

Kachemak Bay State Parks Board Meeting
Advisory Board Minutes
March 9, 2016
5:30 pm

1. **Members Present:** Stan Lefton, Carol Harding, Nancy Hilstrand, Willy Dunn, Lindsay Wolter, Glenn Green, Beaver Nelson, and Aron Peterson.

Staff Present: State Park Superintendent Jack Blackwell, Park Ranger Jason Okuly and Pam Russell.

2. **Agenda Changes:** The agenda was approved.
3. **Minutes Approval:** Carol Harding ask that we add the discussion of the Norse Helicopter application to 9a under new business Kachemak Bay aircraft. Minutes were approved as amended.
4. **Correspondence:** The Chair Lindsay Wolter signed the letter from the Mat-Su State Parks Citizen Advisory Board requesting that the State Legislature does not reduce operating budgets for Alaska State Parks and to broaden the division's ability to generate new revenue, such as through selling merchandise for a profit. Lindsay reminded those who want to do volunteer trail work in the park to fill out the volunteer forms, which are currently available.
5. **Introduction of Visitors:** Glenn Hollowell, Louise Seguela, Rick Harness, Mike Bavers, Mike McCarthy, Roberta Highland, Mark Schollenberger, Jeffery Lee, Anne Weiland, Rika Mouw, Michael Armstrong, Gary Kilusza, Gary Scholtz and Dave Lyons.
6. **Comments and Discussion by visitors:** See Attached. Approximately 20 people showed up to testify against the use of helicopters in Kachemak Bay State and Wilderness Park.
7. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Operations Report:** Chief Ranger Jason Okuly provided board members with the following operations report.

Some of the highlights of the report included:

- Internal meeting with parks regarding how to cut spending and produce revenue. Some of the recommendations included renting out the ranger station, bunk house and cook shack much like public use cabins, and installing a .
- CIAA Meeting was conducted with State Parks, Fish and Game, and Kenai Peninsula Borough for a project proposal at Tutka Lagoon hatchery. This plan included altering the stream in the Tutka lagoon by dredging to create a pool, installing a weir, and creating a trail to the and from the river. There are pros (Less boat traffic in the lagoon and a higher rate of survivability of harvest of brood stock) and cons (dredged fill would be put on far bank of river to direct fish).

- HEA- State Parks is currently working with HEA to complete some restoration work at Stonehocker Creek area.
- Reports of illegal cars parking at Eveline - it appeared that we were plowing the lot and local homeowners were parking b/c they could not drive to their house due to the large snow fall
- More Fires observed at Diamond Creek as well as vandalism of a no fires sign and more erosion of the trail.
- West Cabin Fire-This fire appears to have started when white gas was being filled into the wood stove (I think this is what happened – the renters were using white gas to light a fire, and a fire is what they got!). Jason is working with the fire Marshall to determine the cause of the fire and the extent of the damage.
- Viking funeral in Sadie cove – Jason contacted the operator of the Sadie Cove lodge proposing the funerals. It appears all activities will occur outside the park.
- MOU with the Friends of KBay SP - identifying Friend’s responsibility is at Chugachik Island and Cottonwood/ Eastland to help maintain during the busy summer season.
- Approved to hire a three month ACCer to act as a volunteer coordinator and liaison between all of the different groups that work for the park
- Masters interpretative training at I&O
- Chainsaw training closer to realization – want each agency with an MOU trained to run a saw. April 19th and 20th, 2016 at Islands and Ocean Visitor Center.
- Heading to West cabin and HCL ranger station tomorrow.

b. Friends Report- Lindsay Wolter provided board members with the following report:

- Mako asks the board to put together a sub-committee for the pancake breakfast. Board members that signed up are Mako Haggerty, Nancy Hilstrand, Glenn Green, Stan Lefton and Carol Harding. The Pancake Breakfast is Saturday May 14, 2016.

8. Old Business:

- a. Dark Sky Park Proposal (tabled)
- b. CIAA permit application-Jack Blackwell reported that the commissioner’s office has a special assistant working on the appeal process. The acting commissioner has asked for some history on the project.
- c. New Management Plan update - Nancy is working with Nevenka on the plan process.
- d. Vacating Diamond Creek ROW (tabled)
- e. Composting toilets (tabled)

- f. Sea to Sea trail- Jack Blackwell reported that State Park Technician Eric Clarke will be working with Ground Truth Trekking in determining the route and the MOU agreement for maintenance of the trail.
Hig also ask Lindsay Wolter to have the board take a position on the concept for the Sea to Sea trail.
Stan made a motion that the board approves the concept of the sea to sea trail.
Willy seconds the motion. The board passed it unanimously.

9. New Business

a. Permit Application for Helicopter Landings in Kachemak Bay SP/SWP

- After discussion, the board voted unanimously to have Lindsay draft a letter to the Director summarizing the comments made by the public at the meeting, as well as those concerns raised by the board. Lindsay will send a draft to the board for their input, and once finalized, will send to Jack Blackwell to pass up to the Director.

10. Comments and Discussion by Visitors: None.

11. Comments and Discussion by board members-None.

12. Adjournment-Next meeting is April 13, 2016.