

# Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

## Minutes

Tuesday, January 8, 2019 6:00-8:00pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Academy Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

### I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order: 18:04
- B. Minutes taker: Mark Luttrell
- C. Roll Call: Carol Griswold, Mark Luttrell, Nick Jordan, Paul Paquette, Cliff Reid
- D. Board members absent: Nathaniel Charbonneau and Stephanie Wright
- E. State Park Staff: Jack Ransom
- F. Public Present: Tess Tulley
- G. Minutes Approval for meeting in November 13: Approved with minor change. Carol moved, Paul seconded. December meeting cancelled.
- H. Agenda Changes and Approval: Carol asked and the board agreed to moving a discussion of goals (V. Old Business) to the end of the meeting if time since Jack Blackwell had concerns about our draft goals thus far, and our time might be better spent with Jack Blackwell present and input from Parks Director Ethan Tyler. Discussion about administrative avenues the advisory board should follow.

### II. Public Comments: None

### III. Correspondence: None

### IV. Reports:

#### A. Staff Report and Discussion (Jack Ransom)

1 Jack asked if we could change our meeting time from 6-8 PM to 5:30-7PM. Cliff moved, Paul seconded. Unanimous.

2 New state administration has been quiet, though the usual concerns like budget cuts, staffing reductions and staff re-organization Callisto. Parks has asked the state to fund some ranger positions but money is not available.

3 Tess Tulley's application to join the board has been received but no response from Ethan Tyler yet.

4 FEMA staff inspected the Callisto Cabin and the north Tonsina Creek bridge. FEMA suggested moving the Callisto cabin to the north out of the flood plain, relocating the latrine and for the Tonsina Creek bridge, reinforce the abutments. The offered no money though. Discussion of ways to move the cabin.

5 Two bear aware interpretive signs (to be located beginning and end of Tonsina Point trail) and three bear resistant food lockers were donated to Seward area by Defenders of Wildlife. Lockers will be used with tent platforms, perhaps Driftwood Bay, Safety Cove.

6 Lowell Point upper parking lot plowed by Metco. Borough pays. Lower lot not maintained though still accessible.

7 Jack was hopeful that he could find money to pay for signs. Recreational Trails Program may be a source of funds.

8 New interpretive signs have been designed supported by a grant from the Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm Heritage Corridor. Should arrive in Seward before spring.

9 Jack wants to nominate Fort McGilvary to the National Register of Historic Places. He has talked to staff at the Office of History and Archaeology about the process. Some suggest lumping all area WWII related facilities in the Seward/Resurrection Bay area in our National Register application.

10 Jack said there will be no increase in Mike's period of employment though Jack requested it. Changes in management in the Valdez area will probably be funded before Mike's position is extended. Carol wondered that even if his period was extended, would he work here or Valdez.

11 Eagle Watch publication no longer exists because the staff person moved and the position is vacant.

12 Hoping to hire trail crew to finish grant-funded projects from last year. Hoping for volunteers.

13 Jack headed out very informative graphic comparisons of Parks spending 2016-2018 (General Fund Operations Summary). Some discussion of a state truck with a plow for our area.

- B. Committee Reports (each board member should serve on at least one committee, preferably two; the public is welcome to serve on a committee. See New Business. (Discussion postponed until VI. New Business 2)

#### V. Old Business:

1. Lowell Point upper parking lot winter maintenance by KPB update (Jack, Paul): [Previously addressed.](#)
2. 2018-2019 Goals review, discussion, update, and approval: [Advanced to later discussion.](#)

#### VI. New Business:

1. Nominate and elect 2019 Chair . [Paul moved to nominate Nick, Carol seconded. Nick gracefully accepted the position of chair. Unanimous.](#)

2. Evaluate standing committees in reference to goals and discuss revision (Carol):

[State Parks website review and recommendations \(Carol and \):](#) [Carol will continue working on improving the website.](#)

[Resurrection Bay Capacity Study \(Mark and \):](#) [Paul would like to serve on that committee and he'll make some calls to connections.](#)

[Nomination of Fort McGilvray to National Register \( \):](#) [Jack will keep working on that; Carol will help.](#)

Update 1997 Caines Head SRA Management Plan (Carol and ): this committee idea was delayed until after communication with Jack Blackwell and Ethan Tyler.

Local issues: Local Issues Committee retained. Nick will continue.

Discussion of the impact of increased visitation in 2019 by cruise ship passengers. Cliff suggested that we install a trailhead register to get a handle on visitor numbers and behavior. He also offered to provide photos to guide us. Discuss past trail counters - subject to theft and tampering. There is a monitor in the upper Lowell Point parking lot, but it only records cars, not number of visitors. Discussion of fees levied against visitors –hikers and cruise ship passengers and how to use the revenue; also how to manage the increase. Mark asked what evidence do we have and need to document changes from cruise ships. Use of the upper parking lot in bunk house was discussed. Could serve as an emergency shelter for injured hikers. Discussed best way to make it available and secure.

3. Report from December 18, 6 pm teleconference with Director Ethan Tyler (Paul). Paul was unable to attend the teleconference.

4. Letter of support for 12-month Park Specialist position: Jack said that he spoke about that earlier. Valdez staffing will probably take priority. Best to delay a letter of support until the fall when there may be more support.

5. Letter of support for 1997 Caines Head SRA Management Plan update. Carol has a persuasive letter written on behalf of the board.

6. Date and time to meet with Superintendent Jack Blackwell: Carol moved and Cliff seconded we invite Jack Blackwell to the February 12 meeting; either during the day or 5:30 (our new) meeting time, whatever is most convenient to Jack Blackwell. Nick, as new chair, will write the invitation.

VII. **Public Comments:** Tess suggested adding a 5\$ parking fee be added to the online cabin registration. Her suggestion well received. Jack will follow up on current reservation system (which is likely to change soon). Jack added that parking and cabin fees go into Parks general fund.

#### VIII. Adjournment

A. **Board Comments:** Cliff shared hard copies of photos of the upper Tonsina Creek abandoned mining camp. Helicopter company in town may help remove debris. Can't access area by ATV or snowmachine. Mike will follow up in the spring.

B. **Date/Location of next meeting:** AVTEC on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at **5:30 (not 6) pm.**

C. **Motion to Adjourn:** Carol moved, Paul seconded at 20:03

#### Other notes:

Stepahnie Wright submitted her resignation by email prior to this meeting.

Cliff will not be able to attend February and March meetings.