

Kachemak Bay State Parks Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2017

1. Call to Order:

- a. Roll Call: Board Members - Lindsay Wolter, Beaver Nelson, Glenn Green, Aron Peterson, Stan Lefton, Steve Schultz, Carol Harding and Nancy Hilstrand; Staff – Jack Blackwell, Pam Russell, Jason Okuly; Public – Janet Klein, Eric Clarke and Jeff Lee.
- b. Minutes: Aron noted that under #3a, Operations under Location approval has been completed at Cotton-Wood..... change completed to requested. Aron also recommended that under item 7 we add to the November meeting minutes that this was the last meeting for board member Willy Dunne. He has been on the advisory board for a long time and will be missed. The minutes were approved as amended.
- c. Agenda Changes/Approval: Lindsay added under new business, board applications. Also Janet Klein will not be presenting tonight. It will be scheduled for a later date.
- d. Public Comment/Presentation: None.

2. Correspondence – None

3. Committee Reports

- a. Operations: Staff gave the following update. Jason met with the friends (water trail) to do brochure edits on the water trail brochure. Will be printing more with help from state parks. **First Day Hike** – 48 people showed up for guided hiking/walking, friends made \$100 extra. **Friends Annual meeting** – Golden Pulaski was awarded to Aron Peterson and a plaque for Dave Brann. Staff is currently working to get all guides into compliance with turning in their yearly reports on time. **Diamond Creek**- New outhouse, tree cutting, fires (caught one individual having a fire with pallets, staff had the individuals clean up mess), trail is incredibly icy and dangerous, road is icy, evidence of vehicles getting stuck and sliding off the road. **Eveline State Recreation Site**- Dave Braun and staff are trying to work out a solution to have walking and sledding groups to stay off the ski trails. This damages the ski trails for skiing, increases maintenance costs and is dangerous. **HEA**-Powerline easement inspections were completed to help verify right of way clearing distances and whether power lines were hung in trees. No evidence in Tutka and powerline within right-of-way. China Poot power line right-of-way clearing at ~100', they are authorized for 60' in some areas and 100' in others. **Waterlines** –State Park staff conducted inspections of water lines and met with our law department regarding the issues at hand, is this a disposal of public resources? How can we regulate this activity? Can we regulate this activity? What the difference between residence and lodges? **Boy Scouts**-Volunteer event to clear the water line; help refurbish the old dock in the lagoon. **Hunter Ed.** - Jason Okuly instructed a hunter Ed. class. Staff conducted interviews with advisory board applicants. Bill Hag with the friends is helping to remove wood from the bunk house. We have salvaged some steel and a building where are going to attempt to build bridges with and a boat barn or fix the tool shed across the bay with. Getting applications in for volunteers and ACC's for next year's season.
- b. Jack Blackwell added that the Governor's 2018 proposed budget has been released. The current proposed budget does not have a direct impact the Kenai Area State Parks but we will see a reduction in the following areas. **Northern Area**: positions eliminated total: \$328,400.00, 2 Park Specialists, Maintenance Generalist, Sub Journey II, Long Term Non-Perm and (7) ACC positions. The Office of History and Archeology, will be reduced uncollectable Federal Receipts \$100,000 in travel. Also, included in the

reductions in the Capital budget is to the Recreational Trails Program. Reduction of \$50,000 in General Funds to administer the program. This will be absorbed throughout the division.

No other DPOR CIP's listed for FY18. There is also a proposed funding swap of \$500,000 funding swap that says that we will receive less money from the general fund and rely on program receipts (collected fees) to make up that amount.

Jack also stated that Alaska State Parks currently has the authority to sell merchandise. Without having a fiscal note attached to this authority we should use current resources to fund the merchandise. Currently available is State Park and Chugach State Park merchandise. The online store can be found at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/>.

Nancy asked if it was possible for other stores to sell the State Park merchandise. Jack recommended that maybe we could partnership with the Friends of Kachemak Bay to determine if this is possible. Nancy also requested if the board could review the revenue that Kachemak Bay generates.

- c. Friends: Mako submitted a written report to the board, our annual Membership meeting was held December 1st at the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve building on Kachemak drive. It was attended by a capacity crowd of 48; we will need a bigger room next year. Aron Peterson was presented the coveted "Golden Pulaski Award" for his exemplary volunteerism. If you see him, congratulations and thanks are in order. Dave Brann was presented with a legislative citation for his volunteerism. He, too, deserves a big "pat on the back". This was presented by Jenny Martin from Rep Paul Seaton's office. We had presentations from "Hig" Higman on the new Tutka "back door" Trail. Ranger Jason on Park operations and Kris Holderied gave us an "under the sea" tour of the Bay. These annual meetings keep getting better. The Annual First Day Hike and Ski was a resounding success. We have Willy and the weather to thank for the big turnout and happy participants. A reminder to all, get out on the Spit and check out the new picnic shelter at the Water Trail Trailhead. A perfect example of the Friends at work.

4. Old Business

- a. Dark Sky Proposal – Jeff Lee reported that Kevin Walker was going to send the board a letter for approval supporting the change of the lightbulbs at the Homer Harbor to meet Dark Sky standards. Lindsay will follow up on that with Kevin for the next meeting. Lindsay will develop a draft that will be sent to all board members for approval.
- b. CIAA Permit Appeal – (tabled)
- c. Management Plan Update – (tabled)
- d. Diamond Creek trail- (tabled)
- e. Naming the New Tutka-Taylor trail-Janet forwarded a native name "EMUKCHUK" which means everyone's water. Lindsay is currently contacting the Seldovia Native Association and SVT to get their input before moving the names forward. This was determined that three different names would be submitted to State Parks for consideration. The Director will make the final decision and names of people are discouraged. The list would rank the names in the order of preference. Jack stated that if the board would like the name to be in place for this summer that the list should be submitted by April.
- f. Revision of Critical Habitat Management Plan-(tabled)

5. New Business

- a. Diamond Creek/ DOT road/parking up updates-It is recommended that the board take action and contact ADOT/ Tom Schmidt to recommend moving the current entrance and creating a new parking area with the Diamond Ridge road. Lindsay is going to contact DOT to follow as to where the process is at and if there is an opportunity for the board to comment on the design.
- b. Review of board applications- The board currently has nine members on the board, at this time it can be increased to 12 if the board determines. The board has received six applications, three are returning board members and three are new applicants. Nancy Hilstrand made a motion to increase the board size to 12, Stan Lefton seconds the motion. The board passed the motion to increase the size of the board to 12 and after further discussion about the applications received, all six applications were forwarded to the Director for approval. See new attached Kachemak Bay Advisory Board member list.
- c. Homer Council Meeting Update-Beaver Nelson stated that the Homer City Council meeting in January was one of the best attended meetings they have had in a long time. The subject on the agenda was a resolution to support or not support the Cook Inlet Aquaculture net pens in Tutka Bay. The discussions were much the same as those we had at the Kachemak Bay board meeting. The council voted not to pass the resolution, the vote was 3 in favor and 2 not in favor and the bylaws say they need at least 4 votes to pass a resolution. At this time the Homer City Council has not passed any vote on this resolution.

6. Comments and Discussion by Visitors-none

7. Comments and Discussion by Board Members-none