

## Kachemak Bay State Parks Advisory Board

### Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2016

1. Call to Order: 5:35 pm
  - a. Roll Call: Board Members - Steve Schultz, Lindsay Wolter, Carol Harding, Beaver Nelson, Willy Dunn, Aron Peterson, Glenn Green, Nancy Hilstrand, Mako Haggerty; Staff – Jason Okuly, Jack Blackwell, Eric Clarke, Brad Garasky; Public – Janet Klein, Alan Parks
  - b. Minutes: Approved with corrections
  - c. Agenda Changes/Approval: Add letters of support for Recreation Trails Program grant applications.
  - d. Public Comment: None
2. Correspondence – None
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Operations: Staff gave the following update. A volunteer group recently stayed at the Halibut Cove Lagoon and cleaned the ranger station. Brad and Jason attended a search and rescue class sponsored by the troopers. Staff recently worked on the West Lagoon public use cabin. The old Halibut Cove Lagoon dock is used for kayak staging. Mako and Jason recently gave a presentation to the Rotary Club. Brad has been working on boating training. Today, staff was involved in a search and rescue for two adults and a 14 month infant lost near Poot Peak. The party was found and staff helped the group back to the ranger station. Jack commended Jason, Eric, and Brad for the excellent work.
  - b. Friends: Mako gave the following update. The Grace Ridge Brewery recently donated tips to the Friends during the month of September. Approximately \$1,700 was collected. The annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 3<sup>rd</sup> at Islands and Oceans Center in Homer.
4. Old Business
  - a. Dark Sky Proposal – nothing new
  - b. CIAA Permit Appeal – nothing new
  - c. Management Plan Update – Jack said that the team continues to work on the plan and hopes to have a draft later this winter.
  - d. Vacating Diamond Creek Right-of-Way – tabled
  - e. Composting Toilets – Mako asked how the composting toilet was stocked with saw dust. Eric said that Jeff Lee has agreed to stock the sawdust for the first year, and after that Parks would be looking for a source and that thicker chips are better. The board thought that Gibson’s planner might be a good source.
5. New Business
  - a. Officer Election – Lindsay was elected Chair and Steve Vice-chair (Carol/Willie, passed by the board unanimously).
  - b. Composting Toilets for Commercial Operators – Mako suggested making this a requirement for the yurt operator to provide. The board discussed the benefits of doing so and Jack said this could possibly be included the next time the permit is issued, which is in another year.
  - c. Art/Benches in the Park – The board discussed the possibility of placing memorial art/benches in the park. Jack gave an overview of the Parks policy on memorials and said it is possible to place a memorial in the park, but it should fit a park need (like a bench, bridge, or landscaping), and it would also need to be supported by both Parks staff and the board. The board agreed to recommend locations and work with staff on a process

- for reviewing applicants (Mako/Nancy, passed unanimously). Applications are available for people to submit for consideration.
- d. Diamond Creek Trail Project – Jason said the Homer Cycle Club has been awarded a grant to work with the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Program to develop a cycle plan for the community.
  - e. Revision of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area Plan – The Department of Fish and Game has started the revision of the Kachemak Bay Critical Habitat Area Plan. Jack said that Parks is working with ADFG on the management plan revision and Jason is the primary point of contact with Parks. Nancy recommended the plan emphasize the importance of habitat and relation to fish and wildlife. The board agreed that Nancy would begin drafting comments for the board to consider.
  - f. Advisory Board Recruitment – Terms on the board expire in January 2017 and there are five positions that will need to be filled this year. Parks will prepare public service announcements about the upcoming vacancies and begin recruitment in November.
  - g. Naming the Tutka – Taylor Trail – When Ground Truth Trekking began discussing this proposed trail it was referred to as the Sea to Sea trail. Since then, there have been other names such as the Tutka Backdoor and the Tutka-Taylor trail. The board discussed if there were cultural or historic names that should be adopted. Janet mentioned the official process USGS follows for place names. Jason suggested soliciting input from the Seldovia community. Lindsay said she would check with Seldovia Native Association. Jack will provide the board with the process that Parks follows for naming facilities at the next meeting.
  - h. Janet Klein Report on Rock Wall Cultural Site- Janet provided the board with a report on a recent visit to Kachemak Bay State Park to look for a rock wall that was likely used for hunting purposes and survey the surrounding area for cultural remains, but none were found. On Sept. 1 Janet, Jason, and two others chartered a helicopter to access a site likely used for as a base camp for hunting on the nearby plateau. The area is behind the Goat Rope trail between 3,100 – 3,800' elevation. This is the site Kenton Bloom found two years ago and is one of five locations identified on the Kenai Peninsula. The Alaska Heritage Resource Survey number is SEL378.
  - i. Letter of Support for Saddle Trail Project – The board agreed to write a letter supporting the Recreation Trails Program application Parks will submit for the Saddle Trail reroute (Mako/Carol, passed unanimously).
  - j. Letter of Support for Ground Truth Trekking Tutka – Taylor Trail Project - The board agreed to write a letter supporting the Recreation Trails Program application GTT will submit for the Tutka-Taylor trail project (Mako/Beaver, passed unanimously).
6. Comments and Discussion by Visitors – Janet mentioned there were cultural sites at the Cottonwood parcel and to consider this when locating the latrine site. Alan supported the Diamond Creek bike trail.
  7. Comments and Discussion by Board Members - The board asked about the process for prioritizing Recreation Trails Program grants for Kachemak Bay State Park. Jack said that staff is finishing up the application for the third phase of the Saddle Trail Reroute project which are due the end of October and if awarded, would fund work during the 2017 season. Lindsay asked if there was an opportunity to review or discuss future projects and Eric said that it would be best to discuss this before next summer at the April or May meeting. Mako mentioned the Sierra Club volunteers that worked in the park this summer also contributed financial donations to the Friends.
  8. Adjournment: 7:40 pm