

CHUGACH STATE PARK CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD

(Hybrid-with in person at BP Energy Center/Microsoft Teams Electronic Meeting)

DRAFT--Minutes of the February 10, 2025 Meeting

REGULAR MEETING #2.

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call and Introductions

Present: Bill Britt, Rob Clark, Stephanie Rice, Sarah Brey, Kyle Shedd, Kristin Vantrease, Clark Saunders, Gus Gustafson, Gabrielle Jordan, Joe Hackenmueller, Irene Turletes, Wendy Sailors

Excused: Tyndal Ellis, Ted Phelps, Mark Miner,

Absent: Marcella Dent (resigned)

Staff: Ben Corwin

Public: Will Taygan, Casey Durand, Robin Dublin, Cathy Hammon

3. Changes to Agenda and Approval: Motion/seconded by Bill/Kyle

4. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Motion/seconded by Stephanie/Clark

5. Public Comments:

- Will Taygan - CMBR
 - Re: Muktuk Marston - Signage plus bike racks at the top Hunter Pass
 - Hired Happy Trails to look at Rendezvous Ridge and improve for bike access, expect to see a report fall 2025
 - Interest in Ship Creek trail becoming bike legal, could do a loop from Powerline Pass to Arctic Valley
 - Challenge AK interested in adaptive-bicycle compatibility, current class 2 should be sufficient
 - Ben - improving trail is consistent with management plan, wilderness corridors require a minimum
 - Currently if trail is open to bikes, it is open to class 1 e-bikes
- Casey Durand - Alaska Glamping Eklutna
 - Interest in selfie-station
 - Parking lot, Bold Ridge TH, Glen Alps, Powerline Pass
 - QR code to go to CPF
 - Casey wouldn't want help/funding for maintenance

- Interest in improving latrine facilities at Eklutna
 - Wants a letter of support, include service contract
 - Irene - motion to write a letter of support for grant for latrine, Stephanie 2nd, passed unanimously
- Robin Dublin - Basher Community Council
 - Fire mitigation, former CAB, community patrol. Pulling in to TH's with magnetic decals and flashing lights, get some cars to leave, help prevent break-ins.
 - Call 311 or CSP, visual presence at THs.
 - Interest in Chugach State Park community patrol
 - Fuel reduction on 150' on either side of Campbell Airstrip Road from Campbell Airstrip TH to Basher TH, shade-break style
 - Questions on Basher TH expansion project, concerns about break ins
 - Community Patrol is sponsored by Muni
 - Very early stages for parking lot improvements at Basher, Ben assures Robin those considerations will be taken into account
- Cathy Hammon - South Fork ER
 - Concerned with recent letter supporting bike use on Muktuk Marston
 - Hunter Pass trail project in 2021-2022
 - Didn't see minutes or recordings online
 - Concern about public input given the age of the Trails Management Plan
 - Muktuk Marston is on the map and in the trail management plan
 - There already existing issues with bikers on SFER
 - Trail plan came out for public comment 2009, formalized in 2016
 - Clark Saunders (CAB is also on the SFER CC), mentioned that the SFER CC also submitted a letter supporting a regulation change to allow bikes on Muktuk Marston
- All CAB online minutes are archived on the online public notice page
- Regulations go through a public comment period, currently drafting regulations, unclear when that will be

6. Old Business:

- None

7. New Business:

- Officer Elections
 - Chair - Irene, nominated by Gus, seconded by Stephanie - unanimous
 - Vice Chair - Tyndall (in absence), nominated by Irene, seconded by Gus
 - Admin officer - Kyle declined, meeting minutes, attendance, Gabrielle Jordan
 - Vice admin - Kyle
- Committee Assignments: Please see attached committee list for full roster. Chairs are listed below.

- Access (Bill)
- Budget (Tyndall)
- Nomination (Gus)
- Seward Highway Design (Stephanie)
- Trails (Gabrielle/Bill): Drop, combine with access
- Chugach Park Fund (Kyle)
- Wildlife (Gus)
- Planning (Stephanie)
- Outreach (Rob)
- Ram Valley (Rob): Drop

8. Staff Report:

• Park Management

- Clearing downed trees across Chugach trails after the recent windstorm.
- No snow machine areas open due to lack of snow.
- Extreme overflow conditions on Canyon Road. Similar conditions on both Briggs and access to Indian Valley.
- Routine cabin maintenance across all park cabins.
- Coordinating with Wendy and Park Specialist to host/ help out with public outreach event coming up.
- Mary Gianotti hosted her Avalanche Rescue workshop this past weekend at Glen Alps. There was over 100 people who attended!
- CSP issued NSAA a permit to groom sections of the Anchorage Hillside Trail System. They brought up a Piston Bully and groomed from Upper Huffman, up Silver Fern, Gasline to Powerline and then a loop around the Glen Alps Access Trails.
- CSP also decided to renew Alaskan Glamping permit for this coming year. I met with Casey a couple of weeks ago and it sounded like operations went smoothly last year with no issues to report. They had 77 bookings last season.
- ERNC's Icy River Rampage was another success this year. 71 participants.

• Maintenance

- Ongoing work on two main host cabins at Eagle River and Bird Point.
- New skid steer has arrived.

• Law Enforcement & Public Safety

- Search & Rescue: Keith and Tim assisted with a SAR operation at Eagle River.
- Illegal Fires: Prevented a pallet fire at Kokanee.
- Security Measures: Game camera and locked put at North Fork gate to deter partying.

- Squatter & Abandoned Vehicle Removal: Rangers removed squatters and cleared an abandoned vehicle from the south end.
- **Staffing & Hiring**
 - Eklutna Camp Host Hired.
 - Returning Camp Host at McHugh.
 - Hiring Process Started for the summer trail crew and park aide.
 - South 1/3 of Eklutna was open water two weeks ago
 - Clearing trails
 - Canyon Road TH was very icy, multiple vehicles
 - 2 rangers out on military leave
 - Vandalism discovered, Bird Creek campground, North Fork, Peter's Creek, campfire burned out of control at Eklutna, car fire at Glen Alps, Bird Creek construction - speed enforcement
 - Mostly just warnings for trailhead stickers
 - Rogue motorized use on Hillside, ranger Kellen caught an electric dirt bike on Saturday, reports of tracked scooters
 - Camp up Peter's Creek at 4-mile bowl
 - Sublegal moose going to trial in 2 weeks
 - Multiple motorist assists
 - I have made the extremely tough decision to resign from my position as park superintendent. It has been a rewarding 16 years with parks. Together with the help of an amazing staff and dedicated CAB, we have done a lot, to which I am very proud. My new position will be Director of Land with Aleut.
- **Division**
 - Not too much to report yet. We've been waiting for the Govs amended budget, but don't know anything at this point.
 - Tracking SB47. It will be heard tomorrow at Senate Transportation at 1:30.
 - And DNR Budget and department overview in House Finance Committee between 8-10 on Wednesday.

9. Committee Reports:

- **Access**
 - Write a letter of support for SB47, Bill made motion, Kyle 2nd, passed unanimously, Bill will draft
- **Budget**
 - No update, tracking SB47
- **Nomination**

- New applicant - Allison Smith
- Seward Highway Design
 - No insight into when EA will come out, was supposed to be Nov. 2024
 - Should come out in the next month or so
 - Review Ben's list of Seward Highway parcels, Access committee review
- Trails
 - N/A
- Chugach Park Fund
 - Trail Tales on Tuesday, January 21. Raised \$2,304 for CPF from event + another \$320 in donations.
 - Did not get Rasmusen Foundation Tier 2 grant (\$140K), planning to reapply for a Tier 1 for \$35K, should hear back within a few months
- Wildlife
 - Gus will meet with Cory ADF&G
- Planning
 - Stephanie meet with Ben for direction
- Ram Valley

10. Adjournment