

Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizen Advisory Board Meeting  
Draft Minutes  
November 10, 2021  
Virtual Meeting with Microsoft Teams at 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order

1. Roll Call – Board members present: Aron Peterson, Sue Christiansen, Jeffrey Lee, Carol Harding, Kirsten Dixon, Glen Seaman, Robert Archibald, Aron Peterson, Yarrow Hunt, Mark Romano, Kevin Walker, Louis Dupris, Jack Blackwell, Jason Okuly and Pam Russell
2. Board members absent: Nancy Hillstrand, Curtis Jackson, Beaver Nelson, Sierra Baxter,
3. Agenda – Sue Christiansen requested to add to agenda: 1. Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve (old business), volunteer recognition on Tutka Bay Backdoor Trail (old business), discussion of minutes (new bylaws). Robert Archibald requested to add trail committee discussion (committee reports).
4. Minutes - Minutes approved as written

2. Public Comment:

- A. Bruce Friend – In favor of addition of lands in Cottonwood East area. In opposition of HB52.
- B. Penelope Haas – Calling on behalf of the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society – opposed to HB 52.
- C. Alan Parks – Spoke in opposition HB52.
- D. Cristen San Roman – Opposed to HB52

3. Visitors:

- A. Eric Clark, Park Specialist for KBSP – Discussion and visual presentation of Tutka Bay Backdoor Trail and the degradation of park land and explanation of why new permits aren't being issued.

4. Committee Reports:

- A. State Park Report – Superintendent Jack Blackwell acknowledged Dave Brandt and Robert Archibald for giving a presentation to the Prince William Sound Economic Development District about the Kachemak Bay water trail.
  
- B. Operations Report - Jason Oakley – Written report provided to Board members prior to meeting. In addition, there have been a few slides at Diamond Creek during rain.
  
- C. Friend's Report – Kathy Sarns – Annual meeting coming up December 2'nd and interested in sharing the zoom link. Also, creating a newsletter. Received a financial donation from a private citizen for \$5,000 and two chainsaws.
  
- D. Water Trail Annual Report– Robert Archibald – Firewood has earned \$3,000 in bundles of wood cut.
  
- E. Eveline State Recreation Site Report- Camile Johnson reported that Eveline is busy with skiers and snowshoers. Wilderness Explorers visitors have been successful. Now that McNeil is closed for dogs, Camile anticipates a busy season. A walkway was placed over wet areas. Pallet geoblock is on its way for wet area. Ordering a trail counter.
  
- F. Cottonwood Eastlands – Aron Peterson – trying to get public access to Cottonwood Eastlands of East End Road (between miles 16.8 and 17.5. a third of this corridor is Borough land. (A parking lot at 17.4 was made at that location and a small trail leading to Homer and DNR property.)
  
- G. Habitat Committee – No report
  
- H. Trails Committee – Jason Oakley reached out to reestablish a committee and get trail plans for Cottonwood Eastlands. Mark Romano volunteered to be the head of this new committee. Mark recommends the committee becomes an ad-hoc working group rather than a standing committee. Cottonwood East parking area, Diamond Creek bike club trails, park objectives, are the three current points of discussion. Meeting planned after the holidays. Jason added a public meeting was held on the Cottonwood Eastlands issue.

5. Old Business: HB52 discussion. Board members voiced opposition to the bill. Jack encouraged pathways of how to interact with representatives. Jack recommends that if a resolution is passed to have time to craft it properly. Yarrow Hunt made a motion to oppose HB52. Kevin Walker seconded the motion. There was no board opposition to the motion.

6. New Business

A. There was a unanimous resolution sent to Ricky Geese. Jack Blackwell says it is received and being considered. The resolution requests being included in the prestigious Reserve would give the State Park recognition at no cost to the State.

B. Sue Christianson would like to recognize volunteers. She requests interested persons contact her.

C. Jack Blackwell discussed that Ricky Geese recommends that bylaws are consistent amongst advisory groups. A draft bylaw has been sent to the board. Recommendations are 9 members. Try to reduce staff time that the advisory boards take for State employees. Jack Blackwell recognized the work of Pam Russell. Robert Archibald agreed to work on the bylaws.

D. Kirsten Dixon agreed to write up minutes.

7. Comments of the Public

A. Meg Cicciarella made a comment about the parking on Elmer's Way and Ratone. She is a property owner. Snow plowing cannot be done when cars are parked in the turn-out area. The people who pay for the snowplowing might like to receive a contribution from Friends. Parking from the public on privately maintained roads is a problem and she requests that the practice ceases and desists.

B. Michael McGuire, a volunteer on Tutka Backdoor Trail for several years, thinks it important, with all the work that has been put in, that the Back Door Trail be open.

C. Steve Baird, also a longtime volunteer with Tutka Back Door Trail, urges the Park to remove the current status of "not recommended".

8. Comments of Board Members

A. Kevin Walker – Thanked Eric and Jason for their input.

B. Glen Seaman – Appreciated Eric’s presentation – troubled by how things were handled and hope to move forward. Hopes for more collaboration between Tutka Hatchery and the board.

C. Carol Harding – Seems clear to Carol that there needs to be a detailed action plan on the backdoor trail project.

D. Sue Christianson – Thanked Eric for walking the trail.

E. Kirsten Dixon – Hopes we continue to keep in mind to protect and preserve wild spaces.

F. Mark Romano – Suggests that public comment is limited to 3 minutes in consideration to State employees. Suggests a break during a long meeting.

G. Pam Russell asks if we should have a December meeting. After some group discussion, a short December meeting was agreed upon. She suggests that she can send committee reports out with minutes to help with time.

9. Adjournment - The next meeting is December 8th, 2021, at 5:30 via Microsoft Teams.