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# Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

## Tuesday, September 14, 2021 12:00 p.m.

### Videoconference

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Members: Chair – James Poulson, Sarah Lawrie, Barbara Morse,  
Brandon Marx, Rich Krupa, Susan Compagno, Ben Hughey  
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, Susan Compagno, Barbara Morse (video conference), Sara Lawrie (video conference), Brandon Marx (video conference), Ben Hughey (video conferenced)

Absent: Rich Krupa (excused),

Staff Present: Building, Grounds, and Parks Supervisor Michael Colliver, and Jessica Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk

Others:

#### **III. AGENDA CHANGES**

None.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **A. June 8, 2021, July 13, 2021, and August 10, 2021**

**Compagno move to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2021, July 13, 2021, and August 10, 2021, minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously of the five-member present.**

#### **V. REPORTS**

Chair: Poulson reported he had done some hiking and trails were looking great.

Members: None.

City Staff: Colliver reported that they were still working on the work order and asset system; reported bears have continued to get into dumpsters in the Kimsham area still looking at alternate options for how this can be managed; thanked the Tree and Landscape Committee for all their work on pulling weeds such as alders and tree growth along the boardwalk peninsula that goes out next to the Science Center. He mentioned that they had two to three graffiti and vandalism cases which were being dealt with by the Police Department.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): Lynne Brandon with Sitka Trail Works reported on cross trail completion.

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

Sarah Lawrie wondered about the closure at the Baranoff playground and skatepark rules about the use of chalk board.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**B. Sitka Cycling Club Pump Track**

No updates, still moving forward.

**C. Upper Moller Field Use**

Marx reported that they group finally met and had resolved some scheduling conflicts that were resolved. He also mentioned about the dog waste issue situation which had an impact on the upper and lower Moller fields. He felt that this committee should urge the City and Borough should do something about this on-going issue. He noted the group had discussions on getting gate built at the field and making it a priority since there at had vandalism issues, and kids are jumping on the turtle shell which is very expensive piece of equipment.

**D. Lower Moller Field**

None.

**E. Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan-Approve short list of facilities**

Lawrie reviewed the short list of the facilities that was included in the plan. Morse thought that Warm Springs on the list. Hughey explained that it was a point of discussion at one time however said that there was limited planning capacity. Also, that they were trying not to take on too much and that's why they were trying to prioritize which facilities to choose. Colliver mentioned that he thought it should be included in the list.

**Lawrie moved to approve the short list of facilities that were included in this Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Plan.**

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**F. Dogs on the ballfields**

Chair Poulson gave a briefing on the dog waste situation that was an ongoing issue especially at the Kimsham complex.

Marx said having a conversation with the school principal would be a starting point since some of their employees were bringing dogs to school while they are teaching; having discussions with the police department's dog catcher on what can be done in terms of the enforcement issue; and finally better signage. He noted that these parks were not dog parks anymore they are considered playing fields. He mentioned that Public Works employees were getting splattered with dog waste and that it was a health hazard.

Morse said that this issue was a big concern and needed to be addressed, and not just put a band aid because this had been a problem for quite some time. She felt that options needed to be considered for dog park for larger dogs. Lawrie was agreeable with Marx and Morse. She said that there was misuse. Colliver said this had been an ongoing issue since. He spoke about short-term solutions and long-term solutions. He said that the current signage was very difficult to interpret.

**Marx moved to recommend noy allowing dogs on ballfields. Motion passed unanimously of the six members present.**

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

Lynne Brandon spoke regarding the dog feces on Kimsham field and was in support of closing field temporarily during softball season.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting would be October 12, 2021, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall and via Zoom.

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

Attest:  
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk