

# Seward State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

## Minutes

December 13, 2016 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
AVTEC Culinary Arts Building Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

### I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order By Chair Paquette at 5:06 pm
- B. Minutes-taker: Dan Walker
- C. Roll Call: Carol Griswold, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Dan Walker
  - Board members absent: None
  - State Park Staff present: District Ranger Jack Ransom
  - Public members present: None
- D. Minutes Approval: Dan moved and Paul seconded acceptance of minutes. (October 2016, November 2016 meeting cancelled, no quorum)
- E. Agenda Changes and Approval: Three items were removed from the agenda prior to approval: Addition of new board members, Tonsina Mine, and Committee appointments.

### II. Public Comments/Presentations: NONE

### III. Reports:

- A. State Park Staff Report: Jack Ransom

Jack Blackwell meant to update us about budget and division plans, but he was unable to attend and the budget has not been released. Things are quieter than last year in the Division of Parks. This fall the Division of Parks hired three new rangers. New chief of Operations (deputy director) was promoted from the ranks. In-service train will be provided for rangers. Optimistic. Jack is the oversight for Valdez region. Some Fed money is available for Mineral Creek Trail (Valdez) that has to be spent; Jack is supervising work to be completed by City of Valdez. He has also filed for extension of grant funds for a new cabin in PWS (Eshamy Bay) since the two man staff doesn't have time to complete the cabin this year. Jack is participating in meetings with Lowell Point Community Council about Lowell Point Road improvements using FLAP funds and other sources such as ATAP. LPR is an easement maintained by the City of Seward.

Board Comments: Board members expressed concerns about workload for the two employees in this area. New projects are pulling them away from routine maintenance and park visits. PUC grant will be announced perhaps in early March. Board members volunteered to help with improving parking in Lowell Point parking lots.

#### B. Committee Reports:

1. Lands and Property (Carol, Mark L) No
2. Education, Publicity, and Interpretation: (Carol, Dan) Carol submitted files to website where they are mounted. New tide link was added. The committee members agreed to review the website and suggest updates to links and information.

3. Public Use Cabins (Paul) Two cabins near Cordova are not used and need to be removed. Derby Cove Cabin needs attention (relocation in the long run and drainage support in the short run) including a new latrine pit.

4. Legislative (not filled)

#### **IV. Old Business**

1. Lowell Point Parking Issues:

The community council is looking options for parking and developing a trail up Spruce Creek. Board recommends adding language to the Commercial use permit to address legal parking. This topic should be on the agenda for January meeting. Paul will work on the parking lot in the spring to increase parking spaces. Other board members will join in. The lot the board was considering for parking is not for sale maybe it's available for State Park Parking.

2. Recreational Trails Grant letters of support for Tonsina Cabin and Video Project:

Letters were sent. These projects will be announced in the spring. They and the trail improvements grant are different meetings.

#### **V. New Business**

1. Election of Chair: Carol Griswold agreed to chair the board and the board voted her in. Dan Walker was assigned to run meetings.
2. Review and update Goals: The board reviewed the goals for from last year and made changes. Some goals were achieved and other situations changed. Carol Griswold revised the document and it is attached to these minutes.
3. Discussion of meeting time: The board discussed possible changes to the meeting times and agreed to review possibilities and wait for the next meeting to take action.
4. Board recognition of termination of members: the board recognized the end of term for board members, John Eavis and Benjiman Pister.

#### **VI. Correspondence: None**

#### **VII. Public Comment: none**

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

A. Board Comments: none

B. Date/Location of Next Meeting: January 10, 2017, AVEC Culinary Arts

C. Motion to Adjourn: Dan Walker, Paul Paquette, 7:01 pm

Attachment: proposed goals for 2017: see below

## 2017 Draft Top Action Goals, revised December 13, 2016

- Work with Alaska State Parks, Lowell Point Council, and Kenai Peninsula Borough to extend and/or manage parking around the LPSRS
- Work with State Parks staff to improve website re: Seward State Parks
- Promote Seward State Parks through Eagle Watch and publicity in the media
- Work with DMLW to remove abandoned Tonsina mine hazardous waste and trash

### **Other Advisory Board Priorities (in no particular order)**

1. Provide suggestions for State Parks merchandise with Seward area themes
2. Support additional directional and informational signage for LPSRS and CHSRA
3. Review and update 1997 Caines Head State Recreation Area Management Plan.
4. Support nomination of Fort McGilvray on the National Historic Register and revision of the historic preservation plan for CHSRA
5. Support acquisition and installation of public mooring buoys for North Beach and Thumb Cove.
6. Support upgrade and maintenance of public use cabins and trails.
7. Support relocation of the Callisto Canyon public use cabin to a more secure permanent location.
8. Support a plan for managing camping and traffic in North Beach area.
9. Advocate for transfer of ownership and/or management from the following areas to the Alaska State Parks:
  - Tonsina Watershed
  - Fourth of July Creek Beach Area
  - Bear Glacier land adjacent to National Park and State Park
  - Exit Glacier/ Box Canyon
10. Support maintenance and rehabilitation of North and South Fork Tonsina Creek bridges.
11. Advocate for new landing craft for the Seward Area operations.
12. Support replacement of the Picnic Shelter at North Beach that was torn down in 2007.
13. Review the Prince William Sound Management Plan and consider revision.