

Seward State Parks Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 10, 2015 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
AVTEC Culinary Arts Building Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

I. Call to Order

- A. The meeting was called to order by vice-Chair Benjamin Pister at 5 pm.
- B. Roll Call: Benjamin Pister, Terry Rude, Carol Griswold, John Eavis, Mark Lutrell, Mark Dalpes (minutes)
 - Board members absent: Dan Walker, Pat O’Leary
 - State Park Staff present: Jack Ransom
 - Public present: Andy Bacon, Paul Paquette, Herb Wottlin
- C. Minutes Approval: *Motion to approve December minutes made by C Griswold, 2nd by T Rude, approved unanimously. Note: there was no quorum for January’s meeting.*
- D. Agenda Changes and Approval: *C Griswold added a review of the 2015 goals and letterhead for CAB to be added to Old Business*

II. Public Comments/Presentations:

- *None*

III. Reports:

A. State Park Staff Report:

- *Ben Ellis was unable to join due to meetings in Juneau.*
- *Jack R gave a quick update on the governor’s budget. No new capital improvements for state parks. No known information on deferred maintenance. Any new changes to the proposed budget by the legislature will be finalized by April. J Eavis asked if the Landing craft’s were considered to be a part of the capital budget. Jack R confirmed they were but it was not a dead issue. The CAB could still push for them.*
- *Box Canyon issue: Illegal tree cutting happening. Jack R inspected the area and recommended to the Division of Forestry to block the access with boulders. He explained his jurisdiction to do law enforcement or offer advice between other state departments.*
- *Andy B’s start day is March 1st.*
- *Questions for Park Staff: Mark L inquired about CAB member applications and when/how they get confirmed. Jack R said that he is gathering up the necessary information to be forwarded to Jack B who will in turn send it to Ben Ellis for approval. Jack R said he would like to confirm new members and the one continuing member via an e-mail acknowledging the board members.*

B. Committee Reports:

1. Lands and Property

- *Carol G sent out a PDF with proposed boundary expansions that the committee would like to see the State Parks acquire. **Thumb Cove**: one DNR parcel has a KPB tax lien from Seward Yacht Club. Jack R will bring up the issue with the permitting officer in Soldotna. **Tonsina**: the KPB maps differ from DNR maps but the main priority would be to secure the watershed of Tonsina Creek. **4th of July Beach**: less than a square mile.*
- *Committee picked Thumb Cove, Tonsina, and 4th of July because they seem imminently threatened by development*
- *Kenai Peninsula Borough Area Plan (1990) would provide information on some of these sites.*
- *Discussion occurred on acquiring lands administratively through DNR vs. legislatively. Funding and public support may be of issue legislatively vs. logistical ease if done through the Division.*
- *John E brought up the continued discussion of the Bear Glacier lands to be added to CHSRA. Mark L noted Box Canyon for consideration.*
- *Process moving forward- gather firm description on parcels and justification for acquisition of parcels, discuss proposals with specific legislators to get their thoughts, solicit public support possibly through a special meeting or by public outreach for comments on the parcels. Identify socio-economic benefits to local economies from land acquisitions. Identify the best mechanism to protect the parcels if State Parks are not willing to acquire them.*
- *Jack R said that land acquisitions will have to be pursued by the CAB as the department's position is that it does not want to take on new land due to staffing and ability to effectively manage those lands. He says land acquisitions are still valid and possible especially if they have been identified by the KPB Area Plan. He suggested looking into possible EVOS funding through the EVOS Council.*
- *Mark L pointed out that 2 of 3 parcels identified by the CAB would likely not require additional staff. Carol G asked about different designations and if pursuing different designations would be easier and more beneficial. J Ransom will look into it. (Kasilof is most recent example.)*

2. Education and Interpretation:

- *Signs: Focus on Lowell Point/Tonsina paper signs in kiosks to start. Revise 3 Panels at the kiosks with 1 panel for Lowell Point, 1 panel for Tonsina, and 1 panel for Caines Head*

- *Jack R repaired the large wooden Lowell Point SRA sign by the upper parking lot intersection. Parks is still requesting 2 more signs at \$10k each. One for lower Lowell Point parking area to identify it as State Park Lands and one to replace repaired sign.*
- *Brochure: 1 1/2 hour meeting with Jack R at office and came up with 7 pages of comments. Suggestions on different color, grammatical fixes, safety issues, and historical information.*

3. Public Use Cabins

- *Came up with a list of ideas / requirements for locations of new PUCs. Location is most important issue to nail down. Will seek suggestions/feedback/ideas from various user groups.*

4. Legislative

- *Discussion of boat letter to each of the 6 legislators. See Old Business.*

IV. Old Business

A. Boat letter to legislators update

- *Ben P modified the original letter to the Governor and sent the legislator version to the board members. John E made a motion, which was seconded and passed, to have Dan W sign and send the letters.*
- *Individual letters to the legislators were encouraged as well*

B. Mining camp update

- *Jack R spoke to DEC. Their concern was the fuel and not propane bottles. They did not have any additional funding or advice/ ideas.*
- *Jack R will continue to follow up with MLW with where they are in the legal process and potential clean up*
- *Discussion of using Seward Helicopter Tours to assist if they have any "training time" or "dead heads" in which they could sling some loads out it they were bundled and ready. Additional discussion on funding from the Community Foundation. Andy B will make inquiries.*

C. Poems in Place update

- *John E gave an update of the exciting meeting. Poems are being solicited from the community. The CAB will help review and share our insights. Poem will be placed on a sign in CHSRA. There may be more than 1 poem similar to Wood-Tikchik State Park. It is already paid for. Exact location of sign will be discussed at a later date.*

D. Seward State Parks Brochure update

No new discussion from what was already discussed earlier in the meeting from the Education and Interpretive Committee

E. Review of 2015 goals

- *Tabled until March meeting to give time for the board members to review goals*

F. Letter Head for CAB

- *Tabled until March meeting. Jack R will bring in samples from other CABs*

V. New Business

1. 150th Anniversary of AK Purchase Grant 2015, Historical Preservation Grant

- *Summary: Due date Feb 23rd. Proposal for interpretive signs. Jack R has not applied for it but mentioned that it would still be a good idea if someone wanted to apply. No one volunteered.*
- *Jack R also brought up the Historical Preservation grant that is available. This grant would allow for Caines Head/ Fort McGilvray to be added to the historical register. He will bring more information about this grant to the March meeting*

3. Sale of State Parks Funding; Merchandise / Other ideas to secure additional funding for State Parks

- *The sale of merchandise idea was originally brought up at the January work session by Jack Blackwell.*
- *The sale of merchandise by Alaska State Parks is prohibited by the state constitution. The money that is made from the sale of merchandise or permits etc goes to the state general fund.*
- *Other ideas: Explore the idea of concessionaire like Alaska Geographic. Terry R explained that Alaska Geographic has backed out of similar arrangements due to lack of revenue. Jack R suggested looking at a Friends of State Park groups/ RBCA or other 501c3 groups. John E suggested a Rasmuson Foundation grant and will send us a link. Further discussion on these issues to be continued at the March meeting.*

VI. Correspondence *None*

VII. Public Comment

- *Paul Paquette asked about RBCA being a source of funding for the mine site clean up. Mark L clarified that they do not have funding but would be helpful in applying for grant money and administering those funds. The community foundation was also suggested as a source of funding.*

VIII. Adjournment

A. Board Comments

- *Carol G spoke of importance of reviewing the meeting minutes to keep good ideas in circulation so we don't let progress on issues lose steam.*
- *Jack E briefly spoke of the importance of the continuation of the lands acquisitions issue. He also stated appreciation for the Poetry in the Parks idea.*
- *Mark L asked about Park Specialist Andy B taking on the secretary role of the CAB as his predecessor Tom Kain had done. The consensus by the Park Staff is that it is the CAB's responsibility.*

B. Date/Location of Next Meeting:

- *March 10th at 5pm in the AVTEC Culinary Arts Building*

C. Motion to Adjourn

- *Made by Benjamn P, 2nd by Mark L and passed unanimously.*