



Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 12:00 p.m.
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Members: Chair – James Poulson, Ben Hughey, Brandon Marx
Rich Krupa, Steve Black, Katherine Prussian, Candace Rutledge
Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair James Poulson called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: James Poulson, Ben Hughey (arrived at 12:10 pm), Rich Krupa, Brandon Marx (arrived at 12:11 pm), Katherine Prussian and Steve Black

Absent: Rich Krupa (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Staff Present: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk, Kevin Knox, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, and Connor Dunlap Buildings, Grounds & Parks Supervisor

Others: None.

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 14, 2024

Black moved to approve the May 14, 2024 minutes as written. Motion passed 6-0 by voice vote.

V. REPORTS

Chair: None.

Members: None.

City Staff: Kevin Knox, Parks, and Recreation Coordinator reported on the operational control of the Blatchley Pool, which had been handed over to city staff as of July 1st. He mentioned a job position for an aquatic supervisor and the head lifeguard had been advertised, with one application received so far. The pool remains closed to the public due to the absence of staff, but it's open to certain rental groups who provide own lifeguarding staff.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): None.

VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (For items OFF the agenda - Not to Exceed 3 Minutes)
None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Commercial Use Permit Applications

M/Y Lady L

Krupa moved to recommend approval to the administrator for a permit for commercial recreational activity on city and borough lands for M/Y Lady L at Baranof Warm Springs as it has been determined that the use as proposed: 1. Will not pollute or degrade the environment, resources, facilities, or atmosphere of the area; and 2. Will not endanger the public health, safety, and welfare; and 3. Will not significantly interfere with the use and enjoyment of the area by other members of the public. Motion passed 6-0 by a roll call vote.

Angel Holbrooks from Yacht Services of Alaska a representative from the Lady L, explained that the privately owned vessel usage was for occasional recreational purposes by the family. She emphasized that the vessel would accommodate a maximum of six guests and assured that it would not disrupt local traffic or utilize community facilities such as restrooms.

***Yes- Poulsen, Rutledge, Marx, Krupa, Black, Prussian
Absent- Krupa***

C. Blatchley Pool Fee Schedule

The Committee discussed the revised fee schedule for Blatchley pool, specifically addressing adjustments for the Barracudas, the pool's largest user group. Dean Orbison explained that the slight increase in their hourly rate was necessary due to higher lifeguard service costs, which had remained stable since Covid restrictions were put in place. The Committee felt the new rates were considered fair and in line with what the Barracudas had expected to pay.

XI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (For items on or off the agenda - Not to Exceed 3 Minutes)
Assembly member Carlson reported on recent recommendations from the Tourism Task Force, highlighting potential collaborations with the Tourism Commission on visitor activities and the use of recreational facilities in Sitka. Topics included considering non-smoking zones in public spaces like playgrounds and sports facilities, and the proposal to designate priority recreational areas for residents. Ben Hughey gave an update on the ongoing reconstruction of the first footbridge along the Indian River trail, which was damaged during a storm.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting would be on August 13 , 2024, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall.
Hearing no objection, Chair Poulson called the meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Attest:
Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk