

## Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

### Minutes

May 9, 2017 6:00-8:00pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Building Banquet Room 518 Third Ave, Seward

#### 1) Call to Order

- a. Call to Order by Chair Griswold at 6:02 pm
- b. Minutes taker: Nick Jordan
- c. Roll Call: Nathaniel Charbonneau, Carol Griswold, Nick Jordan, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Stephanie Wright
  - i. Board members absent: Dan Walker
- d. State Park Staff present: District Ranger Jack Ransom
  - i. Absent: Andy Bacon
- e. Public Present: Michelle Keagle
- f. Minutes Approval: April 11, 2017: Paul Paquette (moved) Mark Luttrell (second)
- g. Change of Minutes: Dock piece on Tonsina Beach (Mark Luttrell) approved amendment

#### 2) Public Comments/ Presentations: None

#### 3) Reports:

- a. State Park Staff Report by Jack Ransom
  - i. Andy Bacon heading to Whittier to inspect Decision Bay Point Cabin, refurbish living room and bunk beds, redo oil stove fuel line on, check on tent sites in area.
  - ii. New Public Use Cabin reservation system like Feds Recreation.gov system
    1. Active Network reservation system cannot yet be accessed from Caines Head State Park website but there is a link.
  - iii. Sierra Club trip in June 17<sup>th</sup> with 13 volunteers
    1. Jack will manage group as they are short-staffed. He is researching van transportation and housing, and water taxi to transport people to Derby Cove PUC and Ranger Station at North Beach. Jack is looking for transportation for Sierra Club on 6/17 and wildlife tour @7:30am on 6/17
      - a. Service Projects: Paint bunk house at Caines Head Ranger station
      - b. Dig new latrine at North Beach
  - iv. State Park projects in Valdez
    1. This area is part of Ransom's responsibility and is mostly under passive management but there is still a lot of work to be done over there.
    2. Mineral Creek Trail had to be sidelined for now due to lack of funding
    3. The Valdez Area State Parks CAB is suffering from budget cuts
  - v. Annual Training, Jack attended
    1. New Ranger Activity Reporting Network Program, a data base to track activity in park, vandalism, user conflicts, maintenance, public meetings.
    2. The data accumulated through reporting will be used to advocate for the park and show legislature during funding periods.
    3. CAB members can email reports and photos to Jack for data base
  - vi. Tonsina Point Cabin project
    1. Some issues have arisen but Jack hopes to finalize it on Friday 5/12
  - vii. Latrine Vent Guards: Jack is looking into options for low cost vent guards, potentially these guards will come from a surplus in Fairbanks

- viii. Staffing for summer: Andy has hired all staff for the summer. Housing has been arranged and they are waiting on the arrival of staff later in the month.  
Committee comments and questions for Jack Ransom
  - 1. Carol: Potential log in by board members on Active Reporting site for Advisory Council members.
  - 2. Paul: Do we need to worry about board insurance in case of a conflict.
  - 3. Jack: Park host moving in mid-May. They will inform people of the rules, look out over parking lots, and sell State Park stickers. There have been increased confrontations due to conflicts in some parks state wide, though this does not seem to be a trend here at Lowell Pt.
- ix. Bear lockers: Resurrection Bay Conservation has \$2500-3000 worth of bear boxes that need to be moved to Thumb Cove and North Beach tent area.
- x. Boy Scouts Service Project from fall 2016: Boy Scouts did trail work at CHSRA, cut wood rounds, provided firewood, and moved gravel. They did a great job.
- xi. Carol will contact the Coast Guard about volunteers for service projects.
- xii. Tonsina Trail start needs to be fixed at the end of season with a large excavator due to last fall's heavy rains and plugging of culvert.
- xiii. New signs for the park have been delivered and are ready to install: Trail, No ATVs, No Fires, Parking. Volunteers are appreciated.

b. Committee Reports:

- i. Land and Property: none
- ii. Education: Carol discussed sign for the Ghost Forest at Tonsina Point. This could be a typical interpretive sign or a small laminated panel to save on cost.
- iii. Public Use Cabin (Paul): Jack reported on progress and challenges
- iv. Local Issues: Concern over large fires and trash on beach, the cutting of driftwood for fires. If a fire spreads into grass a larger fire could erupt. The State Parks policy is NO FIRES. New "no fires" signs need to be put up on beach entrances and far end near Pinnacle Rock. There are still concerns over parking, especially when the large RVs arrive. Maybe a "parking lot full" sign is needed. A shuttle bus service would help. Park cannot enforce Borough rules on parking. One kayak company hires an extra driver to shuttle its guests, kayaks and trailers.
- v. Additional items discussed:
  - 1. Permitting system for user groups are administered through permitting officer or the Ranger. Annual letters for permitting are no longer sent out by the state. As of now 28 guide companies are permitted and adhered to park rules.
  - 2. Any end of the year money might be used to prepay Metco for the season's snow removal. The Lowell Point Community Council does not have funding for plowing.
  - 3. Paul Paquette: Tom Gillespie moved and removed large rocks in lower parking lot in exchange for D1 and grading both parking lots. There is some handwork to do but it has increased the parking spaces. After Metco grades the parking lots will be a good time to paint or chalk.
  - 4. Collect photos of parking concerns and send to Jack

4) Old Business: none

- 5) New Business:
  - a. Mark Luttrell: Piece of old dock has washed up a shore at Tonsina beach south of second bridge. It is full of creosote and has plastic Astroturf. Can it be reused? Can it be sent back across the bay to where it broke away? Can someone take it away free of charge? Jack noted that its location below ordinary high tide is out of the park.
- 6) Correspondence: none
- 7) Public Comment: none
- 8) Adjournment
  - a. Board Comments:
    - i. Nick: How are park users tracked? Trail counters (2 in use) and vehicle counter; upper one works and the lower counter was vandalized.
    - ii. Paul: Volunteered to assist transporting Sierra Club to North beach
    - iii. Nathan: working on filling out Volunteer forms, has had difficulties with getting forms filled out.
    - iv. Carol asked about renewal terms and process.
  - b. Date/Location of next meeting: September 12, 6 pm, AVTEC Culinary Arts
  - c. Motion to Adjourn at 7:42 by Paul and seconded by Nathan, unanimous