

Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes

Tuesday, October 9, 2018 6:00-8:00pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Academy Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

I. Call to Order

- A. Board selected Acting Chair Paul Paquette, Call to Order at 6:03 pm
- B. Minutes taker: Carol Griswold
- C. Roll Call: Carol Griswold, Nick Jordan, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Cliff Reid
- D. Board members absent: Nathaniel Charbonneau, Stephanie Wright
- E. State Park Staff: Jack Ransom, Michael Burmeister
- F. Public Present: David Leech
- G. Minutes Approval: moved and seconded, unanimous
- H. Agenda Changes and Approval: no changes; moved and seconded, unanimous

II. **Public Comments:** David Leech asked about harvesting a tree that had fallen across the road near his driveway by the Tonsina Trail easement. Jack advised that no permit was needed.

III. **Correspondence:** none

IV. Reports:

- A. Staff Report and Discussion of summer's work:
 - a. South Fork Tonsina Creek bridge: 3 rows of 1/8" stainless steel cable with turnbuckles installed along railing for safety.
 - b. Sandspit Point SP: Jack hauled tent platform materials and Michael built it, using leftover cable in back for safety. Will accommodate two 2-person tents; well-received.
 - c. Tonsina PUC latrine filled sooner than expected due to non-cabin users. A large crib was dug nearby for future use and a sign installed noting latrine for cabin use only. Hikers created an erosional trail to access the cabin site and descend on the south side. Many complaints about curious cabin peepers noted in PUC journal. A sign requesting respect for the privacy of the cabin users and a cable across the south edge helped. Reserve America system had many issues and will be discontinued in November. Concern expressed by board about poaching and loss of revenue.
 - d. Valdez Sawmill Bay PUC package underway and will wrap up soon.
 - e. Prince William Sound Eschamy Bay PUC slated for construction next year.
 - f. Jack and Michael in training to become certified as boat instructor trainers with the National Boating Safety Council
 - g. Michael completed shotgun training in Soldotna for backcountry trail work.
 - h. Abandoned mining camp cleanup Oct 1-3 went smoothly with help from 1 Homer ranger and 2 from Kenai River District. Fuel drums, propane tanks, other hazmat, tarps, and sharp, rusty everything were hauled out and taken to landfill. Plan to remove the remaining equipment and trash next fall. Board very appreciative of this effort!
 - i. 13 members of the Sierra Club volunteered their services for a week and accomplished much, including: installed two tent platforms at North Beach; cleaned and stained Ranger station; hauled gravel; split wood. They plan to return in 2019; many projects await their much-appreciated help.
 - j. Iron ranger in lower LPSRS parking lot was damaged by vandals and replaced. David Leech questioned the cost-effectiveness of the \$4000 replacement. Issue of vandalism to

the upper parking lot iron ranger, and vandalism and theft from several vehicles was resolved with a warrant served.

k. Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area \$10,000 grant awarded to design and install new interpretive signs at Fort McGilvray.

l. Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance secured \$3,000 for 6 bear proof storage lockers; Defenders of Wildlife created a 2-minute video tutorial on bear safety and locker use that is posted on the website. Remaining funds will be used for two interpretive panels on bears and bear safety for North Fork bridge and upper Lowell Point parking lot.

m. North Fork Tonsina Creek boardwalk was moved away from eroding bank, and another section added to connect two sections to make it more usable.

B. Committee Reports:

1. Land and Property (Mark and Carol): Very pleased with mining camp cleanup. Suggest whoever hikes out to site, take documentary photos. Cliff Reid noted that he documented Rocky Point extensively, but lost the phone and photos. Suggest anyone visiting Rocky Point, the Fort area, etc to take documentary photos and videos.
2. Education (Carol): New plexiglass protected bulletins at LPSRS very well. Carol will provide a map for Jack to show where remaining interpretive bulletins should go at the Fort, North Beach, South Beach, and the Overland Trail.
3. ADA Public Use Cabin (Paul, Nick): Jack noted Governor Walker funded 5 new PUCs, but none are slated for the Seward area. There were issues with the ADA PUC at Lowell Point SRS including conflicts with the private sector, parking concerns, and conservation easement. Mark questioned the need for more cabins here; what is the carrying capacity for more PUCs? Board agreed, and suggested emphasis on tent platforms instead.
4. Local Issues (Nathaniel, Nick): Nick fielded comments about allowing fat biking on the Tonsina Trail in the winter. Concern expressed about the trail not being designed for multi-use, especially at the switchbacks. Also noted that many hikers and runners use the trail in the winter and meeting fat bikes racing downhill on the trail would not be safe. Jack advised that we continue to get community input. Carol noted fat bikers on Lowell Point beach and regretted seeing tracks. Paul noted a lot of beach fires this summer; so many he gave up talking to them. The new NO Campfire sign at the west end of the beach helped. Paul suggested moving the hidden rocks out from the alders along the launch area and move them to protect the beach from vehicle use, especially at the low tide end. Existing rocks need to be rolled out from the sand and repositioned to protect beach.

V. Old Business:

1. Update on new sign inventory report (Jack): no update
2. "Waters Closed to Salmon Fishing" signs for Tonsina update: no update
3. Lowell Point parking lot update on potholes and additional spaces: Paul noted the gravel spread by Metco lasted all summer and was well worth it. Jack will contact Kenai Peninsula Borough Assemblyman Kenn Carpenter about winter maintenance of the tsunami safe zone upper parking lot.

VI. New Business:

1. 2018-2019 Goals review, discussion and update: much has been accomplished. Tent platforms and nomination of Fort McGilvray to the National Historic Register received support. Due to shortage of time, Board agreed to postpone further discussion until the next meeting.

2. Recruitment for more Board members: Nick commented that frequent trail users be invited to join, and he was willing to help recruit.

VII. Public Comments: David Leech inquired about an update to the Lowell Point Road repair of December's storm surge damage. Paul noted that the city has apparently assumed ownership of the road for maintenance. Funding was promised by the Federal government, but did not know when any work would start.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Board Comments: Carol was appreciative of Paul's hard work to secure an ADA PUC for Lowell Point SRS.
- B. Date/Location of next meeting: AVTEC on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at 6 pm.
- C. Motion to Adjourn: Nick moved, Cliff seconded, unanimous. Adjourned at 8:04 pm.