

Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes

Wednesday, October 20, 2021 5:30-7:00 pm

Teleconference

I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order: 5:30 pm
- B. Minutes taker: Paul Paquette
- C. Roll Call: Bob Barnwell, Carol Griswold, Nick Jordan, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Cliff Reid, Kat Sorensen
- D. Board members absent: Tess Tulley
- E. State Park Staff: District Ranger Jack Ransom
- F. Public Present: Mica Van Buskirk
- G. Minutes Approval for September 15, 2021: **Nick moved for approval as amended, Cliff seconded: unanimous**
- H. Agenda Changes and Approval: **Bob moved approval, Mark seconded, unanimous.**

II. Public Comments: Mica stated expanded user parking was a priority; she thought the lower parking lot could be expanded and the wetlands were not historic. Re: Carol's draft letter to Mayor Pierce about delegating Lowell Point volunteer fire chief as enforcement officer, she did not support this unless under extreme circumstances.

III. Board Contact and Correspondence: none

IV. Reports:

- A. Staff Report: Jack Ransom

The KMTA interpretive signs were installed at Fort McGilvray. Board members who have seen them at the site were impressed.

Several large spruce trees fell on Fort Trail, which will be cleared soon or in the spring. More trees continue to fall by the Tonsina Public-use Cabin. Users are having trouble accessing the cabin especially during high tides. The Reserve America website accessibility will be amended to note that rubber boots will be needed at 10' and higher tides. Rerouting the trail along the mountainside and adding trail triangles will be a low-impact solution.

The CHSRA Historic Register nomination will be reviewed in November by the Seward Historic Preservation Commission. The final version of the survey will be available this winter. Fort Bulkley, Barwell Island, and other WWII historic sites around the bay are under different land management and might be added later.

Jack presented boating/ice safety for middle schoolers at the pool. Outdoor survival skills are important outreach and visibility for local state parks.

- B. Committee Reports

- 1. Local issues (Nick): Parking, see below.

- 2. Mining: Cliff will email a photo of a new mining claim sign posted at Tonsina South Fork on former Goresen claim. This one is a federal claim. He believes it is 40 acres like the Lucky claim.

- 3. Kelp Farm Committee (Bob, Tess, Cliff): Project was moved to Pony Cove.

Cliff moved, Bob seconded to disband committee, unanimous

V. Old Business:

1. ADFG Advisory Board No Salmon Fishing signs for N and S Fork bridges: Cliff emailed ADFG Jay Bauman but hasn't yet heard back.

2. Parking issue:

Lower parking lot: Cliff suggested extending a one-way loop across the wetlands to the boat launch area with angle parking on both sides. Carol and Nick had concerns about adding to the congestion there, especially for emergency services access. Mark wondered if part of the Conservation Easement could be filled to protect public safety. Bob floated the idea of a ferry between Seward and Lowell Point, restricting access to bicycles, and working on a 10-year plan. Jack noted it's not an historic wetlands, that there needs to be a balance between park users and the community, that fixing/improving the parking issue might be done without a huge impact, that scenic value must be considered, that the existing parking lot is not wide enough, the curb stops are crumbling, the latrines are the oldest in the state. The EVOS Conservation Easement restrictions must be understood, and the LPCC and CAB need to agree on the action.

He will ask the chief engineer to design a draft parking lot/site concept with all these considerations for our review.

A local contractor was hired to keep the lower parking lot plowed this winter. That will help provide legal parking off the road. The borough will continue to maintain the upper parking lot.

Jack noted the upper parking lot Conex could be moved to create 5 long-term parking spaces for PUC users. As a tsunami safe area, perhaps a community multi-use facility with heat, water, cots, and supplies could be funded by the borough and built on the existing boat storage/equipment pad. Nick noted the LP Volunteer Fire Department has a small community center with limited emergency supplies and capacity. With tourism on the rise again, there could be hundreds of visitors and residents needing shelter during an emergency.

Nick also agreed with Mica's comments; the few fire department volunteers are stretched pretty thin already and would not have time to enforce the no parking violations. **The Board agreed to not send the letter.**

VI. New Business:

1. 2021 Bylaws: Jack relayed that Director Ricky Gease has mandated standardized bylaws for all boards in the state to reduce load on staff. He will require streamlining minute-taking to one page of action items, who present, and key discussion points, then submission of minutes and a recording to be posted on-line. (Other boards have staff take minutes; our Board has taken turns for many years.) The new bylaws also have term limits with 2, 3-year terms, then time off before reapplying. The transition was not explained. The legal department has been reviewing the bylaws for several months. There is no avenue to have input or make changes without collaboration with other regional boards. Mark suggested soliciting comments from the other Kenai/Prince William Sound Region boards before approval. **Mark moved, Cliff seconded to share Carol's bylaws comment letter with the other boards; unanimous.**

2. 2022 Seward Visitor Guide: Kat appreciated comments to help improve the local state parks information, removing tide pooling and other destructive actions, keeping local sentiment and crowded trails in mind. Share any additional comments until November 28.

3. Extension of meeting time from 5:30 to 7:30 pm: After discussion, **unanimous.**

VII. Public Comments: none

VIII. Adjournment

A. Board Comments: Bob appreciated Carol's thoroughness with the bylaws review. Paul is looking forward to the draft parking lot/site design. Cliff requested an agenda item for next month on the donation of a prefab latrine for South Beach by a member of the public.

B. Date/Location of next meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 5:30 pm. TBA

C. Motion to Adjourn: **Cliff moved to adjourn, Mark seconded, unanimous, 7:07 pm.**