

Seward State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

Minutes

October 13, 2015 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Building Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order by Vice-Chair Eavis.
- B. Roll Call: John Eavis, Carol Griswold, Paul Paquette, Terry Rude, Herb Wottlin
Board members absent: Mark Dalpes, Mark Luttrell, Benjamin Pister, Dan Walker
State Park Staff present: Jack Ransom, Andy Bacon
Public members present: none
- C. Minutes Approval: none due to lack of quorum in September
- D. Agenda Changes and Approval: recommend reordering E to B in template
- E. Minutes-taker: Carol (already served: Carol, Mark D, Mark L, Paul, Herb)

II. Public Comments/Presentations: none

III. Reports:

A. State Park Staff Report: Jack shared recent district budget document, more cuts in the future. He and Andy are stretched pretty thin, covering Prince William Sound, Seward area, and Cook Inlet State Park. Andy's 10-month position has shifted to end November 15, and start later on March 15, leaving Jack working alone. They received boat instructor training and certification funded by the federal Office of Boating Safety. Office space is urgently needed as current location will be closed in early spring. Andy is working on a Recreational Trails grant for improvements to the CHSRA Tonsina Trail. Due to lack of funding for plowing, the upper parking lot at Tonsina will be gated when the road is dangerous.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Lands and Property (Carol, Mark L, John): refocus on ILMA for addition of Tonsina Point to conform to historic use, public perception of park, and better management.
2. Education and Interpretation: (Carol, Terry, Dan) Publicity including monthly submissions to Eagle Watch assigned to this committee. Brochure final draft will not be available for Board review. Project is out of funding. Changes may be submitted for web. Tonsina sign installed at LPSRS lower parking lot has been very helpful to visitors.
3. Public Use Cabins (Mark D, Paul, Terry, Herb): expansion of Tonsina boundaries beyond 200' easement would allow more options for new PUC. Plan to meet to discuss proposed sites and designs.
4. Legislative (John, Benjamin): **Carol moved, Terry seconded, unanimous for Committee to write a letter to State Parks to get on a priority list for review and update CHSRA Management Plan.** Board can make suggestions to update plan on-line. CHSRA would benefit from being on Historic Register.

IV. Old Business

1. Poetry in the Parks update: successful event at both installations. LPSRA poem may benefit from a kiosk bulletin explanation of the program and context of poem.

2. Letter to director re: requesting review and revision of CHSRA Management Plan: Board will review plan and Tom Kain's updates, and submit to State Parks.
3. Letter to Director re: transfer of DOT land to ASP for shop, office, and storage: **Jack will draft a letter to DOT in support of State Parks' use of vacant DOT land for Board approval next meeting.**
4. Response from ASP director re: April 18, 2015 letter, Bear Glacier and Thumb Cove land transfer: no response, but no land has been transferred to the Borough.
5. Letter or email to Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly in support of funding the E911 system for State Parks: Carol reported the email was sent and the Assembly supported the funding.

V. New Business

1. Selection of new Chair and Vice-Chair: **Carol moved, Terry seconded, unanimous for Paul Paquette as Chair. Carol moved, Paul seconded, unanimous for John Eavis as Vice-Chair, both to serve through May 2016.**
2. By-laws and Goals review and update: postponed to November meeting. Consider by-laws amendment allowing up to 2 alternates to serve to meet quorum.
3. Board member vacancies: Pat O'Leary resigned. Jack R will share a media release summarizing the Board's purpose, then advertise through the local media for 3 board members for a total of 11, and 2 possible alternates. Mark D, away for the winter, will serve until position is filled, and is encouraged to reapply in the future.
4. Establish new committee for publicity such as Eagle Watch and local media: assigned to Education and Interpretation Committee
5. Consideration of elimination of May and September meetings: **Carol moved, Paul seconded, unanimous to keep these meetings, especially if alternates are available.**
6. Trail Grant proposal: Paul will work with Andy to draft letter for approval by next board meeting. **Terry moved, Herb seconded, unanimous support of Trail Grant.**
7. Letter to State Parks: John and Jack will draft a letter re: increasing Park Specialist position from 8 to 12 months
8. Trail concerns: degradation by shortcuts. Physical barriers the best solution, including brush, and planting Devil's Club seeds pre-processed through a bear.

VI. Correspondence: none

VII. Public Comments: none

VIII. Adjournment

A. Board Comments:

Herb: wants to focus on trail grant and full time tech position

Carol: review and revise goals, take action

Terry: will bring back ideas from Costa Rica trip

Paul: prefers to stick to two goals; be sure to consider the public when doing anything with Tonsina such as the new upper parking lot gate and closure

B. Date/Location of Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10th, 5 to 7, AVTEC

C. Motion to Adjourn: **Terry moved, Paul seconded, unanimous.**

Meeting adjourned by Vice-Chair Eavis at 7:13 pm.