

Seward State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

November 10, 2015

AVTEC Culinary Arts Building Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order Board Chairman Paquette at 5:04 pm
- B. Minutes-taker: J. Eavis
- C. Roll Call: John Eavis, Carol Griswold, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Benjamin Pister, Herb Wottlin
 - Board members absent: Mark Dalpes, Terry Rude, Dan Walker
 - State Park Staff present: Jack Blackwell, Jack Ransom, Andy Bacon
 - Public members present: none
- D. Minutes of October 13, 2015 meeting were approved
- E. Agenda was approved as written

II. Public Comments/Presentations:

None

III. Reports:

A. State Park Staff Report

Jack Ransom:

- Andy Bacon went to Decision Point in PWS to repair a PUC oil stove.
- Jack and Andy finished work for the season on the Spruce Glacier PUC in Thumb Cove.
- Jack and Andy removed the running line mooring at North Beach.
- Jack is working on securing an agreement for an IMLA for state land on Fifth Ave for use by State Parks.
- Andy has completed the RTP grant application for work on the Tonsina Trail. Friday, November 13 is his last day for this year.
- State Parks procurement office is involved in identifying an office location for State Park staff in Seward.
- Jack and Andy have been moving equipment to Soldotna for winter storage.
- Park staff will be working on an RFP to operate facilities in Valdez.
- Jack presented certificates of appreciation to Paul for his work on the bunkhouse and Carol for her interpretive bulletins for LPSRS and CHSRA.

Jack Blackwell:

- Jack thanked staff and volunteers for their work during these difficult financial times.
- Jack stated his disappointment in loss of district ranger position in Valdez, which adds more work for the Seward staff.
- Jack described the impacts of reduced funding in 2016 including the reduction of terms for 3 eight-month employees to 7 months.
- Jack expects further reductions in 2017 budget.
- Jack estimated new office space in Seward to cost \$10K to \$12K.

- It would be valuable for the Advisory Board to advocate for continued State Park funding with the local legislators and the Governor.
- Paul asked Jack about the plan to use replaced moorings from Homer in Resurrection Bay. Jack stated that project was canceled as funds were needed for dock repairs.
- Jack mentioned that a yacht club in Homer is applying for a motorized RTP grant for new, auger-type mooring buoys in Kachemak Bay State Park.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Lands and Property

- Carol reported she has reached out to people recreating for their thoughts on expanding park lands to include Tonsina Creek waterfall and Fourth of July beach and received positive responses. Carol will discuss Fourth of July beach with Cliff Larson and the possibility of DNR creating a Special Use Area there.
- Andy will be sending a copy of the Tonsina IMLA to Advisors by email.
- Paul talked about damage to the south bank of Tonsina Creek due to pedestrian traffic and the need to mitigate this with a boardwalk, and the damage to the trail caused by the annual foot race.

2. Education, Publicity, and Interpretation:

- Carol submitted two articles for publication in the Eagle Watch about UAA's kayak trip and the gate at Lowell Point upper parking lot. The gate article was also published in Seward City News.
- Carol recommended signing at the Lowell Point parking lots to let visitors know fees are required year-round.
- Carol submitted corrections to the park brochure. She hopes those corrections can be made to the web based brochure.

3. Public Use Cabins

- Paul talked about the continuing work to identify a good location for a PUC in the Tonsina Point area. An IMLA to increase the area would provide more options for a PUC.
- The board and staff discussed the threat of stream channel movement at Callisto Canyon PUC.

4. Legislative

- No report

IV. Old Business

1. A letter in support of Trail Grant proposal was signed by the Board Chair.
2. John will draft a letter to legislators advocating support for proving adequate funding for the management of Resurrection Bay State Park units.
3. Staff is working on the establishment of an IMLA for the state property located on Fifth Ave. No letter of support is necessary at this time.

4. Board members are encouraged to read through the CHSRA Management Plan and note corrections for future efforts to rewrite the plan. It was noted this would be an item to discuss with Director Ellis on his next visit with the Board.
5. Jack R. will publish a call for applications to fill vacant Board seats in the local media. Advisors are encouraged to reach out to potential candidates.

V. New Business

1. By-laws and Goals: the Board discussed Carol's edits of the bylaws reflecting discussions from past meetings. Advisors are encouraged to read this new version and be prepared to discuss edits and adoption of both at our next meeting.
2. Discussion of Carol's letter regarding management of Captain Cook State Park was deferred to next meeting.

VI. Correspondence

None

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Board Comments: in the interest of time, comments were brief.
- B. Date/Location of Next Meeting: December 8, 2015 at AVTEC
- C. Motion to adjourn made and approved at 7:08 pm.