

# Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

## Minutes

September 21, 2022 5:30-7:30 pm

AVTEC Culinary Academy, 809 Second Ave, east entrance, third floor

### I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order: 5:30 pm by Chair Griswold
- B. Minutes taker: Carol Griswold
- C. Roll Call: Bob Barnwell, Carol Griswold, Nick Jordan, Mark Luttrell, Tess Tulley, Mica Van Buskirk
- D. Board members absent: Paul Paquette, Cliff Reid, Kat Sorensen
- E. State Park Staff: District Ranger Jack Ransom
- F. Public Present: none
- G. Minutes Approval for May 18, 2022: unanimous
- H. Agenda Changes and Approval: Mica requested removal of VII. 3. Eagle Scout update. Mica moved for approval, Bob second, unanimous.

### II. Public Comments: none

**III. Board Contact and Correspondence:** Mica reported another person fell on the Tonsina Trail switchback, a steep, narrow, slippery section. Jack is aware and will pursue solutions. Bob reported the boat launch was busy this summer and the rock barrier relocation made room for more launches. Annual lifting of the rocks is important for maintenance. Removal of small cottonwood and alders at that corner would make more room for staging. Jack will look into it. Tess noted Lowell Point Beach is now a wedding destination with big impacts resulting in 100s of people concentrated there, filling latrines and trash cans, trampling, impacting parking, and interfering with others' use of park. Jack agreed, noting most do not have permits and that many people would be discouraged. Mica suggested Jack contacting Miller's Landing as they advertise weddings at Lowell Point. New dog poop stations are appreciated, but some people bag poop and leave it on the trail. Perhaps dog bag station could be relocated closer to the trash can at the beach, and a trash can provided at the hiking sign near the upper parking lot.

**IV. Executive Session:** The Board unanimously voted to extend the term of incumbent Tess Tulley and recommended her reappointment by the Director. The Board voted unanimously to recommend appointment of new applicant Tom Miller to the Director.

### V. Reports:

- A. Staff Report by Jack Ransom:
  - Trail crews worked hard on maintenance and trail work, focusing on South Beach Trail and Overland Trail. Sierra Club volunteers returned and did a great job.
  - Mike B is working on another RTP grant to improve Alpine Trail and north part of Rainforest Trail; the public notice is open for comments.
  - Latrines pumped for \$3,000.
  - New interpretive signs at Tonsina Beach were vandalized and replacement signs are needed. More vandalism this summer was noted at Exit Glacier and Box Canyon.

## B. Committee Reports

1. Local issues (except parking) (Nick): The May landslide was the biggest issue, but after Lowell Point Road reopened, Lowell Point was really busy. The Lowell Point Community Council, Seward, the Borough, and geologists have noted that this is not the end of the concern with further landslides and local tsunamis as there is a major fissure above 1/3 the length of the road. A permanent dock may be constructed at Lowell Point to help with future needs.
2. Parking Access: Carol moved, Mica seconded to nominate Lowell Point Parking Access long-term goals as one of the top goals for 2022-2023. Unanimous.
3. Mining (Cliff, Bob): Mineral Closure Option: Carol moved, Mark seconded to nominate a Mineral Closure Option for the Tonsina Watershed as one of the top goals for 2022-2023. Unanimous.
4. Legislative Committee (Bob, Mica): budget items nominated for a top goal. Board discussed short-term and long-term goals.

## VI. New Business:

1. SCORP recommendations: by email, Jack Blackwell recommended budget items noted in May 20, 2022 letter to Director Gease. <https://www.alaskascorp.org/>

## VII. Old Business: Postponed from May 18 and September 21 meeting to October 19 meeting.

1. Explore creation of Friends of Seward Area State Parks / Friends of Seward Area Trails (Bob, Tess)
2. Tidepool and collecting permit clarification (Carol): see May minutes
3. Clarification on permits for collecting animals and seaweed (Carol, Jack R)
4. Blackwell: provide plat or as-built showing LPSRS parking lot footprints (Carol)

## VIII. Informational Items: Nick posted laminated tide charts for July-September at kiosks.

## IX. Public Comments: none

## X. Adjournment

A. Board Comments: Bob appreciated meeting in person and concurred with Mica and Board in support of remote option to include remote Board members, park staff, and public. Carol appreciated the notice on the entrance door, lights on, and tables ready, thanks to AVTEC staff.

B. Date/Location of next meeting: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 5:30 pm here.

C. Mica moved for adjournment, Mark, seconded, unanimous at 7:40 pm.

Possible SCORP and budget items:

Draft Budget Request: (no particular order): \*also in Lowell Point parking issue solutions

Relocate Tonsina PUC away from erosional slope

Replace LPSRS latrines

In-town secure storage for equipment, boat: 0.51 acres at 707 Fifth Ave/DNR?

\*Fund plowing and sanding of LPSRS lower parking lot

\*Expand LPSRS upper and lower parking

\*Carrying Capacity Study for Lowell Point SRS and Caines Head SRA

\*Bury electric lines along Pinnacle, fill and level for parking within park,  
construct pedestrian walkway off road within park boundaries

Update Management Plan for Resurrection Bay and Marine State Park units

Draft Lowell Point Parking Issue Solutions: (no particular order) \*also in budget request

Short-term:

\*Fund winter plowing and maintenance of both parking lots

Move boulders on beach west 15-20' to expand boat launch into park

Remove trees and shrubs on KPB ROW by boat launch to expand access

Post "Day Use Only, No Camping" signs at lower parking lot to retain parking for  
turnover

Create and sign "Permit-holder Parking" and "Long-term Parking" areas in upper  
parking lot or at LP Community Center (fee area) in designated spaces

Compress parking curbs and angle-stripe parking lots to increase number of  
spaces

Install physical barriers (jersey barriers) at corner or along Pinnacle between  
lower parking lot entrance and boat launch (road diet)

Request borough enforcement of parking along Pinnacle View Road

Assess whether additional signs are needed (No Parking/Fire Lane/Tow-away  
Zone) along Pinnacle View Road

Long-term:

\*Expand/widen lower parking lot by filling in part of the wetlands

Evaluate less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> acre and more than 1/10<sup>th</sup> acre

\*Expand upper parking lot

Realign Pinnacle View Road in ROW

\*Bury electric lines along Pinnacle, fill and level for parking within park,  
construct pedestrian walkway off road within park boundaries

Provide/require off-site parking for cruise ship buses and other visitors

Promote shuttle service from town

Use an on-line parking space reservation system

\*Carrying Capacity Study for Lowell Point SRS and Caines Head SRA

\*Update Management Plan for Resurrection Bay and Marine State Park units

Notes: Keep this running list in mind for our draft Priority and Goals and budget request list:

In-town secure storage for equipment, boat.

Emergency shelter and storage at upper Tonsina parking lot.

KPB Emergency Director Brenda Ahlberg FEMA \$

Purchase of front-end loader to assist with evacuation and plowing

Purchase of skid steer to maintain boulder barrier at LPSRS

## Mooring buoys for Thumb Cove and North Beach

### 2021 2-24 CHSRA deferred maintenance needs list

Replace Derby and North Beach toilets

Recondition trails to provide adequate drainage

Reroute Overland trail from Derby Cove to North Beach

Repaint picnic shelter, replace gravel under foundation and roof

Secure concrete blocks that cover floor trenches with new hardware, replace signs

Replace 4 rusted bulletin boards, picnic tables, and fire rings

Repair trail leading from North Beach to South Beach and the Fort ie Fort Trail, South Beach Trail

Replace South Fork Tonsina Creek Bridge

Relocate Callisto Canyon PUC away from creek

Replace North Beach shelter

Replace Derby and Callisto PUC roofs and stoves

Stain four PUCs (Derby Cove, Callisto, Porcupine, Spruce)

Replace Loop Trail bridge ie Rainforest Trail

### 2021 2-24 LPSRS deferred maintenance needs list

Replace 2 old toilets with 2 double concrete vaulted toilets

Replace shop

Reconstruct drainage, CMPs for cross drainage, resurface access roadway and parking areas

Replace parking bumpers

Replace site signage