

# **SEWARD STATE PARKS CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

## Minutes

March 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 Charbonneau
- B. Assign Minutes-taker: Carol Griswold
- C. Roll Call: Nathaniel Charbonneau, Carol Griswold, Nick Jordan,  
Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette
- D. Board members absent: Stephanie Wright, excused  
State Park Staff present: District Ranger Jack Ransom  
Public members present: Cliff Reid
- E. Minutes Approval: February 13, 2018  
Carol moved, Paul seconded, unanimous
- F. Agenda Changes and Approval: Approved without changes

### **II. Public Comments/Presentations: none**

### **III. Correspondence/Public Comments relayed to Board: none**

### **IV. Reports:**

- A. Staff Report and Discussion:
  - Jack is serving as Acting Superintendent for 10 days while Jack Blackwell is away; lots of paperwork.
  - The Lowell Point State Recreation Site upper parking lot and Tsunami Evacuation safe zone was inaccessible due to deep snow, so Jack authorized a local company to plow it today. Carol will ask the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly representative, Kenn Carpenter, to clarify the borough's position on plowing.
  - The recruitment for Parks Specialist position has been extended to March 22.
  - Installing new signs and completing 2017-2018 projects such as tent platforms is a high priority. The lumber and supplies are already on site.
  - Landing craft is now in Seward awaiting addition of accessories like radar.
  - Jack noted that if funding for additional Public Use Cabins remains in the state budget, this would be a good time for the Board to pursue the first accessible PUC on the Kenai Peninsula. He contacted the Anchorage State EVOS property manager for input interpreting the conservation easement held of EVOS. As long as tree cutting is limited, this use would be allowed. He also talked to Deputy Director Matt Wedeking and Superintendent Jack Blackwell about this idea.
  - Jack recently installed a new hiker sign along the Tonsina Trail easement just before the gate. He will meet with property owner to secure permission to install another sign on gate.

B. Committee Reports: (non-Board members can join Committees)

1. Lands and Property (Carol, Mark)

- Mark received a followup letter from DMLW regarding the mining issue in the upper Tonsina Creek watershed. He will email it to the board.
- Nick researched mining claims and noted that area is still open for filing new claims. Discussion ensued on possible additional negative impacts to anadromous stream from mining methods allowed on general state land vs those allowed in state parks.
- Nathaniel noted presence of recreational mining Action-Packer and portable sluice by waterfall in fall of 2017.
- Carol proposed that Board pursue information on the mechanism to transfer general state land to state parks to protect stream and reduce management. **Nick moved, Paul seconded, unanimous. Mark and Carol will work on this.**

2. Education and Interpretation (Carol)

- Jack has not yet received the updated bulletin showing the new Tonsina PUC, but he will ask.

3. Public Use Cabins (Paul)

- Paul has contacted local and nationwide organizations to ascertain interest in an ADA accessible public use cabin at Lowell Point SRS.
- **Carol moved, Paul seconded, Board approved that the Board supports the survey to determine interest in an accessible public use cabin at Lowell Point State Recreation Site.**
- Nick volunteered to create an on-line survey. If the public supports this idea, the Board will proceed with a campaign to secure funding.

4. Local Issues (Nathaniel, Nick)

- Concerns about plowing continue, especially with the recent tsunami evacuation. The alternative Lowell Point Fire Station site is much lower and possibly in the wash-up zone, not to mention possible sewer lagoon impacts.

5. Celebration of new landing craft and Tonsina Point PUC (Stephanie)

- Stephanie reported by email that she is waiting for a response from the Mermaid Festival regarding a slot in the program for the new landing craft ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 26.
- She offered to lead a hike on the Tonsina Trail for the ribbon-cutting at the new Tonsina PUC, and suggested the option of two hikes, perhaps led by CAB members, spaced 20 minutes apart so all would gather for the celebration open house and picnic.

## **V. Old Business**

1. Update on new sign inventory report:
  - Jack will arrange to meet with Carol and Paul to get an overall inventory of signs.
  - Board agreed that unneeded signs should be sent to Soldotna to be redistributed to conserve space and get signs in use where needed.
2. More “Waters Closed to Salmon Fishing” signs for Tonsina Creek:
  - Nathaniel is still working with the ADFG Advisory Board to secure Waters Closed to Salmon Fishing signs for North Fork Tonsina Creek.

## **VI. New Business**

1. Consideration of moving meeting to Wednesdays (Carol)
  - The board is willing to change the meeting date to Wednesdays in hopes of attracting new board members and to accommodate possible scheduling conflicts with P&Z for Nathaniel and Carol.
  - Jack will ask AVTEC if meeting room would be available on Wednesdays.
  - Carol will ask Stephanie if she would be available on Wednesdays.
2. Upgrade of LPSRS parking lots trail (Carol)
  - Carol hiked the parking lot trails in February before it snowed, took photos, and mapped it with her phone app. The west trail needs to be blocked, the lower section needs trail improvements, the post at the upper parking lot needs to be signed better and the brush trimmed for visibility.
  - Discussion on how this might be done using RTP grant; it is a priority as erosion is alarming.
  - Board would like a field trip when the snow melts to discuss trail options.

## **VIII. Public Comments: none**

## **IX. Adjournment**

- A. Board Comments:
  - Carol said she appreciates Paul’s hard work on the accessible PUC.
  - Paul noted the Board is making good progress, all concurred.
  - Cliff was encouraged to apply for board position.
- B. Date/Location of Next Meeting:
  - April 10 or 11 pending consent, 6 pm, AVTEC Culinary Arts
- C. Motion to Adjourn:
  - Mark moved, Paul seconded, adjourned at 7:37 pm.