
Parks and Recreation Committee

Thursday, April 14, 2016 12:00PM
Sealing Cove Business Center
601 Alice Loop

Members: Chair - Jeff Feldpausch, V.Chair - Clara Whitehead, Jeff Mossige, Chris Whitehead, Lorraine Lil, Barbara Morse

Assembly Liaison: Benjamin Miyasato

Ex Officio: Lynne Brandon, Wayne Challoner

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Feldpausch called the meeting to order at approximately 12:03PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Jeff Feldpausch, Chris Whitehead, Lorraine Lil, Barbara Morse, Jeff Mossige (12:06)

Absent: V.C. - Clara Whitehead (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Benjamin Miyasato

Staff: Assistant Contract Coordinator/Office Manager Wanda Bush, Administrative Coordinator Renee Wheat, M&O Superintendent Nick Kepler, Grounds Maint. Supervisor Shawn McLeod, Centennial Hall Building Manager Don Kluting

Other(s): Lynne Brandon, Wayne Challoner

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M – Chris Whitehead moved to approve the March 10, 2016 minutes with the following changes: Motion: I move to recommend creating a City project for the Crescent Harbor playground and funding it with \$40,000 or more. With an active community fund-raising effort underway to rectify safety and accessibility issues with deferred maintenance project at Crescent Harbor playground, this playground is the top priority. Funds can be used from the \$40,000 for playground surfacing in the FY16 Parks and Recreation operating budget, from the Infrastructure sinking fund, CPET or other funds. If necessary Moller Playgrounds should be closed until funds become available to rectify fully the problems with those playgrounds. These playgrounds will be upgraded during the next community effort regarding playgrounds. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. REPORTS

Chair – Reviewed the Parks and Rec Committee member duties, expressed the importance of being aware of existing and additional infrastructure and the money it requires to replace and maintain those infrastructures.

Members – Whitehead stated it is really good to have two new members.

Staff – Bush welcomed two new members, Lorraine Lil and Barbara Morse. And reported

that the Community Development Director will do a Comprehensive Plan presentation this Fall. Wheat reported there is a board, committee and commission Parliamentary Procedure Training April 15th at Noon, all are invited to attend.

Assembly Liaison – Thanked the new members for stepping up and helping to make this Committee more functional. Last year the Committee went quite a few months without a quorum. Boards, Commissions and Committees that we have, serve an important function. He will support whatever comes out of this Committee at the Assembly level.

Other(s) – Brandon with Sitka Trail Works reported that they had recently wrapped up repairs from the August 18, 2015 storm; Heart Lake drainage where it comes out to Blue Lake and also Cross Trails Phases 4 and 5. They received maintenance money of \$49,000 from the Recreation Trail Program for Mosquito Cove Trail, a State Trail. They try to address the needs of the State Parks trails too. An RFP for design had been sent out for Cross Trail Phase 6.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE

None

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Update on State Parks Management Negotiations with the City

Challoner reported that the National Park Service had an agreement in place to maintain Castle Hill and Historic Town Site for the summer during the time the cruise ships are coming through. They would accept any assistance if available. They are trying to help out when they can and how they can. Kepler offered to work with the National Park Service however they can. Brandon reported that there was a volunteer host in the HPR Recreation cabin. Also, there was a Facebook page that people were informally reserving the different picnic shelter spots for events. Chair Feldpausch thanked the City and National Parks for stepping in and taking care of what the State would be responsible and helping and also the volunteers in our community. He also stated his concern about no restroom facilities and the consequences. As well as no garbage receptacles. He requests that the City work with the State about opening the bathroom facilities since there is a Host living on site. Kepler reported that they are looking for solutions for the bathroom facility as well as refuse receptacles. He also stated that there is possibly another option for pumping septic systems besides the City, Bob Reid and he also had the contract at Stargavin Campgrounds.

B. Update on Community Playgrounds/Crescent Harbor Playground

In March's Parks and Rec Committee meeting, a motion was made to take to the Assembly for creating a City project for the Crescent Harbor playground and funding it with \$40,000 or more. The Assembly passed this motion. Anderson Planning had been selected to create the Design. Monique Anderson stated that there would be more significant detail for the conceptual design in a month. It would include the property of one of the tennis courts which would help with more space needed. The big part of the playground is to make ADA accessible. Offered anyone who would like to attend the meetings, First Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Sitka Community Hospital. The goal was that the construction would start spring 2017.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Veteran's Memorial Park Development

Jamie Ackley introduced herself, she is the secretary of the Sitkan Veteran's Association. Jamie stated that this was the first stage of development and expressed the need for a

Memorial for the Veterans (to include every branch of service) as well as to educate the community. There would be a “kick start” dinner at the Elks July 4th. She reported that Anderson Planning would create a conceptual design for this idea on the Centennial Hall property. Liaison Miyasato reported that there were 1,100 to 1,200 whom have served that live in Sitka. He stated that he was behind this and would fully support. Liaison Miyasato also stated that it was important for this facility to be accessible for all. Centennial Hall Bldg. Mgr., Don Kluting, stated that this was the first he had heard of this proposal and was surprised. There were a few concerns about the boat ramp, seat storage, AV equipment, the Seawalk, parking accessibility, maintenance, impact to City staff, scheduling. Chair Feldpausch suggested using the proper channels of the City to start their process to move forward.

M - Mossige/S - Whitehead moved to hear more discussion about the Veteran’s Memorial Park Development as a concept as it has been presented. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Sitka Trail Works Phase 6

Brandon reported that this was the last piece of the Cross Trail and were gathering funds. They were looking for letters from specific entities for support. STW will be going to the Assembly for a Resolution and support for the grant application. She expressed confidence with this application, it now takes two years to receive the funding. The maximum amount they allow to ask for is \$2 million, and that was what we would be asking for. Brandon also stated that Sitka Trail Works would continue to raise funds for the Cross Trail maintenance. Mossige stated that the Cross Trail gets lots of use and he would support the efforts. Lil Inez also stated that it is one of the best recreational uses we have in Sitka and she would support it. Liaison Miyasato stated that with the support of this committee, the grant application and resolution, it had a greater chance of getting approval from the Assembly.

M - Lil/S - Mossige moved to the support grant application to the Federal Lands Access Program for the Cross Trail multimodal pathway Phase 6 construction. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Review of Deferred Maintenance in Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

Chair Feldpausch stated the committee would like to see the CIP Plan annually to help prioritize our decision making and to have backup to take to the Assembly. He suggested that possibility of volunteers helping with some of the improvements. The Goal Matrix was discussed to understand if it was the best tool for this committee. Liaison Miyasato stated that this was the only committee he has seen it used and believed it could be very helpful. Kepler stated that knowing the vision of the committee carries a lot of weight and wanting to have direction is key.

D. 2017 Budget Presented by Staff

Kepler stated that the FY17 draft budget had been submitted to the Assembly and had not yet been decided. Kepler was confident that the Parks and Rec Manager position would be cut. There would be a new Buildings, Grounds and Parks Supervisor hired in May to help with these departments. Summer seasonal hire was in the process to help. Liaison Miyasato suggested and encouraged, if you do not like that position going away, bring it to the Assembly again. Challonerer stated the importance of identifying where the loss is and prioritize, you cannot do more with less.

M - Mossige/S - Lil move that the Parks and Recreation Committee reaffirms its

stance of filling the Parks and Recreation position in the FY17 budget. Motion carried unanimously.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Retha Winger with the Girl Scouts, suggested that the \$40,000 that was allocated for playground surfacing and is still unspent, be placed into a capital project for the FY16 and that \$50,000 is available for FY17. This committee needs to fight for that money.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Agenda items for the next regular meeting of May 12, 2016

Agenda items for the next meeting would include Update on State Parks Management, Playgrounds Update, and Veterans Memorial Park Development. These meetings are open to the public.

M – Chris Whitehead. Seeing no objection, Chair Feldpausch adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:53 PM.

Attest:
Wanda Bush, Asst. Contract Coordinator/Office Manager