

Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizen Advisory Board Meeting
Draft Minutes
March 9, 2022
Virtual Meeting with Microsoft Teams at 5:30 pm

Call to Order

Roll Call – Board members present: Kirsten Dixon, Carol Harding, Curtis Jackson, Jeffrey Lee, Beaver Nelson, Glenn Seaman, Robert Archibald, Sue Christiansen, Yarrow Hinnant, Kevin Walker, Aron Peterson, Louis Dupree, Mark Romano, Nancy Hillstrand, Jeffrey Lee, Jason Okuly, Jason Harriman (ADFG), and Pam Russell

Board members absent: None

Agenda –Aron Peterson moved to approve the agenda with the change of name spelling and correction of Beaver Nelson (not in support of HB52 resolution). Glenn Seaman seconded. Minutes approved with corrections. Robert Archibald added 'Submitting Proposals to the Board of Game Discussion' under new business.

Committee Reports:

State Park Report: Superintendent Jack Blackwell was not present.

Operations Report - Jason Oakley – Eric Clark is back working, planning annual trails day, have been doing site inspections, the Saddle Bridge has broken in the last two feet.

Friend's Report – No report

Water Trail Annual Report– No report

Eveline State Recreation Site Report- No report

Cottonwood Eastlands – Aron Peterson – More than six feet of snow. Friends are working on a grant for a walking mower.

Habitat Committee – No report

Trails Committee – Next subcommittee meeting will be on March 14'th at 5:30. The goal is to finalize recommendations for CAB for access to be developed to Cottonwood Eastlands.

HB52 - Glenn Seaman asked if the State Park has taken a position on HB52. Jason Okuly explained that the "Department of Outdoor Recreation, Division of Parks" is in support of HB52.

Bylaws - Bylaws group has been working with other CAB in Seward. Next meeting, we will discuss. Carol Harding clarified if members could apply for more than two terms. Pam clarified yes, they can. It was taken out of the latest version.

New Business:

Bear baiting in the Park - Sue Christiansen has written up a proposal regarding bear baiting in the park. This will be discussed next meeting. A discussion included the previous resolution regarding firearm discharge in the Park. Robert Archibald recommended a subcommittee for wildlife. Sue Christiansen expressed interest. Glenn Seaman requested to be a member. Yarrow Hinnant requested to be a member. Aron Peterson joined the subcommittee. Sue Christiansen recommended Louie Dupree. Sue Christiansen discussed hunting in the Park. Jason Okuly clarified what a developed facility is any tent markers on the Park map. Jason Okuly mentioned that there are only bear baiting stations up the Waz and out in Mallard Bay. Sue Christiansen mentioned that bear-baiting can only happen in natural and wilderness areas where it is allowed. There are several trails in the Mallard Bay area. Jason Harriman from ADFG stated that there is no evidence that bear baiting stations habituate bears. Louis Dupree asked why only bears are baited rather than other game.

Sue Christiansen discussed that on April 13'th (next meeting), we should have a resolution fleshed out to get it to the Alaska State Board of Game in time for an end of April deadline. Jason Okuly will run the next two months' meetings. Pam will not be in attendance. Sue Christiansen has three actions she would like to present to the board. One is the distance to discharge weapons in the Park (1/2 mile vs. 1/4 mile), trapping set backs. She said that dogs have been caught in traps. The third issue is bear baiting within the Park. Sue Christiansen considers bear baiting incompatible in the Park altogether. Nancy Hillstrand asked how many trappers are in the Park. Jason Harriman said that information wasn't tracked.

Public Comments:

Jeannie Roush - Cottonwood Eastlands has had bear hunting from the shore. Black bears are hunted out. Like Sadie Cove, bears are hunted out. Small kids hunt and shoot squirrels and birds in the area. Once the unit is operational, the area will have high use. Shooting firearms in the area seems incredibly reckless. She advocates that the committee looks at not allowing hunting in Cottonwood Eastlands.

Cristen San Roman - She agrees with the Chugach State Park plan that specifies areas of non-hunting.

Board Comments:

Kirsten Dixon - Everyone is stressed with short funding. She recommends supporting ADFG and Parks.

Sue Christiansen - Hopes to be a good communicator and happy to have a wildlife committee.

Carol Harding - She will miss the next meeting.

Nancy Hillstrand - Thinking about the diversity of thought. She encourages open dialogue amongst those people with different opinions.

Jeffrey Lee - Trails in themselves do damage to the wildlife, like the Tutka Traverse Trail. There has been disruption of two wildlife groups. He will join the wildlife committee.

Glenn Seaman - Thankful for the group.

Beaver Nelson - Supports traditional use of the Park for hunting and trapping.

Aron Peterson - Cottonwood Eastland - the land sandwiched between Ratone and Elmer's Way. The land belongs to the Borough, and he would like to see it in the Park. Cottonwood Eastland lands should be used for recreation. Recommends a committee meeting next time.

Mark Romano - Wants to make sure that all members know about any committee meetings. He represents more people than himself and his own opinions and wishes to engage with a wide circle of people. If we make regulations that change traditional use, we need facts.

Yarrow Hinnant - Appreciates historical context.

Pam Russell - All meetings should be announced. Some people will time out of the board soon.

Transcribed by Kirsten Dixon

April 4, 2022