

Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes

November 14th, 2017 6:00-8:00pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Building Banquet Room 518 Third Ave, Seward

1) Call to Order

- a. Call to Order by Chair Carol Griswold at 6:04 pm
- b. Minutes taker: Nick Jordan
- c. Roll Call: Nathaniel Charbonneau, Carol Griswold, Nick Jordan, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Dan Walker
 - i. Board members absent: Stephanie Wright
- d. State Park Staff present: Jack Blackwell
 - i. Absent: Jack Ransom
- e. Public Present: David Leech
- f. Minutes Approval: 10/10/17: Paul Paquette (moved) Dan Walker (second)
- g. Agenda Changes and Approval: Nathaniel Charbonneau (moved) Paul Paquette (second)

2) Public Comments/ Presentations: None

3) Correspondence / Public Comments: None

4) Reports:

- a. State Park Staff Report by Jack Ransom presented by Jack Blackwell
 - i. The state at this time is still dealing with very lean budget and we will not see an increase in State Park funding. Cuts in travel budget restrict his visits to Seward.
 - ii. Tonsina Public Use Cabin
 1. Jack Ransom and Jack Blackwell hiked out to the cabin. Cabin looks great; working on furniture, oil stove installation, staining and sealing. Jack R spent a lot of time on it since March. Homer/Soldotna State Park staff assisted with moving materials and CAP Construction assisted with outside tasks in the last month. The cabin will hopefully be available for rental in January via the reservation system (ReserveAmerica.com), same as federal system.
 2. New Director of State Parks, Ethan Tyler, has a background in tourism, marketing, and economics and is familiar with area. He may attend 12/12/17 meeting.
 3. Seward State Park's 23 year-old 22' Peregrine landing craft sank in Seward Boat Harbor. It was a total loss, but may be covered by insurance. State Parks used Board's letter of support to help secure funding for surplus USFS 27' Munson landing craft. Boat and motors are in good shape and will be safer for use in Resurrection Bay
 4. Andy Bacon has resigned. He will be missed! State Parks will be advertising for his replacement soon with hopes to fill position by January with a March start.
 5. Tonsina Trail has numerous trees down on the trail. A large tree is diverting water on Tonsina Creek North Fork.
 6. Jack R is working with Karl Van Buskirk to remove the old dock from Tonsina Beach. Discussion on who owns the dock. Documentation of time and labor to remove dock is needed. Repurposed old floating docks are an ongoing concern for State Parks in multiple locations around the state as city harbors upgrade their docks and give away the old docks.

7. Jack is working with Knik Canoe and Kayakers Association for a service project in Caines Head State Recreation Area, and with a student conservation group to work on a project in Prince William Sound.
 8. Sierra Club will return again next year for work on the Calisto Canyon PUC. The nearby creek may have diverted away from the cabin.
 9. Becoming an Outdoors Woman Alaska will use the Caines Head Ranger Station in June for an event
 10. David Leech offered to assist with the repair of the Tonsina Trail where the creek flows into the pond once a plan is developed in spring. Presently, he has no access as the gate locks were changed. He provided copies of the Borough easement maps and description of easement. Dan will scan and email copies to the Board.
 11. Paul Eshamy Bay PUC Grant Q: Andy Bacon was working on Recreation Trail Grant funding for Eshamy Bay with Board's letter of support. The cabin is funded 70% and additional grant funding will be announced in February or March.
- b. Committee Reports:
- i. Land and Property (Mark): Division of Mining Land and Water (DMLW) letter to Holly Challup has been unanswered re: cleanup of abandoned mining camps, bonding for miners, and elimination of future mining permits in the Tonsina Watershed
 1. Jack B advised Mark mail another letter, cc Clark Cox, Regional Manager of DMLW, with photos. Nick noted there is a red line around the area on the DMLW maps. Jack B also recommended checking the Kenai Area Plan recommendations regarding mining in the area.
 - ii. Education/Interpretation: Carol will add location of Tonsina PUC to bulletins.
 1. Nathan has located a laminator for use to protect the bulletins.
 2. Potential funding for Lexan from state parks for added protection.
 3. Carol sent website suggestions to State Parks, but many were not updated, especially no mention of LPSRS or Tonsina. Jack B will advise.
 4. Jack B requested input on interpretive sign for LPSRS similar to Hope's sign on beach etiquette and no fires.
 5. New signs that have been recommended for years are needed.
 6. Eagle Watch articles with photos and brief text encouraged.
 - iii. Public Use Cabins (Paul):
 1. Jack B would like to encourage more PUCs here to raise revenue. Paul advocated for ADA public use cabins at LPSRS similar to Bird Point State Recreation Site for year-round accessible use and groups. Other potential sites: Thumb Cove, Humpy Cove, Sunny Cove.
 2. Carol: Eshamy Bay PUC and future PUCs should be designed for high energy efficiency and low maintenance; this would set a good example, save staff and volunteer time, and money in the long run.
 3. Nathaniel will laminate the nautical map for the table at Tonsina PUC.
 - iv. Local Issues:
 1. Beach etiquette photos still pending. (Stephanie)
 2. Ken Carpenter, KPB Assembly representative, is working with staff and Lowell Point Community Council to secure snowplowing funds to maintain tsunami evacuation and PUC access for upper parking lot. Board letter helped raise awareness of this issue to the Borough level.

3. Need a Tonsina trail sign on the private gate, if allowed. Small orange fiberglass sign is still standing, but is hard for trail users to see.
4. Paul commented on the lack of outhouses along Tonsina Trail; reports of cat holes and toilet paper throughout Tonsina Trail corridor.
 - a. Provide additional education on how to use the bathroom in the woods
 - b. Provide Instructional cards on Low Impact Hiking
 - c. Cooper Landing provided human waste packets with information at trailheads.
 - d. Post on Website? Carol will submit once information is provided

5) Old Business:

- a. Sign inventory. Paul inventoried current signs stored in Tonsina trailhead shed and Carol compiled and organized his photos into a handout. Carol expressed disappointment in the signs and the need for the new ones requested.
 - i. Discussion of which signs were not needed here, like no fish cleaning sign.
 - ii. Still hoping and waiting for new signs to arrive.
- b. Waters Closed to Salmon fishing signs for North Fork Tonsina bridge area.
 - i. Nathaniel will ask Andy Bacon (on local ADFG Advisory Board)

6) New Business:

- a. Goals of Board: Carol read top goals. Review postponed for December meeting.
- b. By Laws review (Carol and Dan). Carol submitted suggestions and after discussion, Jack Blackwell recommended following Kenai River Special Management Area Bylaws. Postponed for further revision and review for December meeting.
- c. Discussion of board member terms and recent letters of appointment that do not reflect our by-laws or maintain staggered terms. Jack B will advise.
- d. Paul reported he recently visited Iceland and was excited about the possibilities to expand tourism opportunities and economic development in our State Parks.
 1. Consider creating more trails from Tonsina and Lowell Point such as trails to Harding Icefield to connect with high country and even Exit Glacier
 2. It is a small area but there is a lot of potential for more activities
- e. Agenda format approved to provide for public comment in the beginning and end.
- f. Board Member Recruitment. Board members need to help recruit additional members by December 15 deadline. A longer recruitment may be needed. Carol will post notice in the media.

7) Correspondence: none

8) Public Comment: none

9) Adjournment

- a. Board Comments: Carol hopes for success in acquiring Munson landing craft from USFS
- b. Date/Location of next meeting: December 12, 2017, AVTEC 6-8pm.
- c. Motion to Adjourn at 7:58 pm by Paul and seconded by Nathaniel, unanimous