

## Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

### Meeting Minutes

Rescheduled to February 22, 2023 5:30-7:30 pm

AVTEC Culinary Academy, 809 Second Ave, east entrance, third floor

#### I. Call to Order

- A. Call to Order: 5:34 pm by Chair Griswold
- B. Minutes taker: Nick Jordan
- C. Roll Call: Carol Griswold, Nick Jordan, Mark Luttrell, Tom Miller, Cliff Reid
- D. Board members absent (excused): Bob Barnwell, Kat Sorensen, Tess Tulley, Mica Van Buskirk
- E. State Park Staff: District Ranger Jack Ransom, Park Specialist Michael Burmeister
- F. Public Present: none
- G. Minutes Approval for January 18, 2023: Cliff move, Mark second, unanimous
- H. Agenda Changes and Approval: Carol: add Eagle Scout project discussion to New Business #3; unanimous

#### II. Public Comments: none

#### III. Board Contact and Correspondence with Public:

Tom Miller: Speaking as Miller's Landing, is concerned about parking being a problem in the summer. Tom spoke with Seward City Tours owner Jonas Swiderski about the option for a shuttle bus to transport visitors from town to Lowell Point. One or two buses a day could cut down significant traffic on Lowell Point. The only way this could work is if the bus is subsidized financially by the park and Chamber of Commerce. Cost would be \$80 per hour for 24 seats on the shuttle with a discount after the last city-scheduled run at 7 or 8 pm.

Carol comment: Exit Glacier is served by shuttle buses, maybe they would be interested. If this were a viable market, private enterprise would do it.

Trail user shared photos of Tonsina PUC with Carol; she was shocked how many trees have fallen since it was opened in 2018. No need for a buoy to mark the trail to the cabin now; it is completely visible from the beach.

#### IV. Reports:

- A. Staff Report: Jack Ransom had been in training. While working on the trail, he noted trail use has begun to pick up with many new people.  
Mike Burmeister started work last week, focusing on fallen tree and overhanging brush removal on Tonsina Trail. Expect trail grant report in March.  
Fort McGilvray Historic District, including Rocky Point, was approved in December for the National Register of Historic Places. Board was very excited about achieving this long-time goal, and expressed appreciation for Jack R and Mike's work. Board would like to know what this nomination means re: restrictions, funding opportunities, etc. Mark noted KMTA offers funding for historic sites. **Mike will try to get a link to the report and find out more.** Cliff mentioned loose items that should be collected and preserved; Mark noted the Resurrection Bay Historical

Society is planning a larger exhibit on WWII in Seward area and might accept the items. Carol would like to submit a press release to Journal if one does not already exist.

North Fork Tonsina Creek armament project will start in the spring; watch for signs, and report anything of interest to staff and Board. Document with photos.

Mike shared March 2023 Trail Condition Report by email for review and comments.

## B. Committee Reports

1. Local issues (except parking): Nick reported mini dirt bikes riding on and around Lowell Point Beach and grass. The vehicle and suspected mini bikes were subsequently seen in the AVTEC parking lot. **Jack R will address this issue.**

The small black bear at Lowell Point was dispatched and the carcass donated to the high school anatomy class for a learning opportunity.

2. Mining (Cliff, Bob, Carol): Carol referred to January's minutes. We are waiting for Jack B to untangle the ILMAs. The goal is to include the Tonsina Creek watershed in the Park.

3. Legislative Committee (Bob, Mica) Budget: No report.

## C. Goals for 2023 Updates and discussion

- a. Continue to pursue Lowell Point Parking plan: waiting for SCORP release
- b. Continue to pursue resolution of Tonsina Creek mining issue: see above. This site started out to look promising, but all the links are dead  
<https://catalog.data.gov/dataset/alaska-state-park-trails-through-ilma>
- c. Support funding for deferred maintenance: Board letter? Motion, etc.
- d. Support funding for relocation of Tonsina PUC; in budget but not yet approved. Board letter to Legislators and Director? Motion etc.
- e. Support Friends Group, whether locally or statewide: in SCORP comments
- f. Update Parks website: re high tides, stove fuel, slides, and other changes: see attached. **Mark move to send comments, Nick second, unanimous.**
- g. Maintain laminated tide charts at kiosks: Carol and Nick; 1<sup>st</sup> quarter done.
- h. Support Mooring Buoy Plan. **Eagle Scout proposal moving along.**
- i. Request FY25 funding for deferred maintenance of existing public-use cabins: May 2023. Board letter to Director and Legislature? Motion, etc.
- j. Explore new public-use cabin locations: are there suitable locations? Can Seward area state parks afford to have more without deferred maintenance funding? **Board voted unanimously 2-22-23 not to support this: area has enough, new sites are scarce, deferred maintenance and relocations of existing PUCs are expensive and difficult, there isn't enough parking available, focus on deferred maintenance first.**
- k. Support installation of tent platforms in park: determine locations and include in grants. **2-22-23 Board supported Eagle Scout project to provide tent platforms. Suggested new locations at North Beach (old shelter location), Thumb Cove, Fox Island Spit. Tent platforms help direct campers to use them and protect the environment.**
- l. Support ASLC meeting with all Resurrection Bay stakeholders: Nick, **no report.**

## V. New Business:

1. Goals for 2023: Add update of 1998 CHSRS Management Plan, especially with the addition of Fort McGilvray Historic District and send letter of support. **Mark moved to add this goal, Tom second, unanimous.**

2. Request an extension on Board recruitment and keep open until filled; notice was not published in Journal yet. **Jack R will follow up.** Mark and Nick have reapplied to renew Board membership. Currently we have nine members, including Mark and Nick. We could use 2 more dedicated volunteers who can attend most of the meetings. Please share with any locals you think might be interested and encourage them to apply. The application is on-line at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/misc/advisboardapp.pdf>

3. Eagle Scout Projects: Carol sent summarized Board comments to Scouts:

*The Seward State Parks Citizen Advisory Board reviewed the summaries and photos of your proposed Eagle Scout projects at our February 22 meeting and have the following comments:*

*Kids Don't Float project by Bengimin Ambrosiani: We are very interested in one life jacket loaner board at Lowell Point State Recreation Site on state park property immediately west and adjacent to the boat launch ramp. It is somewhat surprising that swimming has become a popular activity at this beach, in addition to the increasing numbers of paddleboarders and kayakers. We feel this site would be the most needed and important. The Board agreed that the loaner boards are not yet needed at the other suggested sites in Seward state parks.*

*Tent Platforms with Ridge Pole and Fire Rings project by John Van Buskirk: Providing more tent platforms at popular camping sites is one of the Board's goals. The Board suggested the following: use of pressure-treated wood to increase longevity and reduce maintenance in a rainy coastal climate, an elevated platform as noted to get above minor flooding and drainage issues; ¼" spacing of deck boards to allow drainage and attachment options; stainless steel rings along the perimeter to attach tent lines; ridge poles to allow a tarp to be installed over tent and platform.*

*The fire rings sound like a good idea for safer camping as stated. The Board supports this project in general and leaves the locations up to the park staff, although North Beach would greatly benefit from tent platforms. Of note, there are a number of clever and inexpensive tent platform anchors available on-line that could be suggested on the state parks website.*

*Modular Latrine with Lexan Roof by Casey Bryden: Latrine replacement is a much-needed project. Unfortunately, the preferred site at Porcupine Glacier public-use-cabin in Thumb Cove State Marine Park is not available as the cabin is booked solid and there is no alternative latrines for the campers. An alternate site at South Beach in Caines Head State Recreation Area*

*was suggested instead. The existing latrine is in need of replacement, and there are no public-use cabin issues. The Board recommended brown metal siding on the latrine and pressure-treated wood for the deck to help reduce maintenance and that the deck plank spacing be ¼” to allow drainage.*

*Fort McGilvray Hazard Reduction and Junk Removal project by Nickolas Ambrosiani: The Fort was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Fort McGilvray Historic District on December 27, 2022. The Board agreed that the Fort can be a hazardous place for visitors, even with flashlights. Given the new status of the Fort, the Board felt that any hazard-reduction should be done with as little permanent impact as possible. For example, covering or padding protruding metal studs instead of grinding them down. Sturdy, pressure-treated wooden hatches are a great idea, but they need to be secured with a minimally invasive technique. Staff offered to contact the State Historic Preservation Office to receive guidance on how to best proceed with these and any other much-needed hazard reductions.*

*Staff agreed that there is a lot of non-historic trash that needs to be removed. This effort is also greatly appreciated.*

*In general, collaborating with local District Ranger Jack Ransom and Park Specialist Michael Burmeister is essential to determine the type and location of each project, and to coordinate the schedule, logistics, and housing. The Board defers to their recommendations and expertise.*

#### **VI. Old Business: Postponed from May 18, 2022 meeting, see May minutes**

1. Tidepool and collecting permit clarification (Carol): Organizations including Alutiiq Pride, Alaska Sealife Center, Major Marine, and National Park Service collect and remove plants and/or animals. School groups including home school groups visit without permit and remove marine life from habitat. **Jack R will reach out to appropriate people, keep a paper trail and include purpose, when, and what.** Jack noted that independent homeschool groups are hard to track down.

2. Discussion on protection of Pinnacle Rock as a sensitive habitat with habitat closure: Jack R noted that it is on the boundary of the park, it would be very difficult to secure. Carol noted it is the only road-accessible intertidal site, and is being loved to death; what a loss.

#### **VII. Informational Items: none**

#### **VIII. Public Comments: none**

#### **IX. Adjournment**

A. Board Comments: Cliff: glad to be home.

B. Date/Location of next meeting: Wednesday, March 15 at 5:30 pm, in person

C. Cliff moved for adjournment, Mark seconded, unanimous at 7:33 pm.