



Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 12:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Steve Black, Candace Rutledge, Katherine Prussian, Brandon Marx, Rich Krupa, and James Poulson

Absent: Ben Hughey (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Staff Present: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Municipal Clerk, Kevin Knox, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, and Kent Smith, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor

Others: None.

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 8, 2025

Poulson moved to approve the March 11, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

V. REPORTS

Chair: None.

Members: Marx addressed the issue of the heavy and unwieldy mound at the softball field, which had been causing injuries to the users. Krupa expressed concerns about the city's role in assisting with the mound, noting that the city had previously helped with its relocation. He suggested that the city should take back some responsibility in addressing the issue. Poulson also mentioned a letter from the Little League representatives, expressing concern about the cost of using the field.

City Staff: Kevin Knox, Parks, and Recreation Coordinator stated May was bike month. spoke about the "Love to Ride" app for bike usage in Sitka and Parks and Rec Department to implement neurodivergent activity group with physical therapist for kids on the autism spectrum. Discussed the rise in motorized bikes on cross trails and the need for better control. Kevin Knox presented a staff report on the Safe Streets for All grant, which includes an app for tracking bike usage and assets. He also mentioned a partnership with Search and Mountain Rehab Services for senior and

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neurodivergent activity groups. While the AmeriCorps program was cut, Kiera Dent was rehired to coordinate the summer camp, which had high demand but staffing challenges. Kent Smith, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Harry Green to install a culvert at the key ball fields to mitigate water runoff issues. And reported a delay in the bathroom project at Crescent Harbor due to water line issues, but work has resumed. Kent also mentioned the installation of a culvert at the key ball fields to address water runoff problems and improve the field conditions.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): None.

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

Hal Spackman commented on the baseball mound.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

C. Commercial Land Use Permits

1. Alaska Coastal Outfitter

Prussian moved to remove Goddard Hot Springs from the Alaska Coastal Outfitters permit request. Motion passed 6-0 by a voice vote.

Poulson moved to propose the following conditions of approval: to limit the maximum group to 6 and 1 guide for Baranof Warm Springs Dock. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

The rationale for these limitations was to minimize interference and improve the experience for their users. The Commission also considered the need for more information on the impact of commercial use on popular local spots.

Prussian moved to recommend approval of the commercial recreational land use permit as requested by Alaska Coastal Outfitters (subject to the proposed conditions of approval) and hereby make the required determinations regarding this use as listed in SGC 14.10.030(B)(1-3). Motion passed 6-0 by a voice vote.

2. Sailing Alaska Limited

Marx moved to propose the following conditions of approval: to limit the maximum group to 6 and 1 guide for Baranof Warm Springs Dock. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Marx moved to recommend approval of the commercial recreational land use permit as requested Sailing Alaska Limited (subject to the proposed conditions of approval) and

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting would be on Juen 10, 2025, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall. Hearing no objection, Vice Chair Rutledge called the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw,
Deputy Municipal Clerk