

Kachemak Bay State Parks Board Meeting
Advisory Board Minutes
October 14, 2015
5:30 pm

1. **Members Present:** Steve Schultz, Willy Dunne, Beaver Nelson, Mako Haggerty, Carol Harding, Lindsay Wolter, Glenn Green, and Nancy Hillstrand

Staff Present: Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly and Pam Russell.

2. **Agenda Changes:** Lindsay Wolter added Kevin Walkers resolution to support mooring buoys in Kachemak Bay grant application. The agenda was approved as amended.
3. **Minutes Approval:** Beaver Nelson noted a change of wording under Roger MacCampbell public comments to state that should read “The first management plan states that a seine boat is part of the visitor’s experience”. The minutes were approved as amended.
4. **Introduction of Visitors:** Janet Klein, Jeff Lee, Toby Wheeler, Kevin Walker, Glenn Holloway
5. **Committee Reports:**

- a. Operations Report:

Eric Clarke provided board members with the following operations report:

- Have applied for to Recreation Trail Grant for upper end Moose Valley, the Saddle Trail and South Spur, known as Poot Peak.
- The work this summer went well on the Saddle trail, the corridor is cleared and the trail has been reflagged. Next year they hope to remove some of the stumps that are in the way and vegetative mat, to get down to bare soil. Eric will be looking for volunteers to help during this time, for a day or even a week at a time.
- So from the Grewingk Valley trail to the junction of the Lagoon trail of reducing the grade and widening the trail. This also includes getting rid of the switchbacks. Take out all the obstacles so that people with mobility issues can use the trail.
- Handicap VS Fat Tires.
- Eric will be providing a chain saw and trail volunteer workshop in the spring.

Chief Ranger Jason Okuly provided board members with the following operations report.

Some of the highlights of the report included:

- Dave Brann submitted a summary report for the Eveline State Recreation Site. The report included a summary. In 2015 there were 21 volunteers with 372 recorded hours. There were 1088 visitors that signed the trail register, from twelve countries, 34 states and 12 towns and cities in Alaska. Some of the events sponsors at the Recreation included the friends of Kachemak Bay State Park-First Hike, Kachemak Nordic Ski Club’s Epic, Kachemak Nordic Ski Clubs Wine and Cheese Tour, West Homer School Yard Habitat sod samples and McNeil Canyon School field trip.

- The China Poot cabin received some maintenance, including a new deck, new handrails, new walkway steps, clean up chimneys, and scrap off the algae buildup on the back deck and several other projects.
- The State Park staff received close quarter boat operation training course. Eric Clarke and Jason Oukly are now certified instructor's for this course. They will offer the course to other user groups upon request. Also provided some filming footage for the program.
- The outhouse has been moved at Sea Star Cabin.
- The out houses at the Ranger cabin in Halibut Cove have been pumped.
- State Park staff and a few board members visited the Tutka Bay Hatchery with Cook Inlet Aquaculture.

Area Superintendent Jack Blackwell provided board members with the following report:

- State Park staff is currently working with Islands and Ocean Visitor Center on a memorandum of agreement for office space.
- The 2016 budget has been finalized and there is a shortfall in personnel services. Current additional adjustments to correct this shortfall include two Park Specialists season was reduced by one month and the administration position is being reduced by two months. There is a possibility that some capital money can be used to put a band aid on this shortfall. This may include not reducing the Specialist position for this year but will be effective the next field season.
- State Parks will be hiring the Ranger I position in Kachemak Bay in spring of 2016.
- To help with supplementing staff time, State Park staff is including staff time when applying for the Recreational Trail grants. This could help in prolonging staff seasons.

b. Friends Report- Mako Haggerty provided board members with the following report:

- Friends met on October 5th, 2015 at the Cook Inlet Keeper Office. The meetings are held every first Monday of the month.
- Currently there is almost \$8000.00 in the Friends account. There has been a minor change for the purchase of some bear boxes that have been installed in the park.
- The Friends group will hold its annual membership meeting on October 29, 2015 at 6 pm at the Islands and Ocean visitor center. Janet Klein will be a key note speaker presenting the culturally modified trees. Eris Clarke the State Park Resource Specialist will give a presentation on the condition of the trails and what the Friends group can do to help.
- The Friends organization is going to play a more important role in the future for a volunteer base for the parks. A volunteer list will be put together based on abilities and skills. The currently proposal to State Parks is to have the volunteers sign up for the year, instead of every event or to have a permit issued as a special event and the Friends group would carry the insurance.
- There is a work party that will be planned to go out Chugachik Island in the future. Mako will notify board members and volunteers of the time and place.

6. Old Business:

a. Dark Sky: Nancy Hillstrand provided board members with the following report:

- In Order for Homer to get Dark Sky certified the community needs to show that the community is involved.

- In November Jeff Lee will be giving a Dark Sky presentation to the community of Seldovia. Jeff will talk about some new ordinances that need to be implemented such as low glare lighting, lower wattage light and possible no lights.
 - International Dark Sky organization has a list of ordinances that participants are required to adopt as part of the program.
 - Currently Nancy is working on getting community support for the Dark Sky in the city of Homer. The international Dark Sky organization has several ordinances that pertain to cities that would like to participate. The City of Homer would like a presentation.
 - The Arts community of Homer would like to incorporate the stars in the arts and education.
- b. Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association Permit Application- Jack Blackwell provided board members with the following report:
- Three board members, three State Park staff and two CIAA employees visited the Tutka Bay Lagoon Hatchery and Net pen location.
 - The initial CIAA net pen proposal was for three locations within Tutka Bay. The ideal spot is an area around the waterfall at the head of the Bay. It has the depth of water so the net pens would not hit the bottom and the freshwater availability.
 - Currently the commissioner's office for Department of Natural Resources is reviewing the request.
- c. New management Plan update: Nevenka Kitanovski, the new planner is currently out on maternity leave and will be back on a part time basis starting in November. The Kachemak Bay management plan is currently on hold.
- In July, Janet and Nancy met with Nevenka and Janet is currently working on the cultural write up for the management plan. A draft has been completed and will be sent to Jason Oukly for review before being sent to Nevenka.
- d. Vacating Diamond Creek ROW: Has been tabled.
- Jack Blackwell reported that the Bicycle Memorandum of Understanding is currently in the Directors office for approval.
- e. Composting toilets-Jeff Lee reported to the board that he has a prototype composting toilet that he would like to place at the Sea Star Cabin. He would request a permit for two years, in which State Parks and Jeffrey Lee would monitor how the system is working.
- f. Trail Maintenance- Eric Clarke Reported to the board how friends can help out with volunteers for next year's season. Some possible solutions are to have the volunteers sign up for the whole year. Another possibility would be to have some volunteer leaders that are part of the Friends group work with State Park staff in the 2016 season to get some on the ground training. These individuals would have the experience in 2017 with new volunteers to work on the trails with limited park staff supervision.
- g. Mooring Buoys-Kevin Walker submitted a resolution to the board to support the Homer Yacht Club's application to the Recreational Trails Grant program for mooring buoys in Kachemak Bay State Recreation Area.
- Mako Haggerty made the motion to support Kevin Walker application for the Homer Yacht Club to place mooring buoys in Kachemak Bay State Park with the changes that were purposed by Willy Dunne and Nancy Hillstrand. Willy Dunne seconds the motion.

- The board voted unanimously to support the Yacht Clubs application for the mooring buoys.
- Lindsay recommended that the Friends group and the Yacht club look at obtaining grant money from the Homer foundation. The Homer Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of the greater Homer area by promoting philanthropic and charitable activities.
- Jason reported that State Park staff cannot transport minors under the age of 18.

9. New Business

- a) Orientation Panels for K-Bay State Park-Jack Blackwell reported to the board that Emily Angel from Interpretation and Education Program ask the board for a letter of support to replace some the Information sign in the Homer Harbor area. The goal is to have one panel be our standard orientation panel with the map and highlights of what to do in the park and the second panel could be about the overnight accommodations in the form of campgrounds, cabins, and yurts for trail users.
- Mako Haggerty made the motion to support Emily Angel in replacing some of the information signs in the Homer Harbor Area. Nancy seconds the motion.
 - The board voted unanimously to support the replacement of the information signs in Homer Harbor.

10. Comments and Discussion by Visitors:

- Janet Klein stated that the trip to the Rock Wall and the ice field was cancelled because of early snow fall in the area. Janet also stated she has finished the list of place names and would like to have help on just drafting a list of names for each place. This would then be used on the maps for Kachemak Bay State Park area. So a map of the State Park will be provided to Janet without the place names and Janet will list all the names for each area. From there it will be determined which name fits the location.

11. Comments and Discussion by board members.

Glenn Green requested that the board acquires some sort of audio system. Glenn is unable to hear many people when they are speaking at the meetings.

Adjournment