

**Seward State Parks Citizens Advisory Board**  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 9, 2016 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 Chair Paul Paquette at 5 pm.
- B. Minutes- taker Herb
- C. Roll Call; Terry Rude, Carol Griswold, John Eavis, Mark Lutrell, Paul Paquette, Herb Wottlin, Benjamin Pister
  - Board members absent: Dan Walker
  - State Park Staff present: Jack Ransom
  - Public present: John Brown
- D. Minutes Approval: Motion to approve January minutes made by Paul, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol, approved unanimously
- E. Agenda Changes and Approval: none

**II. Public Comments/Presentations:**

- John Brown inquired about allowing bicycles on the Tonsina Trail. Terry noted that currently there are no bikes allowed in State Parks except on those few built for multiuse including bikes. In order for this to happen Jack said that a regulation change or Director's order would have to occur, effectively changing the trail status to a multi-use trail. The board will put this issue on the agenda for discussion at the March meeting.

**III. Reports:**

- A. State Park Staff Report: Jack Ransom
  - The roof repair on out-building at Lowell Point is half completed. Coastal trail was cleared of brush and smaller trees that came down after the last wind storm.
  - Kent Berklund at AVTEC noted that funding for a cooperative project building a PUC may be available through education grants. Jack contacted a Superior Logs representative to get a quote/bid for a basic 16x20 cabin design package. The quote should be available within 3 weeks. This will give us a figure to work with. We need to make sure we have a suitable site picked out.
  - Andy Bacon secured the \$50,000 trails grant. Included in the grant is approval for 3 ACC workers (Alaska Conservation Corp) who will work with Andy specifically on the trail project. The trail project will focus mainly on the switchback section north of the bridge. Through general funding, Parks will get another ACC person that can be utilized for more general purposes. Applications for the 4 summer positions will be posted on the State Parks website. Length of positions will be May 1-Aug 30, with some flexibility.
  - 2 new hosts for the Tonsina trailhead have been selected-for the upcoming season beginning mid May. Board requested that they attend the May meeting so we can meet them, if possible.
  - There have been no new applicants for new board positions.
  - Claire LeClair, Chief of Field Operations statewide, is retiring May 19.
  - Still at 3.5% decrease in budget. Two positions were eliminated, one in permitting and an Admin II position in Kodiak.
  - Tim Johnson of RBCA (Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance) has made money available to purchase two bear-proof containers, one for Tonsina and the other for Thumb Cove. State Parks will contribute to shipping costs.
  - Last year's FEMA project to repair a washed out section of the Tonsina trail suffered damage in recent heavy rains.
  - Jack is still pursuing the Bear Creek Fire Dept. offer of space for the State-Parks office and boat storage.

## **B. Committee Reports:**

### **1. Lands and Property:**

- Carol recently checked the abandoned lower mining camp at the headwaters of Tonsina Creek. There is still interest to clean up the sites to protect the water, best done by helicopter with super sacks, but funding is an issue.
- Tonsina Tom's private use cabin permit has expired. Mark will inquire about the status of this permit since removal and clean-up of this building site is an issue that needs to be addressed.

### **2. Education and Interpretation:**

- Carol submitted articles for the next edition of the Eagle Watch. John posted Parks notices to the Seward Paddling Association and the Trails Report Facebook sites. Jack suggested that we can also send him articles/notices to post to the State website.
- The user-damaged bulletins for the kiosks need to be reprinted and laminated. Jack will order new bulletins and inquire about USFS laminator use. Jack will also check to make sure the existing rules are accurate and if necessary, Carol will make the revisions before reprinting.

### **3. Public Use Cabins**

- Carol, Terry and Paul explored the Lowell Point SRA area and located a site between Pinnacle View Drive and Border Avenue for a possible road accessible ADA PUC. This could be in addition to the Tonsina Point PUC already in the works. Jack informed the board that money for additional possible land may be available through EVOS. More information is required.

### **4. Legislative**

- John reported that the letter to lobby for Seward Parks was sent to the governor; no reply has yet been received. Paul reported the statewide Board's letter was in progress.

## **IV. Old Business: None**

## **V. New Business (goals review)**

The board is still in the process of updating our goals. Some suggested additions:

1. Improve the State website for the Seward area State Parks, which is cumbersome to navigate and inaccurate. (Carol)
2. Protect Lowell Point beach from further erosion. (Paul)
3. Expand LPSRA parking areas to accommodate more vehicle parking.
4. Discussed asking Andy to make a presentation to the various kayak companies re: stewardship of the Seward State Parks, and provide information. This information could also be sent in a letter and posted to the SPA Facebook page.
5. Nominate Caines Head State Recreation Area to the National Historic Register

- **VI. Correspondence : None**

## **VI. Adjournment**

### **A. Board Comments**

- Carol raised concerns about the dog boarder business that walks unleashed, uncontrolled dogs along the Tonsina trail creating user conflicts. Jack reported it is in the permitting process and has yet to be finalized. One may bring concerns to Jack or to Pam Russell, Soldotna permitting officer.
- No other board comments.

### **B. Date/Location of Next Meeting:**

- March 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm in the AVTEC Culinary Arts Building

### **C. Motion to Adjourn: meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.**