



Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

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

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Poulson called the meeting to order at approximately 12:05p.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: Rick Krupa (excused)

Staff Present: Jessica Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk

Others: None.

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. February 8, 2022

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

V. REPORTS

Chair: None.

Members: None.

City Staff: Colliver gave an update on vandalism issues. He spoke to drumsticks that were being taken from the new playground and the costs associated. He said that public restrooms would be opening soon. He commented about the downtown street closures during high tourism days and that Spring Cleanup was coming up.

Assembly Liaison: Knox said that the Parks and Recreation positions were still in the budget.

Other(s): Ben Hughey with Sitka Trail Works reported that work on the bridge was continuing. He said that they had identified a budget shortfall for the connector trail

down to the cruise ship dock and they were looking into other avenues for public and private partnerships for funding.

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

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Sitka Cycling Club Pump Track
None.

C. Upper Moller Field Use
None.

D. Lower Moller Field Use
None.

E. Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan
Poulson reported that there was a meeting today at 1:00 p.m.

F. 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. Marx stated that he was in support of the name change of the field and felt that Mr. Inman was very deserving of this field to be named after him. Three members of the public were opposed to and would like to see more discussions take place with a major name change like this.

Lawrie move to postpone the naming of the field until there was a formal process for naming City assets. Motion passed 3-1.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

G. Commercial Use Permit Application

The Boat Company

Lawrie moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreation activity on city and borough lands for The Boat Company 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 a unanimous voice vote.

H. Alaska State Park Update

Brad Gransky, Chief Ranger for Alaska State Parks Southeast Region told of grant funding, capital improvements, and work that would be done on the Mosquito Cove Trail.

I. Sitka Trail Planning Process

Hughey told of the planning process that would be based on the feedback that they would have an open survey next month.

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 May 10, 2022, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Hearing no objection, Chair Poulson called the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk