

**Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board
MINUTES**

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 5:30-7:00pm
AVTEC Culinary Arts Academy Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order: 17:35
- B. Minutes taker: Mark Luttrell
- C. Roll Call: Nathaniel Charbonneau, Carol Griswold, Mark Luttrell, Nick Jordan, Paul Paquette, Cliff Reid, Tess Tulley
- D. Board members absent: Cliff Reid
- E. State Park Staff: District Ranger Jack Ransom
- F. Public Present: None
- G. Minutes Approval for May 14th, 2019 unanimous
- H. Agenda Changes and Approval: Moved field trip subject from new business to old business (Griswold). Approved.

II. Public Comments: None

II. Board Contact and Correspondence: None

III. Reports:

A. Staff Report and Discussion

- Ransom distributed hard copies of 1995 Management Plan for State Marine Parks: Prince William Sound and Resurrection Bay to Board members for review.
- A good summer.
- Ransom reported that Blackwell hasn't been able to come to Soldotna to help retrieve a WWII era M1 rifle that belongs to the estate of Jack Turnbull, (former GI stationed in Resurrection Bay). Luttrell mentioned that the rifle belongs to the donor (Jack Turnbull's son Craig). [BTW, Turnbull donated a very large collection of WWII documents, archives, and objects to the Resurrection Bay Historical Society - Luttrell. Also the rifle is not from Resurrection Bay. These comments were not mentioned in the meeting]. Board requested Mark write an account of these historic items. Meg Anderson, interpretive Parks staff, came to Seward to find photos for a WWII interpretive panel at Caines Head. Could be available in October. Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area supported the interpretive effort. Ransom will follow up on annual grant application for more interpretive signs.
- There are three Park ranger openings in Alaska: Kodiak, Homer and Chugach.
- Homeland Security gave State Parks \$30,000 to relocate and repair Callisto cabin including deck and subfloor rehab, replace wet insulation, move latrine. Parks intends to subcontract the effort.

- Sierra Club volunteers and Rebekah Dameron (sp?) and Cliff Sisson worked on Overland Trail, started a bridge between the ranger station and the north end of North Beach, hauled gravel. Cliff hung his orca carving at the ranger station. Mike Burmeister and ACC Kathleen Brooks rehabbed south end of North Beach, repaired picnic table, some drainage rehab and a footbridge. Intern Henry McDevit worked with Kathleen for two months on Tonsina Point rehab tent camp area, new picnic tables, seats and benches for four sites, rebordered trail, improved drainage, hauled gravel, new fire rings, painting. Some cleanup around the Tonsina Point shelter. Lots of tent campers this year. Cleared Tonsina Trail, new bear safety interp signs (from Defenders of Wildlife) at Lowell point trailhead and at end of Tonsina Trail. Need a new sign for Tonsina Trail at lower parking lot.
- Trained new guy in July and August.
- Mike and Kathleen encountered sinking vessel near harbor entrance. Captain of vessel hypothermic and bewildered. Mike and Kathleen pulled him from the water. A good deed.
- Ransom will pump sea water into latrines as an experiment to try to increase decomposition.
- Received bear resistant trash cans from Defenders of Wildlife. Not currently installed at upper and lower parking lots. Need 30-gallon square liners. There is the concern that residential garbage may be dumped in.
- Mike and Ransom went to Whittier, fixed a boardwalk and met hatchery staff at Esther Island.
- Concert at North Beach cancelled due to a number of concerns including likely resource damage and high tide. The original permit was issued without Ransom's input. Blackwater Railroad was cooperative and withdrew application after negative publicity.
- Board field trip to Caines Head may still happen this fall.
- Campground host Eric will depart October 31. Eric reported one vehicle break-in and a damaged trail counter camera.
- Visitor approached Ransom about confusing mileage in the 2019 Chamber of Commerce Destination Guide. Griswold objected to text advising visitors to flip over intertidal rocks at the Lowell Point beach. Jack will talk to Chamber about a map and beach etiquette.
- Griswold noted there was a rare fur seal at Lowell Point beach this summer.
- Paquette reported fee compliance in the lower parking lot.
- Ransom mentioned that the state might be interested in buying a private cabin on north side of Thumb Cove, maybe using EVOS money. Luttrell

expressed concern about too many cabins, both public and private, in the bay. Ransom said others share the concern.

- Eshamy cabin in PWS lost its funding so not repair or replacement.

B. Committee Reports (each board member should serve on at least one committee, preferably two; the public is welcome to serve on a committee.

1. Resource Impact Mitigation (Mark and Paul)

- No report. Discussion of ending the committee.
- 2. Local issues: (Nick and Paul)
- Discussion of tide pool sign near the poem or at trail head. Needs new 6x6.
- Discussion of sign locations.
- Discussion of location of trash cans at upper lot.
- Jordan reported that the Lowell Point road may be improved using FLAC (Federal Land Access) money.
- Tulley inquired about this summer's bus traffic on Lowell Point road.

3. Website and Interpretation (Carol)

- Ransom reported website changes have been made. Griswold noted the plexiglass has protected the kiosk signs well. She will investigate patches to correct misinformation on otherwise good sign at upper lot.
- May need to better explain to visitors about the location of the Tonsina trailhead. Google maps is incorrect.

V. Old Business:

1. Public input for tent platform at Day Harbor (Cliff) (from May meeting) This was already discussed; no tent platforms needed.

2. Online meeting recordings (from May meeting). We are the only board that doesn't record meetings. Board agreed that if needed, we would record our meetings and make them public.

VI. New Business:

1. Board field trip to North Beach and Fort McGilvray. Already discussed.

2. Discuss possible time change for 2-hour meeting from 5:30 to 7:30 (Carol).

Griswold mentioned that it is better to schedule a two hour block and adjourn early than have 1.5 hour meeting and extend.

3. Discussion of proposed day of week change for upcoming meetings.

Unanimous support for changing meeting days to Wednesday to accommodate board member Reid's work schedule. Blackwell can make it on the third Wednesday of the month.

4. NEW recreational mining in Tonsina watershed.

- Tent on beach and 8-wheel vehicle gone as of a month ago. Miners were camped below mean high water.

- The miners are crossing Parks and DNR ILMA onto DNR property to the west where they actually use their equipment.
- Ransom intended to get to Goresen abandoned mining camp this summer to clean up.
- New miners complained about Goresen trash.
- Discussion about the stipulations within a five year permit.
- Charbonneau explained that miners can't restrict access, but public can't mess with the miner's equipment.
- Recreational experience is degraded by miner's trash.
- Ransom said that the trail through vegetation is legal.
- Ransom said that he can't do much as a ranger, it's a legitimate claim approved by the state.
- Luttrell suggested we should photo document conditions.
- Discussion of the lack of communication between DNR DMLW and Parks regarding issuance of mining permit.
- Despite Board's stated goal to get the abandoned mine cleanup, DMLW issued this new permit without Ransom's knowledge. On August 16, Griswold (as member of Board) sent a letter to DNR Hollie Chalup with concerns about the mine. No response yet. Ransom suggested sending the letter to DNR Cliff Larsen. Luttrell moved, Griswold seconded motion to revise Griswold's letter and send it after review at October 16 meeting. Board voted to instruct Chairman Jordan to send the letter.
- Luttrell wondered if it was legal to take miner's trash. Not a good idea since the definition of trash is subjective.
- Ransom said it's easy to take an ATV to Goresen abandoned camp. Last year, before the new miners (Luck/Woodside), there were large propane tanks suggesting another party using the area.

VII. Public Comments: Jordan mentioned that he will be trimming alders to his property near the Tonsina Trail right of way.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Board Comments: Luttrell wondered what the board's reaction was to Blackwell's comment about possibly blasting the pinch points on the Coastal Trail. Ransom said it was a low priority and probably won't happen.
- B. Date/Location of next meeting: AVTEC on Wednesday, October 16th, 2019 from 5:30-7:30 pm.
- C. Motion to Adjourn: Griswold moved, Charbonneau seconded, unanimous at 19:13.