupa, and Marx
Prussian did not vote due to internet connection issues.

XI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (For items on or off the agenda - Not to Exceed 3 Minutes)

Ted Laufenberg spoke about the \$2 fee. Roberta Bernhardt, Public Works Office Manager explained the process on the Commercial Use of Lands Permits

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting would be on May 14, 2024, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall. Hearing no objection, Chair Poulson called the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk
Parks and Recreation Committee
Final Minutes April 10, 2024
Page 3 of 3