

Seward State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

Minutes

February 13, 2018 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Academy Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order By Chair Griswold at 18:03
- B. Minutes-taker: Nathaniel Charbonneau
- C. Roll Call: Carol Griswold, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Stephanie Wright, Nick Jordan, Nathaniel Charbonneau
- D. Board members absent: None
State Park Staff present: District Ranger Jack Ransom
Public members present: None
- E. Minutes Approval: January 9, 2018 Approved with minor changes
Paul Paquette moved, Nick Jordan seconded, unanimous
- F. Agenda Changes and Approval: Unanimous with minor changes.

II. Public Comments/Presentations: No public comments.

III. Correspondence/public Comments relayed to Board: Mark received a comment that removing a few trees along the Tonsina Trail would provide nice views of the scenery. Jack will keep that in mind as trail work proceeds, but he is wary of unnecessary tree removal.

IV. Reports:

- A. District Ranger Jack Ransom.
 - Jim MacCracken gave Jack LPSRA EVOS documents and write-up on LPSRA, DOT/Borough Lowell Point road survey, and costs related to storm damage. FEMA estimated Lowell Point road repairs/improvements would cost \$28 million.
 - Ransom and Luttrell attended the Seward Community Foundation meeting recently. Seward Community Foundation Director wants to work with State Parks more and assist the park in acquiring some grants in the future. Parks provide an opportunity for the community to improve physical and mental health, and perhaps would be eligible for associated grants. Government entities have received grants from the Foundation; perhaps State Parks would be eligible as well. A non-profit Friends of Seward State Parks would be helpful to secure grants.
 - State Park Director Tyler would like to be more involved with the SCF while pursuing the possibilities of other funding sources; Iowa has been successful with a Iowa Parks Foundation and public-private partnerships.
 - New Tonsina Point public use cabin (PUC) is very close to being completed. A few volunteers to help complete it would be appreciated. It should be available for on-line reservations in early spring.
 - In response to the need for new PUCs, Jack noted the park needs to show a 60% use of current PUCs by July 1 to be eligible for funding for more. Accurate trail counter information is critical to help document the data.
 - Peninsula Clarion Newspaper published an article on February 6, 2018 about State Parks PUCs; PUCs are not just about revenue generation; they provide experiences.
 - Jack located some new signs and noted how expensive they are at 6 for \$1800. Installation will be a top priority for the new Park Specialist. An updated sign inventory is needed.
 - There has been a good application pool for hiring a Park Specialist.

- The new hire will finish the remaining items in the \$22,000 trail project grant; this includes new tent platforms, a North Beach water system, maintenance extension of trail. The lumber for the tent platform was delivered to Thumb Cove.
- Jack will meet with Andy to discuss what the new hire needs to know about Eshamy Bay PUC, site cleanup, and the associated successful federal \$145,000 grant. The work has been contracted out as Seward area State Parks doesn't have enough staff.
- The surplus landing craft is currently stored in Soldotna and will be delivered to Seward sometime early this spring.
- Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance (RBCA) purchased six Bear Saver bear-proof food lockers with a generous grant from Defenders of Wildlife. State Parks contributed to the shipping costs and placement at Tonsina Point, North and South Beach at Caines Head, Sunny Cove, Fox Island Spit, and Thumb Cove.
- Jack would like to consider a Request for Proposals to rent out the Caines Head SRA bunkhouse (sleeps 4) at the ranger station as a way to raise revenue.
- The excellent 2017 hosts for Lowell Point SRS plan to return for the 2018 season.

B. Committee Reports.

1. Land and Property:

- Mark has had no response to his many letters to the Division of Mining, Land, and Water regarding abandoned mining sites clean up, higher bonds, and mining closure within the Tonsina watershed. He was encouraged to keep trying and document his efforts.
- Discussion of how State Parks and volunteers could clean up the abandoned Tonsina mining sites in the fall.

2. Education and Interpretation:

- Nathaniel tried to laminate the kiosk bulletins to protect them from abrasion from visitors' fingers, but they melted in the heat. Carol pointed out other state parks have protective plastic over their bulletins. Jack agreed to provide protective PlexiGlass or Lexan for the upper and lower parking lot bulletins at LPSRS. Carol advocated for all four bulletins to be displayed at each site to provide complete information for visitors. She will send Jack a diagram to show the intended order of the bulletins for each kiosk.

3. Public Use Cabins:

- Paul suggested adding an additional, road accessible and ADA-accessible public use cabin at Lowell Point. With board approval, he agreed to draft a survey to promote and solicit feedback from potential key user groups on the need, use, and design for an ADA PUC.

4. Local Issues:

- Nick noted that there had been talk about moving the Tsunami evacuation meeting point from the upper LPSRS parking lot to the Lowell Point firehouse. Carol did not think that this move would be a good idea, due to low elevation of the firehouse. Paul, as a resident of Lowell Point, will talk with the borough assemblyman about this proposed move.
- Jack agreed to get a hiker sign installed at the intersection of the Tonsina Trail easement and private driveway, and will contact the new property owner along the Tonsina Trail easement to install a hiker sign on their gate.

- Nick noted that trail connecting the lower and upper parking lots at Lowell Point Beach is getting wider and branching out to side trails. Jack thought this would be a good candidate for trail improvement.

V. Old Business:

- A. Sign update: a new sign inventory is needed.
- B. Nathaniel will continue to pursue new ADFG Waters Closed to Salmon Fishing signs for Tonsina Creek at the North Fork bridge.
- C. Carol posted the notice of the CAB Bylaws update in Seward City News as required. Nathaniel made a motion to approve the new Bylaws and Mark seconded. The vote was unanimous to pass the updated Bylaws.

VI. New Business:

- A. New CAB chair election for 2018:
 - Mark nominated Carol, who declined.
 - Carol nominated Nathaniel, Paul seconded. Unanimous with Nathaniel abstaining.
- B. Revision and update of the 2018 CAB goals with respect to Director's January comments:
 - Top five are the same and we are currently working on all five.
 - Added advocating for high-efficiency, low-maintenance PUCS on state and DMLW lands, Lowell Point Road repair and improvements, and a carrying capacity study for Resurrection Bay. Mark will follow up on that study.
 - Board agreed to delete public mooring buoys from N Beach and Thumb Cove.
3. Dedication of new landing craft and Tonsina Point PUC at May 26 Harbor Opening. Stephanie agreed to help organize these events.

VII. Public Comments: None

VIII. Adjournment:

- A. Board Comments: Stephanie is looking forward to the new Tonina Point cabin being finished.
- B. Date/Location of Next Meeting: March 13, 6 pm, AVTEC Culinary Arts
- C. Motion to Adjourn: Mark moved to adjourn, Paul seconded, unanimous. 18:07