

Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes

September 12, 2017 6:00-8:00pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Building Banquet Room 518 Third Ave, Seward

I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order by Chair Griswold at 6:05 pm
- B. Minutes taker: Paul Paquette
- C. Roll Call: Nathaniel Charbonneau, Carol Griswold, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Stephanie Wright
 - 1. Board members absent: Nick Jordan, Dan Walker
- D. State Park Staff present: District Ranger Jack Ransom, Park Specialist Andy Bacon
- E. Public Present: none
- F. Minutes Approval: May 9, 2017: approved in May by email vote
- G. Agenda Changes and Approval: no changes, unanimous approval

II. Public Comments/ Presentations: None

III. Reports:

- A. State Park Staff Report by Jack Ransom and Andy Bacon
 - 1. New Tonsina PUC construction took an extra month due to rain and shortage of help, but now the roof is on, the windows are in, and interior trim work can proceed. Due to changes at AVTEC, the Building Maintenance students could only help until their semester ended on June 6 and no summer class scheduled. The 14 students were very helpful getting the cabin kit moved on site and helped put in the foundation and subfloor. Then long-time volunteer Cliff Sisson helped Jack, and Andy was pulled away from his other projects.
 - 2. State Park projects in Valdez: There were some trail improvements.
 - 3. Vandalism at Lowell Point SRS: Break-ins were attempted on both Iron Rangers three weeks ago; one damaged lock took a lot of time and work to restore it. A generator was stolen last winter. Padlocks were missing from the latrine toilet paper holders; there may be unauthorized keys used to remove toilet paper.
 - 4. LPSRS: One latrine vault is full and will cost \$900 to pump it out; it will cost \$2000 to pump out all four vaults which will be done before they freeze.
 - 5. The Borough agreed to plow the upper parking lot as it is part of the Tsunami Evacuation Route. Thanks to Jim McCracken of the Lowell Point Community Council and Borough Assemblyman Kenn Carpenter for facilitating this. (Our Board letter may have helped as well.) The gate was removed.
 - 6. The LPSRS upper parking lot hosts have left, but plan to return next summer.
 - 7. Bear lockers: Volunteers are still need to move the Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance bear boxes to Tonsina, South Beach, Sunny Cove, North Beach (2), and Thumb Cove. They weigh 300 to 400#.
 - 8. New signs for the park have been delivered. Carol and Paul volunteered to do an inventory and will get key from Jack. Vandal-proof screws for all new signs would help prevent easy removal. Tonsina Beach/Caines Head trailhead signs are needed at upper parking lot as there are none. Paul noted inexpensive peel-off signs can be ordered on-line to attach to aluminum sign blanks.
 - 9. Andy reported that he and the ACC trail crew took the USFS chainsaw class. Paul volunteered his boat and services to shuttle the 12 Sierra Club volunteers

as the park boat was inadequate. They did a lot of flood mitigation work at Derby Cove cabin and latrine, painted the buildings at Caines Head so they are now a standard brown with green roofs, and worked on the trails. There was a lot of heavy damage to the trails due to rain. Andy's crew repaired and brushed out the Rainforest Trail and Alpine Trail. He is working on a RTP grant to hire contractors to build a PUC at Eshamy Bay in Prince William Sound. The funds must be spent or they will be withdrawn. (Support letter from the Board requested after the meeting and completed.) Andy participated in the Travel Guide video project on August 28-29, hiking out with the video crew to Caines Head and the Fort. He noted that hiking back at a 3.0 low tide the rocks were very slippery and they had to do some wading. A lower low tide would be safer. Andy is funded through 2018 with 2 staff for next summer to work on the Overland Trail, from Derby Cove to North Beach. The state will pay Andy for 7 months, and the RTP grant for 1 month.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Land and Property (Carol/Mark): Nathaniel reported he hiked out to the abandoned Tonsina mine site and took photos. Many items of value have been scavenged despite the No Trespassing sign. He felt there was little or no fuel left in the fuel drums or propane tanks. The main tarped structure has completely collapsed, and tarps, wood, and junk are strewn everywhere. Holly at the Division of Mining, Land, and Water has yet to get back to Mark.
2. Education (Carol/Dan): Paper bulletin board signs at the upper and lower LPSRS kiosks need to be updated with the new Tonsina PUC, and protected from fingers rubbing away the ink. Discussion of how to better protect the signs: Nathaniel will ask NPS if they have a large laminator we could use. Lexan is pricy and can still be scratched. Discussion if the Tonsina PUC should be noted on the maps. Board agreed that it is a safety issue in case of emergency and important to include.
3. Public Use Cabin (Paul): This committee may no longer be needed now that the Tonsina PUC is almost done.
4. Local Issues (Dan, Nathaniel, Nick): The 8 new spaces in the lower parking lot were well used. Reopening Spring Creek Beach helped to take some pressure off the parking lot. Paul suggested making spaces for 10 vehicles with trailers to accommodate users of adjacent Borough beach launch. Discussion about location not resolved, but the need exists for this and for RVs. He will bring it up at the next Lowell Point Community meeting. Chalking or painting still needed. Beach abuse was discussed; there seem to be far fewer hermit crabs and other intertidal life at Lowell Point Beach. Pinnacle Rock, a once rich source of intertidal life, has been trampled. It is just outside park boundaries, though the State owns 50-75 yards offshore. Stephanie volunteered to take photos of proper beach etiquette for the website and possibly Eagle Watch. Carol volunteered to contact the ASLC and inquire about their ADFG collection permit and procedures. Nathaniel expressed concern about illegal salmon fishing in Tonsina Creek and the need for more ADFG signage posted north of the North Fork bridge. Regulatory markers to show mean high tide at the mouth were discussed, but Board decided to leave it a little vague.

IV. Old Business: The abandoned creosote dock along Tonsina Beach is from the demolition in the Seward Boat Harbor. It was towed to the old sawmill terminal on the west side of the bay, but broke loose. One party tried to retrieve it but it will have to wait for a 12' high tide in November. Discussion about posting a public notice in case others are interested in getting it.

V. New Business:

VI. Correspondence: none

VII. Public Comment: none

VIII. Adjournment

A. Board Comments:

1. Paul wondered what the survey markers at the end of Lowell Point Beach were, but no one knew. He expressed amazement of all that gets done for so little money. Visitors appreciate the fishing, hiking, trails, and facilities. He appreciated all the effort put forth by staff, echoed by many board members.

B. Date/Location of next meeting: October 10, 6 pm, AVTEC Culinary Arts

C. Motion to Adjourn at 8:03 by Paul and seconded by Nathaniel, unanimous