

Seward State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2015 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Building Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

There was no quorum, so these notes do not constitute official minutes.

I. Call to Order

- A. The meeting was called to order by vice-Chair Benjamin Pister (minutes) at 5pm
- B. Roll Call: Carol Griswold, Benjamin Pister, Terry Rude

Board members absent: John Eavis (term expired, needs to reapply), Mark Luttrell, Mark Dalpes

State Park Staff present: Jack Blackwell, Jack Ransom, Andy Bacon

Public members present: Lynda Paquette, Paul Paquette, Herb Wottlin

C. Minutes Approval: *No quorum to approve minutes*

D. Agenda Changes and Approval: Carol added Mining camp update to old business

II. Public Comments/Presentations:

Lynda Paquette suggested using an inexpensive mp3 recorder to help with minutes taking. Also, she had some concerns about the brochure to bring up later.

III. Reports:

A. State Park Staff Report:

- *The governor presented his budget to the Legislature and the public – Parnell’s budget. Adjustments will be made by his staff by Feb 18. Legislature begins their next session on Jan 20. We should know more in the next month. No new capital projects at this time. And no deferred maintenance.*
- *Ben Ellis is still the director and has not been asked to resign. He will attend our February meeting.*
- *Public use fees, such as cabin and camping, will be increasing, but not for parking.*
- *Parks needs to raise \$500,000 more this year, which will be covered by the fee increase. 40% of the parks budget comes from fees.*
- *The General Fund supplies 3.5 million for state parks state wide.*
- *Andy Bacon was hired as the new Park Specialist starting on March 1st.*

B. Committee Reports:

1. Lands and Property

- *The committee is stuck until they get better maps. However, Jack Ransom has provided all available maps and suggested visiting the Alaska Mapper on the DNR website.*

2. Education and Interpretation:

- *Committee is trying to narrow their scope. Will start with paper signs at LPSRS. Signs between Seward and Caines Head all need updating, but that is a huge project.*

3. Public Use Cabins

- *The committee has not done much. First job is finding a location for a new PUC.*
- *Jack Blackwell said it would be good to nail some of the details down sooner rather than later because opportunities arise, such as grant funding.*

4. Legislative

- *This committee has yet to meet.*

IV. Old Business

- *Governor Walker's response to our boat letter. Jack says thanks for working on it and is not discouraged by the response.*
- *We will try to send a similar letter to all six Legislators.*
- *State surplus equipment is generally run down. Do not suggest it in the letter.*
- *Start Legislature letters now, Ben and committee will continue working on this.*
- *Mining Camp removal update: DEC is still working on it*

V. New Business

1. 150th Anniversary of AK Purchase Grant 2015

- *Can find the grant on the website. Jo Anderson seemed receptive to the CAB applying. Amounts up to 15k. It is matched 50/50 with in kind services by project lead. Feb 23 is due date. How has Seward celebrated such an anniversary in the past? Could possibly purchase a panel discussing the significance of Res Bay, or interpreting changes since 150 years ago. If anyone wants to apply, let Jack Ransom know.*

2. Poems in Place

- *There will be an overview at the next meeting. Poems will be solicited from the community, the CAB will help review. Poem will be placed on a sign in the park. It is already paid for. Five of seven poems have already been completed; it's time for Caines Head this summer. The program lead will be in Seward looking for community and CAB input on Feb 6 at Rez Art.*

3. Caines Head Brochure

- *There are many points of discussion. Ed and Interp Committee will meet to succinctly codify their suggested edits. Then meet with Jack Ransom to discuss.*
- *Terry says we need to find ways to promote Lowell Point.*
- *The Interpretation and Education Department has four things to say in response to suggested edits so far. 1) Thank you. 2) Formatting must follow agency standards, and those standards cannot be changed, at least not right now. 3) Changes to historical info must be reviewed by the History and Archeology Department. Changes to boating safety advice must be reviewed by the Office of Boating Safety. 4) They have accepted some suggested changes, but not all of them.*

VI. Correspondence

VII. Public Comment

VIII. Adjournment

A. Board Comments

B. Date/Location of Next Meeting: Feb 10 at AVTEC

C. Motion to Adjourn