

Seward State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

Minutes

October 11, 2016 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Building Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order at 5:13 pm by Chair Paquette
- B. Minutes-taker: Carol
- C. Roll Call: Carol Griswold, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Dan Walker
Board members absent: none
State Park Staff present: District Ranger Jack Ransom, Park Specialist
Andy Bacon
Public members present: David Leech
- D. Minutes Approval: May 2016 minutes previously approved electronically
- E. Agenda Changes and Approval: unanimous approval of amended agenda

II. Public Comments/Presentations: none

III. Reports:

A. State Park Staff Report:

Andy presented a PowerPoint highlighting the summer projects. The exterior renovations to the Lowell Point SRS bunkhouse were completed through a successful partnership with AVTEC's Construction Technology class. Board member Paul volunteered his expertise with the front cedar shingle work and added a salmon shingle design over the door. Andy addressed safety concerns with the Derby Cove Public Use Cabin stairs by building new stairs and added a short boardwalk to connect with the trail. The federal Recreational Trails Program grant was successfully completed by 3 Alaska Conservation Corps trail crew members supervised by Andy with boardwalks and ditches along the Tonsina Trail switchbacks, a new North Fork bridge access, boardwalks along the trail at Tonsina Point, and improvements at the campground picnic shelter. The Seward Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts hauled gravel from the beach to improve that site, relocated the fire ring, built log benches, and provided split firewood.

Directional signs for LPSRS have been ordered.

Six heavy bear-proof lockers obtained with a RBCA (Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance) grant have arrived but manpower is needed to place them.

Jack and Andy detailed two new exciting RTP grant proposals: Caines Head SRA Trail Improvements including the Overland Trail, Fort Trail, Rainforest Trail, Alpine Trail, and Derby Cove PUC trail; and a new Tonsina Point Public Use Cabin.

Board member recruitment was discussed to fill vacancies. Members whose terms expire on January 1, 2017, (Carol Paul, Dan) will need to reapply soon. Jack will send paperwork. Jack will also email revised By-laws.

State Parks can now sell merchandise to raise money. Local options were discussed.

B. Committee Reports: none

IV. Old Business

1. Tonsina abandoned mine cleanup update: DMLW staff did a near-site visit on 9-20-16, as close as the high water allowed, and are working with Jack R to follow protocols to proceed with the removal. Options were discussed including: burn remaining fuel and burnables on site, presort materials, and preload super sacks to make helicopter transport to airport and final disposal more efficient and cost-effective. Potential sources of super sacks were suggested and need to be pursued.

2. Parking issues at Lowell Point: Illegal parking and associated trash continued to be a problem this summer. Options were discussed including: add language to annual permit for commercial users that requires legal parking; continue to request borough enforcement; expand lower parking lot by removing large boulders; move curbs closer together; provide overflow, off-site parking at Lowell Point; provide signage to indicate compact car parking, prohibit motorhomes over 20', and prohibit trailer parking. It was noted that off-site paid parking should provide a latrine. Paul volunteered to discuss off-site parking options with the Lowell Point Council. Jack will research permit language.

V. New Business

1. Letters of support for the Recreational Trail Grants for the Caines Head SRA Trail Improvements, and for the Tonsina Point PUC: **Dan moved and Mark seconded, unanimous.** Dan will draft the letters and share them via email, Chair Paul will sign final versions. Andy will post proposal information with an opportunity to comment on the Facebook Seward Daily Trail Report site.

2. Name of new Public Use Cabin: **Carol moved, Paul seconded that the name be "Tonsina Cabin." Unanimous.**

3. Letter of support for video tutorials for Tonsina and Caines Head Trails: this will be handled by Anchorage staff

4. Topics for November's meeting: review of By-laws and Goals, committee member assignments, election of Chair, appointment of new board members.

VI. Correspondence: none

VII. Public Comment:

David Leech, Lowell Point resident, said that kayakers really should find another place to park, and suggested that there were several options at Lowell Point that provide good places to launch and park. This would take a lot of pressure off the roads and parking lots.

VIII. Adjournment

A. Board Comments: Dan said the parking issues at Lowell Point are one of the most important things for the Board to concentrate on this year.

B. Date/Location of Next Meeting: November 8, 2016, AVEC Culinary Arts

C. Motion to Adjourn: **Mark moved and Paul seconded, unanimous, 7:04 pm.**