

Kachemak Bay State Parks Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2017

1. Call to Order:

- a. Roll Call: Board Members - Beaver Nelson, Aron Peterson, Steve Schultz, Lindsay Wolter, Stan Lefton, Robert Ostrom, Jeff Lee, Nancy Hilstrand; Staff – Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly, Eric Clarke and Brad Garasky.

Public: Kevin Walker, Randy Wiest and Tom Kizzia.

2. Minutes: The minutes were approved.

3. Agenda Changes/Approval: The agenda was approved.

4. Public Comment/Presentation:

- a. Aron Peterson gave a presentation on the Kachemak Bay Water Trail that included an update about three sites that the organization worked on this summer. This included work on Chugachik Island which currently has two picnic tables, a tent platform, two fire rings, a kiosk and one latrine. A trail was designed and is currently 2/3 of the way completed. Cottonwood Creek has a picnic table and fire ring. To complete additional work such as an informational kiosk, the group is waiting for approval from SHIPPO. Kayak beach work included a tent platform and a latrine. This report also included information about access to the State Park using Elmers Way. This area is recognized in the management plan to be a vehicle pullout along East End Road near the park, with a small parking area for 15 vehicles, a latrine and a trailhead.
- b. Eric Clarke gave an update on the Tutka Backdoor Trail update. Hig and Eric spent the day looking at the trail going down to Taylor Bay. The scenery is fantastic. Eric felt that it appeared that they may have hurried through some of the trail and that they may need to go back and do the follow up maintenance work on the trail. Eric also recommended that Hig and the Ground Truth Trekking trail crew needs to have state park staff inspect more often as they proceed with the trail. They have done some great work and will continue next year. It is approximately a 1/3 done.

5. Correspondence –Jason Okuly received a request to have the board write a letter of support for a RPT grant proposal that would take digital video of several of the trails in Kachemak Bay and how the grant resources are being utilized.

Nancy Hillstrand moved to write the letter of support for this project. Steve Schultz second the motion. This passed unanimously.

6. A. Committee Reports- Staff gave the following update:

Ranger Jason Okuly: Attached.

Jack Blackwell reported that with State Park budgets staying at status quo or even possibly being reduced, no capital budget maintenance projects are being completed. This is becoming obvious through complaints such as boardwalks needing repair, outhouses needing to be moved, cabins being dirty, etc.

The Commissioner of State Parks, Andy Mack has appointed a new Director, Ethan Tyler, for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Ethan Tyler, Jack Blackwell and Kachemak Bay state park staff spend a few days in Kachemak Bay in September to familiarize Ethan with the area. They also had a meet and greet with the advisory board. Also, Anne Nelson who is the lead Resource Attorney with the Department of Law also spent a few days in Kachemak Bay. Anne works primarily on Department of Natural Resource issues.

Brad Garasky reported that the department received an open invite from the Seldovia Native Corporation to provide some educational programming. Brad was only able to make it over once this year, but plans on making more trips in the future.

Jack reported that the Kachemak Bay management planning team has had some staff changes, which has slowed the process of completing the draft plan. A new planner has been hired and members of the planning team with Jack Blackwell and Jason Okuly will be getting together the last week of September in Kachemak Bay to bring the new staff member up to speed on the area. No date has been identified for the release of the draft management plan.

B. Friend's Report- No Report

7. Old Business:

- a. Establish a Management Plan Subcommittee. Mako had previously volunteered to chair this subcommittee, but may be stepping off the board soon. No meeting has been scheduled since the draft has not been released, and no date for its release has been provided.

8. New Business

- a. Priority for RTP grants-State Parks is currently applying for a grant to work on the Halibut Lagoon Trail and completion of the Saddle Trail.

Nancy Hillstrand made a motion to write two letters of support for Eric Clarke and the two trail projects request. Stan Lefton seconds the motion. This passed unanimously.

9. Comments and Discussion by Visitors-Kevin Walker asked the board to write a letter of support for Ground Truth Trekking's application for the Tutka Backdoor trail completion near the Taylor Bay side of the trail. Nancy Hillstrand made a motion that the board also write a letter of support for this project. Aron Peterson seconded the motion. This passed unanimously.

Hig will be leading a hike through the park with 15 people on Saturday September 16, 2017. There is still room available and you can contact Christina Whiting to sign up.

Randy Wiest commented that he had spent four days out on the trail with Hig and Ground Truth Trekking and witnessed the vast amount of work that is involved. Randy also proposed that State Parks allow a program where light, non-motorized trail maintenance tools could be left along trails that need work, and volunteer hikers could help maintain the trail with the tools as they hike, then leave the tools for others to do the same. Examples of such tools include hand brushers, hand saws, nippers and the like. Ranger Brad Garasky and Technician Eric Clarke will work together to see if there is a plan that might work.

10. Comments and Discussion by Board Members-Lindsay Wolter reported that Mako Haggerty is planning on stepping off the Kachemak Bay Advisory board when his term is up in January 2018. He is actively looking for a replacement and is currently trying to recruit Curt Jackson.

Lindsay also commented that there are three seats up in January. They are Steve Shultz, Nancy Hillstrand and Mako Haggerty. Emails from the president have been sent to these board members notifying them of their term being up January 15, 2018.

Beaver Nelson noted one of the expansion side trails from the Tutka Backdoor Trail goes out to Gore Point. He has concerns about the goat populations that are currently in the area and would like to have the trail crews avoid that area.

Mako submitted comments to Lindsay before the meeting and asked her to read them in his absence. He states the trails are a mess and that the park is an important part of Homer. We need to become a squeaky wheel and request that our park get the necessary funding for basic needs. The time is now that the Governor is putting together the budget for 2019.

He also commented that the Tutka Lagoon hatchery only pays \$25.00 dollars for a permit and Mako pays \$350.00 dollars plus a \$4.00 per person per client fee. This is an approximate total of \$10,000 per year. The Aquaculture acts the victim and contributes little to the overall health of the park. A report from the Association is in order, why were so many fish left in the Lagoon and was there an effort to catch those fish.

Lindsay Wolter announces she is pregnant again and that she will not be leaving the board but will not be seeking the chair position for the next year. She would like to step back and not chair the board. Duties for the chair include reviewing the agenda and putting items on the agenda that members have requested over the previous month, reviewing minutes and, running meetings.

11. Adjournment- Next meeting is October 11, 2017.