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# Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 12:00 p.m.  
Harrigan Centennial Hall

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

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Poulson called the meeting to order at approximately 12:05 p.m.

## II. ROLL CALL

Present: James Poulson, Ben Hughey, Rich Krupa, Brandon Marx, Katherine Prussian 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

A. March 12, 2024 and April 9, 2024

**Krupa moved to approve the March 12, 2024 and April 9, 2024, minutes as written.  
Motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.**

## V. REPORTS

Chair: None.

Members: Katherine Prussian announced May as Bike Month.

City Staff: Kevin Knox, Parks, and Recreation Coordinator mentioned swim lessons were fully booked but tumbling registrations had open spots and discussed deploying infrared counters on trails. Connor Dunlap, Supervisor of Buildings, Grounds & Parks reported on the successful turf repair and maintenance progress of the new collapse bridge, and confirmed the field was in excellent condition.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): None.

**VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** (For items OFF the agenda - Not to Exceed 3 Minutes)  
None.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**B. Update on Parks and Rec Plan**

Knox stated the project was still moving forward.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**C. Parking Options for Swan Lake Park**

Michael Harmon Municipal City Engineer presented a detailed analysis of parking options for Swan Lake to the committee, focusing on potential impacts and guidelines. The Committee provided feedback and felt option A was the best.

**D. Commercial Use Permit Applications**

Alaska Bound Charters

***Krupa moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Alaska Bound Charters -M/Y Dauntless at Baranof Warm 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 5-1 by a roll call vote.***

Ted Laufenberg and Bridget Kaufman commented on Baranof Warm Springs Commercial Use Permits requesting to the limit for up sizes to 5 guests and stagger arrivals to avoid overwhelming the community and consider using alternative landing sites to reduce pressure on Warm Springs.

Committee member Prussian raised concerns about consistency in decision-making for commercial use permits.

***Yes- Poulsen, Rutledge, Marx, Krupa, Black***

***No- Prussian***

***Absent- Hughey***

Alaska Luxury

**Black moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Alaska Luxury Tours at Baranof Warm 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 5-1 by a roll call vote.**

**Yes- Poulsen, Rutledge, Marx, Krupa, Black**

**No- Prussian**

**Absent- Hughey**

Alaska Sea Adventures

**Black moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Alaska Sea Adventures at Baranof Warm 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 failed 3-3 by a roll call vote.**

Ted Laufenberg and Bridget Kaufman commented on Baranof Warm Springs Commercial Use Permits.

Committee member Marx emphasized the importance of preserving the area for future generations.

**Yes- Poulsen, Rutledge, Krupa**

**No- Prussian, Black, Marx**

**Absent- Hughey**

Alaska Wilderness Charters, LLC

**Black moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Alaska Wilderness Charters, LLC at Baranof Warm 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 4-2 by a voice vote.**

Dan Evans commented on Baranof Warm Springs Commercial Use Permits.

**Yes- Poulsen, Rutledge, Marx, Krupa**  
**No- Prussian, Black**  
**Absent- Hughey**

Beyond The Dock Tours

**Krupa moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Beyond The Dock Tours LLC at Sitka Seawalk and Cross Trail 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 6-0 by a voice vote.**

Kealoha Harmon provided an overview of her business.

**Yes- Poulsen, Rutledge, Marx, Krupa, Black, Prussian**  
**Absent- Hughey**

Discovery Journeys

**Black moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Discovery Journeys at Baranof Warm 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 4-2 by a voice vote.**

Ben Swanson provided an overview of his business.

**Yes- Poulsen, Rutledge, Marx, Krupa**  
**No- Prussian, Black**  
**Absent- Hughey**

Lone Eagle Resorts, Inc. DBA Pybus Point Lodge

**Black moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Lone Eagle Resorts, Inc. DBA Pybus Point Lodge at Baranof Warm Springs Dock & Trail 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 4-2 by a voice vote.***

Darryl Bosshardt provided an overview of his business.

Ted Laufenberg commented on Baranof Warm Springs Commercial Use Permits.

Committee Member Prussian spoke about the consistency of issuing permits and concerns about the permitting process.

***Yes- Poulsen, Rutledge, Marx, Krupa***

***No- Prussian, Black***

***Absent- Hughey***

*Sailing Alaska Limited*

***Krupa moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Sailing Alaska Limited at Baranof Warm 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 5-1 by a voice vote.***

***Yes- Poulsen, Rutledge, Marx, Krupa, Black***

***No- Prussian***

***Absent- Hughey***

*Sitka Bike & Hike LLC*

***Black moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Sitka Bike & Hike at Herring Cove and Back Beach 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 6-0 by a voice vote.***

Michelle Barker provided an overview of her business activities.

***Yes- Poulsen, Rutledge, Marx, Krupa, Black***

**No- Prussian**  
**Absent- Hughey**

Sitka Wild Coast Kayaks

**Krupa moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for Sitka Wild Coast Kayaks at Crow Island, Gagarin Island, Middle Island, Little and Big Gavanski, Crescent Harbor Loading Dock, Herring Cove, Beard Cove, Head of Silver Bay, and Calligan Island 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 60 by a voice vote.**

**Yes- Poulsen, Rutledge, Marx, Krupa, Black, Prussian**  
**Absent- Hughey**

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

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting would be on June 11, 2024, 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