



Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 12:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall / Teleconference

Members: Chair – James Poulson, Sarah Lawrie, Barbara Morse,
Brandon Marx, Rich Krupa, Susan Compagno
Assembly Liaison: Kevin Knox

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Poulson called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: James Poulson, Brandon Marx, Sarah Lawrie (teleconference), Barbara Morse (teleconference), Susan Compagno (arrived at 12:04 p.m. left at 1:00 p.m.); Ben Hughey (teleconference)

Absent: Rich Krupa (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Knox

Staff Present: Deputy Clerk Melissa Henshaw

Others: Sitka Trail Works Executive Director Lynne Brandon

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 8, 2020

**M – Lawrie / S - Marx – moved to approve the September 8, 2020 minutes as written.
Motion passed unanimously.**

V. REPORTS

Chair: Poulson thanked Knox for serving as the Parks and Recreation Committee Assembly Liaison.

Members: None.

City Staff: Colliver updated on the Hames bench, winterizing, and local cabin possibilities.

Assembly Liaison: Knox reported the new Assembly would be swearing in this evening and new Liaisons would be assigned.

Other(s): Lynne Brandon with Sitka Trail Works told of the Cross Trail progress stating that a driveway permit was issued to come down by the cruise ship dock out Halibut Point Road. She mentioned a Sea Lion Cove trail grant and told of legislative meetings for outdoor recreation. Henshaw relayed for Annemarie LaPalme that the Sawmill Creek Campground host was gone for the winter and the gate was closed, gave a reminder that all trash must be packed out by users, maintenance was completed on Harbor Mountain Road, and trail work was completed for the season.

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

None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Upper Moller Field Use

Marx stated there weren't any subcommittee meetings in the last month. He told that mostly football and soccer were using the field; baseball would be starting up in November for their winter program. He said the brusher wasn't working which may require staff assistance and they were cleaning out the cage.

C. Funding

Not discussed.

D. Lower Moller Field

Colliver told of a discussion he had with the engineer if the fee proposal for Lower Moller Field to update the 2011 Turf Surfacing Feasibility Study but had not been able to follow up with it since COVID-19.

E. Mountain bike trail from Harbor Mountain Road to the new Cross Trail

Hughey updated the Sitka Conservation Society's (SCS) Transitional Employment program through the city noting one project was to expand the mountain biking trails. He said due to the accelerated season and work that needed to be completed by end of the year, the trail would shift from Harbor Mountain Road to a different area of the Cross Trail closer to where the Sitka Cycling Club had worked on trails. He stated they would be completing a new beginner trail. He said that the Sitka Cycling Club, Sitka Trail Works, and SCS was working together on the project. Hughey noted in Sitka there was interest to create more of a plan for a trail network for mountain biking however, there was no clear priority yet. Poulson felt it was important to make the public aware for those that may have concerns.

F. CARES Act Funding as it relates to Parks and Recreation

Colliver gave history stating that \$350,000 of the funding would be for parks and recreation development and another \$150,000 for general public works. He updated on the Transitional Employment program for those Sitkans that have been affected by COVID-19. He stated he had brought on a crew to help with projects that were not in the budget.

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As of September 14 there were 6 new employees but now had 19. He told of the training program and manual. Lawrie commended Colliver on the projects that were noticeable around town and reminded of her 35 AmeriCorps volunteers that could assist. Hughey relayed the SCS projects through the CARES Act funding of work on the Cross Trail mountain biking section, cemetery maintenance, renovations of Goddard water, outhouse of Tom Young cabin, scoping a trail plan in that area, work with Sitka School District to help Sitka High shop build a shop for local timber to dry out, creating mile markers on the Cross Trail, safety improvements on Cutthroat Creek area trail, and help installing the bench at Medvejie.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

G. Thimbleberry Trail Bench replacement

Andrew Thoms told of the bench in memory of Richard Nelson. He would come back to the Committee for a sign that has been suggested. Poulson told of request from Lisa Busch. Colliver told of the relocating and replacement of a bench by Lisa Busch. Henshaw relayed the request of relocating the bench across the trail from where it was to a slightly drier area before the bridge on the way up to the trail rather than directly after it.

M – Marx / S - Lawrie – moved to support the relocation of the bench on Thimbleberry trail for the Busch family. Motion passed unanimously.

H. Community Garden

Poulson relayed a group was looking for placement of a community garden. He thought to postpone for next month. Henshaw suggested postponing as the Health Needs and Human Services Commission Chair that was going to attend this meeting was unable to and the Commission did not have a meeting last week for lack of quorum.

I. Priority List

Lawrie wondered if it would be helpful for a list of recommendations and/or priorities from the committee for staff but noted Colliver's comprehensive list. Colliver stated he wanted what was best and if there were tactful operations and improvements in areas then he would take those recommendations and adjust accordingly. He gave the example to have one large facility rather than so many buildings and ADA access between the fields at Moller. Marx wondered how to brainstorm new ideas to add to the list. He knows that the public had talked about items that could be added and wondered what format/how to present those ideas. Colliver thought to send the ideas to him and they could be added to the list. He felt it was a great opportunity to build a community list to have projects shovel ready. He noted there had been priority lists in the past that were voted on by the Committee annually.

Lynne Brandon stated the importance for community development for example Lower Moller and replacement of Upper Moller. She told of history with regards to a former goal matrix and told of a Parks and Recreation plan in the past. She stated a definitive list was

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important especially for grant writing. She encouraged the Committee to have a working goals list that also showed accomplishments. She noted staffing level needs. Colliver referred to an updated plan from a couple years ago and would look for it.

J. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Marx nominated Poulson for Chair; Lawrie seconded. Poulson nominated Lawrie for Vice Chair; Marx seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

X. ADJOURNMENT

Add Goals matrix to the next agenda. The next meeting would be November 10th.

Hearing no objection, the Chair Poulson called the meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Attest:
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk