

Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes

Tuesday, November 13, 2018 6:00-8:00pm

AVTEC Culinary Arts Academy Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order by Substitute Chair Griswold (for Chair Charbonneau) at 6:09 pm
- B. Minutes taker: Nick Jordan
- C. Roll Call: Nathaniel Charbonneau, Carol Griswold, Nick Jordan, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette
- D. Board members absent: Cliff Reid, Stephanie Wright
- E. State Park Staff: Jack Ransom (Michael Burmeister off for season)
- F. Public Present: David Leech and Tess Tulley
- G. Minutes Approval: 10/09/18 Paul moved, Nathaniel seconded, Unanimous
- H. Agenda Changes and Approval:

Add under Old Business: Discuss meeting time

Add under New Business E-mail from Director Ethan Tyler (Paul)

- II. **Public Comments:** David Leech reported that he removed a fallen tree and dug out streambed to protect trail and neighbor's driveway from erosion following recent heavy rains and flooding.

- III. **Correspondence:** see Director Tyler e-mail below

IV. Reports:

A. Staff Report and Discussion

- i. FEMA is looking at multiple issues including the erosion issue at Tonsina North Fork bridge and Tonsina Trail. It is hoped that FEMA will fund repair of main trail again though \$10K of gravel washed away in recent flood. This is the fourth time FEMA has paid to fight the flooding creek at the north end of the trail.
- ii. FEMA's main interest is funding to move the Callisto PUC to higher ground. It is in the middle of the flood plain: the creek carved a new channel in front of the cabin that now runs over the deck, under the cabin, and is eroding the latrine.
- iii. Calisto PUC needs an overhaul; the Sierra Club volunteers will work on it, summer of 2019
- iv. Underutilized latrine at Thumb Cove State Marine Park in flood zone will be dismantled and moved to Spruce PUC. New tent platforms will be built out of the flood plain.
- v. Box Canyon, by gate on Exit Glacier Road is not state park land but is a Special Use Area managed by DNR Division of Mining, Land, and Water. DMLW posted a 1-day eviction notice for a squatter in a motor home who then left. Subsequently, someone dumped a lot of trash. Jack, as the closest state land representative, helps when he can. He removed three huge piles of trash including many automotive parts, tires, refrigerator, car seats, kids' toys, and food. This is a troublesome hot spot. Director Tyler is not in support of adding Box Canyon to state park management. Discussion about control and if gates would be effective.
- vi. Jack will bring spreadsheet on revenue from PUCs and parking to next meeting.
- vii. Permitted user group at Tonsina PUC had a challenging time with oil stove and almost burnt down the cabin. They were able to get the fire out before serious damage occurred. Discussion on user's responsibility and what happens if damage occurs. Deposit? Fines? Spare extinguisher? More detailed instructions?

B. Committee Reports: none. The committees need to be realigned with our goals.

V. Old Business:

1. Update on new sign inventory report (Jack): Kenai Mountain, Turnagain Arm (KMTA) interpretive signs for Fort McGilvray are moving along. A new Hiker trail sign on Tonsina Trail installed. Class A DOT signs cost \$10K. With limited funding, six new signs were purchased: 2 Danger Cliff/don't hike this way signs for Lowell Point Beach and Tonsina cliffs, 2 Tonsina PUC permit required, 2 others: no campfires, 5-15 plastic habitat closure signs at \$25 each for trail crews to use. Shot-up/damaged signs need replacement.
2. "Waters Closed to Salmon Fishing" signs for Tonsina update: Nathaniel will send out email on report
3. Lowell Point upper parking lot winter maintenance by KPB update (Jack): Jim McCracken will ask Assemblyman Carpenter, Paul will report on the upcoming Lowell Point Community Council meeting.
4. Meeting Time discussion: Board discussed change to 4 to 6 pm, but decided to keep current schedule.

VI. New Business:

1. 2018-2019 Goals review, discussion and update: Board discussed some of the goals, below, but ran out of time. Top action goals for 2018/19 will be on next month's agenda.
 - a. Support extending Park Technician position to 12 months: Recruitment and retention for only a 7-month position is difficult, and retraining a new technician is expensive. There is much work to be done that could be done especially with our warmer winters. Additional load of work addressing Valdez PUCs and facilities.
 - b. LPSRS Parking Lot: added "trim back brush, add curbs, striping, use angle parking to develop additional spots"; continue to improve site with mobile accessibility.
 - c. Delete "Post to Eagle Watch" as this is no longer funded.
 - d. Delete "Mooring Buoys for North Beach and Thumb Cove".
 - e. Priorities: Fund Capacity study of Resurrection Bay. Jack suggested changing "fund" to "support" and have an independent contractor do it for all agencies. It cost 10K for the Kenai River Recreation Study by Doug Whittaker. (click link to study) http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/kenairiver_recstudy_oct2010.pdf
 - f. Jack noted that due to budget cuts, there is no planning team now. The Kachemak Bay State Park and Wilderness Plan is the last one that was funded, and just finished accepting public input. He suggested that we offer guidance to provide an interim update to the 1997 Caines Head State Recreation Area Plan. Jack will pinpoint the process so our time is not wasted.
 - g. Support Nomination of Fort McGilvray to the National Historic Register: Jack suggested splitting Fort off from CHSRA as the historic part from Derby Cove to South Beach and apply for a new designation.
2. Evaluate standing committees in reference to goals and discuss revision (Carol): This will be on the December agenda.
3. Director Tyler's e-mail: Paul will forward information to Board concerning the December 18, 6 pm meeting at the Atwood Center for State Park Advisory Board Chairs in person or by teleconference. Board will come up with a list of ideas/priorities for the upcoming meeting.

4. Meeting time with Management: Evening meetings are problematic due to budget cuts, overnight stays, or driving back at night. At least once a year, it would be nice to meet directly with managers during the daytime, possibly in February at noon. With the new governor, political appointments are up in the air for a while. Board will decide on questions for management prior to meeting. Jack will ask management about dates.

VII. Public Comments: Tess Tulley is interested in applying for the board. Jack advised about process.

VIII. Adjournment

- i. Board Comments: Paul: feels it is a privilege to serve on Board. He looks forward to talking to the management for inspiration, support, and direction.
 - ii. Carol: sent email from USFS detailing use of vegetable oil for chainsaw lube in summer to reduce pollution and petroleum use. She encouraged state parks to adopt this policy where possible. She appreciated photos of Tonsina Creek and erosion by Cliff Reid and Christy Jordan.
- A. Date/Location of next meeting: AVTEC on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at 6 pm.
 - B. Motion to Adjourn: Adjourn at 7:58 pm by Paul and seconded by Nathaniel, unanimous