



Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, July 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 12:06 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: James Poulson, Sarah Lawrie, Ben Hughey, Brandon Marx

Absent: Rich Krupa (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Knox

Staff Present: Jessica Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk

Others: None.

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 10, 2022

Lawrie moved to approve May 10, 2022; minutes as written. Motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

V. REPORTS

Chair: Chair Poulson said that the trails looked great.

Members: Ben Hughey reported on a kickoff a youth program modeled after the program SCORE. He said that they were piloting for a weeklong camp and hope to have funding in place for a full season next summer. Cross Trail waiting on the Denali Commission grant which would allow them to finish off the HPR connector.

City Staff: Earnshaw reported that Michael Colliver was out on personal leave.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): None.

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

Joel Hanson, spoke about food security, and community gardens.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Sitka Cycling Club Pump Track

Hughey said that the permits were in place and construction had started. They've had laid the underlayment of gravel and are on waiting on recycled asphalt product from the Sawmill Creek construction project.

C. Upper Moller Field Use

Marx reported that they were in between seasons, and that the American Legion group had not gotten off the ground but was finishing up. He said that the girls' softball team was doing great!

D. Lower Moller Field Use

None.

E. Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan

Poulson reported they had a meeting last week and discussions were had on creating an outline for the plan, how it would be formatted, the scope, what facilities would be included and how to retrieve public input.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

F. Commercial Use Permit Applications

Baranof Wilderness Lodge

Hughey wondered about the enforcement of other commercial activities at Warm Springs Bay. He stated that there were thousands of people that do not pay for the use of the City facility and therefore we have a lack of funds to repair the facilities. He felt that commercial activities should fund the repairs.

M – Hughey / S – Lawrie moved to recommend the Administrator issue a permit for commercial recreational activities on City and Borough land for Baranof Wilderness Lodge. Motion passed 4-0.

Sitka Wild Coast Kayaks

Michael Graney introduced himself as the new owner of existing/ re-branded business. He said he as worked for three Summers in the tourism field and has 35 years of experience as a tour operator in Alaska. He explained the nature of his business with long- and short-term tours. He noted that he was trying to establish his business his year and for future years.

The Committee questioned whether not the locations were uninhabited? Marx thought that permit was too vague and needed to be more specific and would like the applicant to narrow down their scope.

M – Lawrie / S – Marx moved to recommend the Administrator issue a permit for commercial recreational activities on City and Borough land for Sitka Wild Coast Kayaks. Motion failed 3-1.

G. Electric Bikes on City Trails

Hughey felt that the committee needed to work with the Assembly on a draft ordinance on regulatory rules, and goals.

H. Sitka Trail Planning Process

Hughey reported that a public survey was launched, and they had received 787 responses, in addition to the online survey. He said that they had received different desires and demands about the types of trails.

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 August 9, 2022, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

Hearing no objection, Chair Poulson called the meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk