



Kachemak Bay State Parks Citizens' Advisory Board October 11, 2023 Draft Minutes

1. The Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm
2. Roll Call, Board Members present:
Robert Archibald, Sue Christiansen, Nancy Hillstrand, Curtis Jackson, Stephen Payton, Meg Ciccarelli, Glen Seaman, Aron Peterson, Kevin Walker, Louis Dupree, Yarrow Hinnant.
Absent: Kirsten Dixon Public present: Mako Haggerty, Jason Harriman
3. Agenda Approved
4. Minutes from September 13 2023 Meeting approved with one spelling correction
5. Public Comment, No Comments
6. Visitors:
 - a. Brentwood Higman
Hig explained the Seldovia Trail project would connect with the Tutka Backdoor Trail. He wants to use light detection and ranging (LIDAR) to determine the safest and environmentally best route for this trail. Included in this survey will be areas for the Tutka Backdoor Trail reroute which is proposed to end near the Tutka Bay Lagoon area. There was a question about the Seldovia trail and the effect on goats. Jason Harriman with ADF&G spoke to the Board and thought there may some effect but goats would just move to another area.
Hig has asked for a letter of support for a RTP grant that will help pay for the LIDAR work and help with trail costs, this will be considered later in the agenda.
7. State Park Report:
 - a. Superintendent Hans Rinke reported on his progress assuming his new position. He has been extremely busy learning the area and about issues. He welcomed questions from the Board and will do his best to get questions answered.
 - b. Operations Report: Jason Okuly handed out a written report and asked for questions. See attached report
8. Committee Reports

- a. Trail Committee – Discussed Trails meeting conducted by Eric Clarke.
- b. Friends Report – Mako Haggerty reported on the Kids Across the Bay Project and provided numbers. He updated Board on trail projects and invited the Board to Friends Annual Meeting on October 27th at 5:30pm in the seminar room at Islands and Ocean Visitor Center.
- c. Water Trail – No Report
- d. Cottonwood Eastland –
- e. Eveline Report – Nikki Szarzi, KNSC

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The snowmelt and rainy summer made for some muddy areas on the Alpine Meadows trail during the spring and late summer of 2023. Three pickup truck loads of wood chips were applied to the worst of the muddy trail to provide a more stable walking surface in late June. Digging channels through the muddy locations was also done to dry up the trail. In September, Eric Clarke, Alaska State Park Trails Specialist toured the four muddy locations and provided suggestions for remediation including ditching/culverts and French drains in some locations and a removable plank boardwalk at another. Brushing and hand ditching has commenced on one of the four trail sections.

The trails were mowed to a width of about 8-10 feet once in August and once in September with the KNSC ATV and DR mower. Further clearing of downed trees on the Muskeg Cutoff occurred to provide a better access for snow grooming in August.

INFRASTRUCTURE

New trail name signs and summer trail maps were installed at trail junctions in early June. Summer trail maps were switched with winter trail maps in September and missing winter trail maps are in the process of being replaced. More prominent signage detailing Kachemak Nordic Ski Club winter dog and trail use policies are under development for installation before snow grooming commences.

Warning markers have been installed at the ends of the entrance walkway to prevent further damage from snowplowing the parking lot.

A brown bear killed two goats on private property located along Alpine Meadows Trail in early June. Black bear signs occurred along Alpine Meadows Road around the same time. Due to bear activity, the existing garbage can was removed in early June and a bear-proof can was sought. Defenders of Wildlife donated a bear-proof container valued at \$300 that was received and installed during the first week in August.

Facilities at Eveline SRA are in good repair except the seats of the picnic table on the viewing Platform. Small Potatoes Lumber donated cedar planking for replacing the old seats.

Preparation of the donated wood is underway for installation this fall.

EXPENSES

DATE	Item	Cost
6/9/23	Lock	\$13.62
6/16/23	Poop bags	\$18.53
6/22/23	1 ply TP	\$35.92
9/4/23	Big garbage bags	\$5.99
TOTAL		\$74.06

VISITORS

Visitors were amazingly compliant with signs requiring cleanup of dog feces during the summer. Virtually no garbage was found along the trails either. Frequently, dog owners were seen carrying leashes that were not actually attached to their dogs despite prominent leash signage. There did seem to be a slight increase in the number of dogs on leashes during the summer. The trail counter logged a total of 10,215 visitors to Eveline SRA from May 1, 2023 – October 10, 2023 and a weekly average over the same period of 444. Late July through mid-August received the highest visitation rates with weekly counts that peaked at 1,202 for the week of July 31, 2023.

The written visitor log reported 1,169 visitors from May 1, 2023 through October 10, 2023: 350 from around Homer, 120 from elsewhere in Alaska, 606 from elsewhere in the USA and 93 from other countries. Most logbook comments were complimentary of the park and particularly the new signage.

PERSONNEL

Cameale Johnson, Eveline SRA Park steward in 2020-2022, resigned in early June, 2023, and Nicky Szarzi and Judy Steyer took over the caretaking duties. Many thanks are owed to Cameale for her significant contributions to the park during her tenure as steward. She furnished the Park with many improvements that were commented on favorably by the users and resulted in fewer tasks for the new caretakers.

In addition to doing trail maintenance, one or both caretakers toured the park trails at least two times a week to replace toilet paper, dog poop bags, flower guides and visitor logs; clean the outhouse; empty the garbage and pick up along the trails.

f. Habitat Committee – No Report

7. Old Business

a. Crib Toilet update for Eveline State Recreation Site

Discussed with Hans the possibilities of receiving funding. No guarantees but will pass on information he has learned on the issue.

b. Update on Cottonwood / Eastland ILMA

No new information

8. New Business

a. Permitting in State parks discussion, postponed until next meeting

b. Report on unpermitted road in the Park. Under investigation.

c. Consideration of letter of support for Ground Truth Alaska's application for a RTP Grant from the Board. There was no objection and Chair will compose and send to Hig.

d. Search and Rescue training program, (Wilderness First Responders) and proper protocol for emergency notification in the KBSP. Will have further discussion on this subject, as there is lots of interest.

9. Comments of the Public

No Comments

10. Comments of the Board

11. Adjournment at 7:45.

