Seward State Parks Citizens Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2014

5:00 pm -7:00 pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Building

Call to Order

Board members present: Mark Luttrel, John Eavis, Carol Griswold, Pat O'Leary, Terry Rude, Benjamin Pister.

Staff present: Jack Blackwell, Jack Ransom

Public Present: Herb Wottlin, Andy Bacon, Paul Paquette, Harold Faust

Tonsina Creek abandoned mining camp update: Mark Luttrel/ Harold Faust

- Mark Luttrel and Harold Faust provided an update on the clean up efforts to remove all abandoned equipment/ garbage from an abandoned mining camp located approximately 2 miles up the N. Fork of Tonsina Creek. The Division of Mining, Land, and Water (MLW) is currently working on the issue and advised that the next step is the legal process.

- Jack Ransom suggested the possibility of utilizing assistance from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

- Harold Faust identified another abandoned mining camp at 700' elevation upstream from the S. Fork of Tonsina Creek. Harold Faust provided photographs and "SPOT" coordinates of the location.

- Harold Faust also noted that he had identified Alaska State Park (ASP) garbage between the N. Fork Bridge and a smaller foot bridge heading south.

- Jack Blackwell stated that the mining claims noted are located outside of State Park lands and that Parks would offer assistance with the cooperation of MLW.

Motion:

- Carol Griswold motioned to draft a letter of support for MLW to clean up the abandoned mining camp(s) and to forward the letter to all appropriate people.

- Board passed a motion to write a letter to governor to be shared with other advisory boards supporting new boats for the three regions.

State Park Staff Report:

- The vacant Seward Park Specialist position has been posted on NEO GOV. Recruitment will end November 28, 2014.

- Seward State Parks Advisory Board recruitment has ended. Currently, 8 of 11 positions are filled. New applicants will be contacted and interviews scheduled. The Director of ASP will make the appointments.

- Terry Rude stated that both the lower and upper Tonsina Point/ Caines Head Trail Head parking lots should be regularly plowed this winter. Jack Blackwell stated he would check available funding for this request and try to keep at least one parking lot cleared this winter.

CAB PRIORITY LIST UPDATE:

- Pat O'Leary and Carol Griswold agreed to draft a letter of support to secure a better vessel for the Seward area.

- Terry Rude commented that a new mooring system at N. Beach should be a top priority as it pertains to the majority of operations in the Caines Head area.

- The board agreed to remove several items from the initial CAB priority list. Those items included; the Alpine Trail reroute, Rocky Point ladder system, and a new trail into the Bear Glacier Lagoon.

Motion:

- John Eavis moved a motion to revise the CAB priorities list and Benjamin seconded the motion.

- Jack Blackwell and Jack Ransom stated they would provide the board with a revised CAB goal list.

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Official name of Seward CAB

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Motion:

- The board motioned to keep the name of the board as Seward Area State Parks Citizen Advisory Board.

Motion:

- Benjamin Pister motioned to include the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation mission statement within their bylaws. Carol Griswold seconded the motion.

- The board agreed to meet the second Tuesday of every month from 5-7pm.

- Jack Ransom stated he would attempt to establish the Culinary Arts building as a permanent meeting location and explore other options if necessary.

Public comments:

- Paul Paquette mentioned upgrading the trail between the lower and upper Tonsina Point/ Caines Head Trail head. Jack Ransom stated that a volunteer effort to improve this section should suffice if a volunteer effort is coordinated.