

Kachemak Bay State Parks Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2018

1. Call to Order:
 - a. Roll Call: Board Members; Aron Peterson, Sera Baxter, Carol Harding, and Nancy Hillstrand. State Park staff – Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly, and Brad Garasky

There was not a quorum
 - b. Public Members: John Allardice, Robert Archibald and Kevin Walker
2. Minutes: Changes were made to the minutes. But not approve for the lack of a quorum.
3. Agenda Changes/Approval: The agenda was approved as written.
4. Public Comment/Presentation: None.
5. Correspondence: None.
6. A. Committee Reports- Staff gave the following update:

Jason Okuly reported to the board the following:

- Wine and Cheese event at Eveline/McNeil
- Received tentative approval for RTP grants.
- HCL dock may need additional floatation, homer harbor master was kind enough to donate some billets to the park.
- Golden Pulaski official given to Kathy Sarins Irwin
- Trail run permit for Grace Ridge, approximately 20 people participating
- HoWL permit
- GTT permit and special stipulations
- Permit for baseline data survey on forest, shrubs, and alpine. Conduct bird surveys in alpine.
- ETT training
- Commercial operators in violation of permit, no payment/no report by Dec 1.
- Archeology department – Friends – driving posts – approved to drive posts and install an outhouse
- Steps at Cottonwood anything over 30" requires a hand rail
- Staff is currently compiling a comprehensive list of Kachemak Bay state park regulations.
- HB 263 Transporters
- Tool loaner board program
- FAA map/chart updates request notifying pilots of restricted landing within K-bay
- Art in the Park
- Homer Parks and Rec donated one page in the summer activities guide to Park info.
- Permits to leave gear behind inside the park. Update/change/fix. And possible to charge a yearly rate.
- Kenai Peninsula Comprehensive Management Plan meeting for public review in Homer on February 21st, 2018.
- Chamber Talk regarding park's operations with water trail Robert Archibald.

Dimond Creek

- Cited wood poachers for cutting trees
- A few vehicles in the ditch sliding off the road.
- Closed the gate again.

Ranger Brad Garasky reported to the board the following

- Working on VIP hires
- Completed boating sign off
- Conducting crab pot monitoring in Tutka Bay, seized one pot.
- Cleaning up ground fires at Eveline
- Maintenance on the Sea Star cabin, such as the doors and windows.
- Hosting a one-hour Ranger talk at the Islands and Ocean Visitor center during the summer.
- Working on a monthly talk in Seldovia with the Seldovia tribe.

Jack Blackwell reported to the board the following:

- Jack reported that the Governor announced the State's budget for next year. State Park budget did not see any changes and will remain the same as last year's budget.
- In the Homer News January 8th, 2018 in the business section there is an article that the Governor is proposing 5-new public use cabins to be built in the State Park. The director has not determined where the cabins would go, but if approved in the Governor's budget they would be built in high use/high visible areas. These areas would provide the greatest return in revenue. If approved by the legislature the director will work with each area to help decide the best location for these cabins. Jack commented that Cottonwood Eastland may be a location.
- The Recreational Trail program has selected its projects for funding for the 2018 season. One project is to help with funding a cabin in Eshamy Bay area in Prince William Sound. There is also some Federal money that is going to help with a match for the cabin.
- When preparing for the presentation to the Homer Chamber, Jack wanted to look at the revenue for Kachemak Bay area. Each year is a little different because of weather or just a year of low visitor counts in the area. In the last year the state has generating approximately \$110,000. This is 60% from the public use cabins, 38% is from commercial operators and 2% is from other park use permits. This report shows that the public use cabins are the biggest revenue for State Parks.
- Roger MacCampbell commented before he retired that the 50th anniversary for Kachemak Bay is fast approaching. The park was created in 1970, Jack would like to possibly have a steering committee working with the friends and the board to highlight this event in the park. 50 years is a big deal for the area. This is the first State Park for the state. The board needs to start thinking about how we should celebrate this event.
- Robert Archibald ask about the Friends starting and Endowment fund for Kachemak Bay State Parks. Jack responded that the Director Ethan Tyler is looking at using the Alaska Community Foundation where each of the communities have one of these foundations. The Homer foundation is one and Ethan is looking at this local foundation to set up an endowment for the Kachemak Bay State Park.

- Jack stated that they are working with the Seldovia City Council to have a presentation on Kachemak Bay State Park on the June 13th, 2018 meeting.
- Nancy asked about selling Kachemak Bay State Park merchandise such as t-shirt, greeting card and hooded jackets. Jack commented that the Director and Operation Manager wanted to first pilot the program in Chugach State Park and it just has not done well. Jack need to follow up with Ethan and see if Kachemak Bay can give selling merchandise

B. Friend's Report- No Report

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business

- a. Naming the New Tutka Bay-Tutka Bay Trail – Jack Blackwell reported the process for naming trail is that the board comes up with three proposed names. Once the board has voted on the selected names, the selections are sent to the State Park Director for approval. Jack gave proposed names the board recommended to the current Director Ethan Tyler. Ethan has asked if the advisory board can revisit the recommendation, before the Director can make a final decision.
- b. Advisory Board Recruitment-Jack Blackwell reported that the board currently has applicants.
- c. Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan
- d. Adopt a Stream or Stream Watch. Jack commented that he has had discussion with the Watershed Forum to expand the area down to Homer. There is currently discussion to have them group work in Anchor River area.

9. Comments and Discussion by Visitors – Robert Archibald asked if Diamond Creek trail is on track for repairs. Jason commented yes. Carol asked what event help State Parks qualified for the FEMA funding. Jason stated it was the 2013 flooding that was caused by rain.

10. Comments and Discussion by Board Members – Aron Asked how much a cabin cost to build in the park. Jack stated approximately \$50,000 for the shell. It depends on who build them, such as a contractor versus park staff and volunteers.