

## Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

### Minutes

Wednesday, February 19th, 2020 5:30-7:00pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Academy Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

#### I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order: by Chair Jordan
- B. Minutes taker: Carol Griswold and Tess Tully
- C. Roll Call: Carol Griswold, Nick Jordan, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Tess Tulley,
- D. Board members absent: Cliff Reid, excused
- E. State Park Staff: District Ranger Jack Ransom
- F. Public Present: Bob Barnwell
- G. Minutes Approval for January 15<sup>th</sup>: this was a work session due to lack of quorum
- H. Agenda Changes and Approval: Add New Business, 4. Rotate minutes-taker and 5 Approval of amended By-laws: Carol moved, Mark seconded, unanimous.  
Amended Agenda approved: Carol moved, Tess second, unanimous

II. **Public Comments:** Bob Barnwell is interested in joining Board, wanted to check us out.

#### II. Board Contact and Correspondence:

- a. Tonsina Creek Mining correspondence with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. (Cliff) See below.

#### III. Reports:

- A. Staff Report and Report/Update from Jack Ransom:

Tonsina mining issue: ADFG Brian Blossom reported the current gold miners do not have a permit to cross catalogued anadromous Tonsina Creek by Argo ATV. This year the salmon swam all the way to the head of the creek; fish eggs and fry are likely present even where stream appears dry.

Tess reported she skied along South Fork to the mine site on January 25. She found gas cans and noted their tarped and bungied gear remained by the waterfall, also a large tree had been cut. Cliff was there earlier on January 15 and saw no tracks. He suspects that they are still bringing in supplies. The fuel and oil containers will be bear bait in the spring.

Board concurred that State Parks has a stake in this as the miners use and cross state park property to access mining sites; their trash, poorly managed supplies and equipment, unpermitted stream crossings, and potential pollution of Tonsina South Fork adversely affect the habitat and Park. State Parks was heavily involved with removal of abandoned mining equipment and trash from previous mining operation, and manages the 200-yard corridor along beach.

Bob Barnwell noted the disparity of the economic impact of the thousands of visitors vs 1 miner. Gold mining is a huge conflict with visitors; might there be leverage with politicians to shut down mining in the Tonsina watershed? The Board offered to draft a letter of support/concern if recommended.

Mark asked about administration requesting an ILMA for the Tonsina watershed which would add a 644-acre corridor. Jack Blackwell said previously that DNR doesn't like to stack ILMAs but it does happen. He and Interagency Land Manager Cliff Larson support

this idea. State Parks Director Ricky Gease would make that decision. Benefits would include additional recreational opportunities such as hiking/ski trails; possible connection to the Harding Ice Field which opens up recreational access to adjacent Kenai Fjords National Park; local oversight with consistent management by State Park rules and regulations; reduced State Park and volunteer effort on constant major cleanups; reduced enforcement and monitoring efforts; increased habitat protection; meet visitor expectations.

**Jack Ransom will ask Jack Blackwell to contact Ricky Gease about the ILMA.** The Board expressed keen interest in this process.

Michael Burmeister earned a letter of commendation and a plaque for his quick thinking that saved a person from drowning this summer. This will be presented by Ricky at the Mermaid Festival.

Lowell Point Community Council met on February 12 to discuss parking issues. The new KPB Roads director attended telephonically. Suggestion to move existing boulders back, trim alders, and widen easement for permit parking. KPB won't move rocks, CIP no funds. Someone else could do it with a permit. Suggestion to change language on signs to "Fire Lane, No Parking" which would be more enforceable by the Borough and add more signs. At present, no enforcement from KPB; it is a State Trooper issue. Seward Magistrate Peck supports the state issuing parking citations as a Class B misdemeanor, blocking EMS vehicles. Tow trucks could be called if EMS vehicles blocked. Parking language is ambiguous, could be interpreted as having to go to Soldotna to retrieve towed vehicles. Board discussion: Carol suggested using a "boot" to lock vehicle wheels instead of towing. Paul recommended trimming alders back to make a hedge. Jack noted an additional parking lane could be created there. Paul asked about installing an iron ranger by beach to collect parking fees with an agreement with KPB.

Jack reported that the brand new \$2000 Tonsina PUC stove was destroyed on January 15 night or January 16 morning by cabin poachers. Theft of services is a misdemeanor.

A letter from the Board may be requested to support the nomination of Fort McGilvray to the National Historic Register. A resurvey by a state archaeologist would be helpful to go with Michael Burmeister's narrative. NPS archaeologist Patrick Lewis advised there was no way it would be done in time; something about #1 resurvey, hire a third party to get it done professionally, contracted out.

In response to a question by Paul, funding was received through Homeland Security to relocate the Callisto Cabin and trailhead area starting this summer. **Jack will bring the schematic or email it to Board.**

#### B. Committee Reports

1. Tonsina Mining Issue (Cliff): See above
2. Local issues: (Nick, Paul) Jack: There is no money to hire Metco to plow lower LPSRS parking lot which is inaccessible now. Paul will ask if the Community Council would pay to do it.
3. Website and Interpretation (Carol) See New Business item
4. Anniversary 50th at Mermaid Festival (Tess) Jack: coordinating with Office of Boating Safety which will provide two assistants, life

jackets and games, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary; Jack will bring boat, hot dogs, stickers, and banner etc. Present Michael's plaque.

- a. Seward Music & Arts Festival theme collaboration (Nick): the SMAF Board meets on 2/20/2020 to decide.

**V. Old Business:**

1. RBCA potential support group for Friends of Seward Area State Parks (Mark)  
Jack talked to President Tim Johnson. What happened? Carol will ask the Seward Community Foundation and ask if State Parks could apply for a Wellness grant. She noted Friends is a hard group to get going and manage due to the small number of community volunteers. Paul asked about green envelopes for additional iron ranger donations, but without a Friend's group, donations would go into the general fund. Carol expressed support for a state-wide Friends of State Parks with each unit covered under the main 501 C-3, but the current director does not support this concept.

**VI. New Business:**

1. Elect a new chair for 2020: Nick agreed to serve until the end of May, 2020.
2. DNR Website recommendations: Unanimous.
3. Discuss 2019-2020 Goals Add archiving PUC: postponed to next meeting; perhaps this could be done by e-mail.
4. Rotate minutes-taker: Carol move, Mark second, unanimous
5. Approval of amended By-laws: Nick will send out reminder to get these approved by email and then send to Jack Ransom.

**VII. Public Comments:** no comments

**VIII. Adjournment**

- A. Board Comments: none
- B. Date/Location of next meeting: AVTEC on Wednesday March 18th, 2020 at 5:30 pm.
- C. Motion to Adjourn: 7:40 pm Paul moved, Carol seconded, unanimous