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# Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

## Tuesday, August 13, 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 12:00 p.m.

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

Present: James Poulson, Ben Hughey (arrived at 12:02 pm), Rich Krupa, Brandon Marx (arrived at 12:03 pm), Candace Rutledge and Steve Black

Absent: Katherine Prussian (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. June 18, 2024 and July 9, 2024**

**Marx moved to approve the June 18, 2024 and July 9, 2024 minutes as written.  
Motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.**

#### **V. REPORTS**

Chair: None.

Members: None.

City Staff: Kevin Knox, Parks, and Recreation Coordinator announced plans for a revitalization project at Blatchley Middle School, in partnership with the Sitka Recreation Foundation. The project includes new vinyl sticker designs for the backboards, new rims and nets, and repainting of lines. Krupa acknowledged the contribution of Brant Brantman installing fabric screens to protect the court from weather.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): Ben Hughey of Sitka Trail Works provided an update, on the completion of Cove Trail.

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

None.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**B. Discussions on Land Use Permit Changes**

Kevin Knox reviewed potential changes to the current code, aiming to clarify definitions and address staff and permit applicant confusion. He highlighted the need for public engagement to manage the use of popular sites and trails to avoid overcrowding and ensure a good experience. He discussed using ongoing data analysis to set appropriate usage limits and carrying capacities. He proposed a permit system with staff reviews and an appeals process, including an annual review of limits and a staggered permit approach. Knox emphasized adaptive management and better enforcement, suggesting a vetting process involving the committee and public. And considered commercial use fees, sales tax improvements, and a permit system for infrastructure revenue. The Parks and Recreation Department welcomed public feedback and stressed the importance of action, even if it isn't perfect. Mosher thanked staff for their work on this item.

**C. Discussions on redesignating the Baranof Warm Springs Board Walk**

Connor Dulap discussed redesignating the Baranoff Boardwalk as a trail due to its deteriorating infrastructure. Planning and Community Development Director, Amy Ainslie suggested focusing on maintenance over redesignation. She raised concerns about safety, liability, and the permitting process for boardwalk use, and questioned applying street design standards to boardwalks, though she was unsure of the regulatory framework. The Committee decided to focus on maintenance and possible improvements or expansions of the boardwalks.

John Hershenrider, a Warm Springs Bay property owner, expressed worries about increased commercial activity's environmental impact and suggested limiting permits. He opposed paving the trail, advocating for preserving the existing boardwalk. Jean Stalberg, a homeowner, questioned the effects of transitioning from streets to trails, particularly regarding easements and snow removal. No further issues were raised, and the discussion concluded without objection. Barb Morse thanked Amy Ainslie and the staff for their explanations.

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

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting would be on September 10 , 2024, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall. Hearing no objection, Chair Poulson called the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Attest  
: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy  
Clerk