

**Seward State Parks Citizens Advisory Board**  
Minutes December 8, 2015  
AVTEC Culinary Arts Building Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

**I. Call to Order**

- A. Call to Order Board Chairman Paquette at 5:05 pm
- B. Minutes-taker: Terry Rude
- C. Roll Call: John Eavis, Carol Griswold, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Benjamin Pister, Terry Rude, Dan Walker
  - Board members absent: Mark Dalpes, Herb Wottlin
  - State Park Staff present: Jack Blackwell, Jack Ransom
  - Public members present: none
- D. Minutes of November 10, 2015 meeting were approved
- E. Agenda change by Carol Griswold; add Board Quorum Issue; **approved.**

**II. Public Comments/Presentations: None**

**III. Reports:**

A. State Park Staff Report

Jack Ransom:

- The DOT parcel on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue is not available for transfer.
- Volunteer applicants for Lowell Point host and North Beach trail crew are being accepted, but funding is uncertain.
- The Resurrection Bay brochure is mostly finalized with only a few edits required and should be printed in the near future.
- The Office lease with the USFS has been extended until August 31, 2016.
- Office space may be available at the UAF Orca building.
- Downed trees on Tonsina Trail from the last windstorm were cleared.
- Visitor count for the last month was: Lower Lot 118 vehicles, Upper Lot 171.
- The Caines Head Trail counter trail use numbers will be available soon.
- Advertising for applicants for the open Advisory Board positions has begun .
- A Request For Proposals will be released shortly for the operation of the State Park facilities in the Valdez area.
- The US Army Corp of Engineers cleanup project at Rocky Point is completed. The 300 - 500 gallon fuel tanks were filled with foam, AK DEC's preferred method. There was no impact to the area during this project.

Jack Blackwell

- State Parks is now unable to transport volunteers in State owned boats. This will have a significant impact on the operations of the coastal park units.
- **Carol moved, John seconded, Board approved** that the Legislative Committee send a letter to the Governor, Senator Micciche and Rep Chenault requesting information about the decision to ban volunteers from State boats and to offer the Board's support for the continued transportation of volunteers, possibly combined with the request to extend Andy's position.
- The Governors budget will be announced tomorrow.

## B. Committee Reports:

### 1. Lands and Property

- Carol contacted Cliff Larson, permitting officer of the Division of Mining Land and Water re: Fourth of July Creek area as a Special Use Area. This is not possible at this time due to budget constraints.
- Jack Blackwell said the addition of the Tonsina Point watershed area to CHSRA is possible through the ILMA process.

### 2. Education, Publicity, and Interpretation:

- Carol's two excellent articles were published in the November Eagle Watch. The Board is encouraged to submit articles and photos as well.

### 3. Public Use Cabins

- Kenai Area Plan may provide the ability to put a Public Use Cabin up the Tonsina Creek drainage.
- Recreation Trails Grant program may have funds available for a PUC.
- The committee will request a copy of the recent USFS report on the comparison of public use cabins and fee rates.

### 4. Legislative

- Invite Senator Micciche and Rep. Chenault to the May board meeting.

## IV. Old Business

1. Draft letter in support of a full time, 12 month Park Specialist position to Governor Walker, Senator Micciche and Representative Chenault was reviewed.

## V. New Business

1. Board Quorum issue will be addressed through the revised Bylaws.
2. Board members will review changes to the bylaws and send any suggestions to Carol by Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, for final approval at the January meeting.
3. The Goals were moved to next month's agenda.
4. 2016 First Day Hike ideas for the Resurrection Bay area were discussed.
5. The Lowell Point Community Council agreed to provide up to \$1,500 for plowing and sanding for the Lowell Point SRA parking area. **Carol moved, Paul seconded, approved** that Paul will send a letter to the local media about this support of State Parks by the Lowell Point Community Council.

## VI. Correspondence

None

## VII. Public Comment

None

## VIII. Adjournment

- A. Board Comments: in the interest of time, there were no comments.
- B. Date/Location of Next Meeting: January 12, 2016 at AVTEC
- C. Motion to adjourn made and approved at 7:10 pm.