

Kachemak Bay State Parks Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2018

1. Call to Order:

- a.** Roll Call: Board Members: Aron Peterson, Nancy Hilstrand (Chairman), Mako Haggerty, Glenn Green, Robert Ostrom, Beaver Nelson, Jeff Lee, Carol Harding, Stan Lefton, Sera Baxter, Jonathan Sharp, Robert Archibald, Robert Ostrom, Patrick Miller and Kevin Walker. State Park staff – Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly, Pam Russell and Eric Clarke.

State Park Guest: Matt Wedeking, Monica Alvarez and Andy Mack

- b.** Public Members: Janet Klein, Gary Fandrei, John Allardice, Robert Rob, Michael McBride, Doug Reid, Randy Wiest, Yarrow Hinnont, Malcolm Milne, Jesse Nelson and Dave Lyons

2. Minutes: Minutes were approved as amended

3. Agenda Changes/Approval:

4. Public Comment/Presentation:

5. Correspondence:

6. A. Committee Reports- Staff gave the following update:

a. Jason Okuly reported to the board the following:

- State Parks is currently in the processes of hiring a Park Ranger I for the Southern District.
- Jason Okuly attended the Fish and Game Advisory board meeting to answer any questions they may have regarding the Kachemak Bay State and Wilderness Park draft management plan.
- State Park staff is putting the final touches on the RTP grant for trail work in the park.
- Jason has been attending the Watershed stakeholders' meetings. They are currently working on a shoreline habitat assessment project that includes the state park.

b. Friend's Report- Mako Haggerty reported to the board the following:

- The Friends group has met several times since the release of the Kachemak Bay State and Wilderness Park draft management plan. This has been the focus of the groups.
- The group is currently not happy with the current draft plan and the timeline for public comments.

7. Old Business

a. Kachemak Bay Management Plan update

- Nancy Hilstrand commented that the revising of the Kachemak Bay draft plan has been in process for approximately six years and has gone through several resource planners. Nancy is not happy with the current timeline for the public comment process of this plan and stated that there have been no

work sessions with the board regarding the plan. There is a lot of work to be done on the plan and not enough time.

- Monica Alvarez gave a summary of the planning process. State Parks first started out with scoping meetings which many people did participate and several comments were received by many individuals and communities. There been several workshops and stakeholder meetings that have happened over the years. All the information that was gathered was put into the current draft plan that is now available for public comment. Monica recommended that everyone focus on chapters 5 which includes the area wide management guidelines which are done by land use zones, chapter 6 is unit specific plans and recommendations and appendix F the trail plan for the park, for they are the main areas of the plan or as some may say the meat and potatoes of the plan.
- Jack Blackwell added that the public comment period has been extended to November 16, 2018 and a public meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2018 at 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm at the Islands and Oceans Visitor Center. This is an opportunity for the public to ask questions and provide comments regarding the draft plan. Monica added that the Planning department will be giving a presentation about the plan to help folks understand how the plan is organized and to help facilitate comments. There will also be an opportunity to ask question of staff.
- Nancy asked who worked on the development of the plan? Monica responded that we have a planning team that consists of State Park staff and Fish and Game staff (Mark Fink) throughout this process.
- Robert Archibald made a motion that the Kachemak Advisory Board does not except the Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Park draft plan as written.
Mako Haggerty second the motion.

There was discussion by the board that included such things as:

- To include in the plan Article 8, Section 7 of the constitution.
- There are approximately 70 miles of trail now in the park and we cannot maintain them all.
Jack Blackwell commented that there are several recommendations for trails and facilities that are included in the draft plan. This is just a snap shot of what the park could look like 20 years from now and what could be accomplished. In the current management plan, not everything has been accomplished. These are just recommendations.
- The board would like to give comprehensive comments and there is not enough time.
- In the Kachemak Bay Advisory board bylaws under Special Provision states that the Division shall affirmatively and without special request consult with the Board concerning the Kachemak Bay State Park land use plan, regulations of uses, wildlife management and other considerations
- There has be very little dialog about the plan with the board regarding the plan.
- The plan contains several proposed new facilities and was wondering where the money would come from? Maybe there should be a user fee for such things as for power lines or the hatchery and the plan should include a financial section.
- The board is concerned that after comments are submitted the board will not be able to review the plan again. The board should have an opportunity to review the plan once the comments are submitted. The plan should be built with the community and there should be give and take.

- This is a very rough draft and to refine the draft the board would like the opportunity to have input after the comments are submitted. The uncertainty is that all the comments will be submitted and that there is no understanding as to which ones will be put in the plan.
- The board would like to have the opportunity to sit down with the people who put this plan together and work with them. A working group.
- The board recommended that all written concerns should be submitted to Monica the DNR planner to organize and have a work session with the board.
- How does the board get a re-write after the comments are submitted before the plan is finalized?

Commissioner Andy Mack commented that he understands that this is a very important issue in this room. We have obligations that are constitutional and or statutory and we like to get to some point of decision. We would like to get to a decision where we have a final document. This is not a static document, things are changing all the time. Andy said he will not commit in a meeting the future course of action for the plan. We are happy to meet with this group on an expedited and intense setting. DNR will consider what comments are being presented at this meeting, but DNR is trying to move this process forward.

- If comments are submitted and are not used in the plan, who is held accountable?
Commissioner Mack commented the agencies needs to make decisions. Across Alaska DNR has an incredible amount of issues and we try very hard to follow the law and follow the process and be fair to the public. Can we accommodate every request and every comment? No. We want to get to a point where we are being fair. We only have a certain amount of band width within the agency to meet every request.
- What is the rush to complete the plan?
The document has been around for a long time and it needs to be updated and DNR would like to accomplish this.
 - The board believes that those most effected by the plan do not have any ownership in updated the plan.
 - Who is looking at the comments? Planning staff and the planning team.
 - How to submit the comments? Submit comments the best way you would like. Individual and or groups can all submit comments that can include asking for additional sit down time with the planning team to go over some major issue in the plan.
 - There are many issues that are not address in the plan such as the waste issues.
 - The board comments should carry a little more weight as a group. It would be great if the board could have an action item at the next board meeting as to where they can vote on as a group on several recommendations and/or comments for the plan.
 - The board is volunteer and does not get paid for the time. It is not appropriate to explain the process to the board in one syllable or less. The board is group of intelligent people.

The motion on the floor by Robert Archibald is that the Kachemak Bay Citizens Advisory Board does not except the Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Park draft plan as written.

A vote was taken and 2 abstained and 11 in favor

Mako made a motion that there is another comment period after the comments that are received from this period are incorporated into the current draft plan and the board gets another draft and not the final version plan.

Jeffrey Lee second the motion

There was further decision by the board in favor of the motion.

A vote was taken and it was unanimous by the board.

8. New Business

9. Comments and Discussion by Visitors:

- Mike McBride stated that there should be more institutional knowledge included in the process and does not believe it has been.
- Dave Lyons said that the plan does not address the concerns of goats in the park and the use of helicopters. There should be no additional trails and that the extension of the Grewingk tail will encroach on sensitive bird areas.
- Janet Kline would like to see a more thorough list of wildlife included in the plan.
- Allen commented that the board and DNR need to work together by having a working group and a public meeting.
- Malcolm Milnes commenting that there had been ample scoping for the plan and a number of meetings had been held and that the Parks and DNR commissioners were here listening.
- Tom Young stated he would like to have no helicopter use in the park because of the negative impact of the wildlife. Give more comment period time.
- Doug Reid said he would like to have more scoping meetings and work sessions. He has concerns with wildlife impact.

10. Comments and Discussion by Board Members:

- Carol questioned how do we best get the word out about the plan.
- Robert would like to see the plan to be brought to the forefront. The Chamber of Commerce reported that there was a 7% increase of tourism in Homer.
- Mako would like to see funding for more park rangers in the park and that the parks are Alaska's greatest resource. Visitors come for the scenery. The legislature needs to fund more of the parks.
- Kevin said there is a long list of concerns and will be emailing back and forth to other board members.
- Nancy agrees that the park needs to be elevated. The park is a very important part of the state even just for wildlife watching. Nancy read parts of the special purpose site article 8, section 7 of the constitution.
- Glenn commented that this is a living document and it is hard to get everyone to agree as to what in the plan.
- Beaver would like to see the park stay as natural as possible. Some trail could be developed but leave the rest as game trails.

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting: November 14, 2018 at 5:30p.m.