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# Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

## Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

### Harrigan Centennial Hall

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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 (via zoom at 12:05 p.m.), Rich Krupa, Brandon Marx, Candace Rutledge, Steve Black, and Katherine Prussian

Absent: None.

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Staff Present: Jess Earnshaw, Deputy Clerk, and Kevin Knox, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

Others: None.

#### **III. AGENDA CHANGES**

None.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

##### **A. August 13, 2024**

**Marx moved to approve the August 13, 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 provided an update on the successful grant award for the Crescent Harbor Court Rehab project and announced Rachel Fox would be the new aquatic supervisor for the Blatchley Pool. He also emphasized the launch of new after-school programs and the recruitment of six candidates to staff the pool.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): Ben Hughey of Sitka Trail Works shared plans to shut down Mosquito Cove trail next week.

**VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** (For items OFF the agenda - Not to Exceed 3 Minutes)  
Ted Laufenberg expressed the need for improved signage at commercial facilities to inform operators about permit requirements. He also mentioned the redesignation of the Warm Springs boardwalk and the importance of maintaining a dialogue with the Baranoff Warm Property Owners Association.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
None.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**B. Work Session Overview on Commercial Land Use Permit and Code Changes**

Planning and Community Development Director Amy Ainslie spoke about the work session meeting on commercial land use permit changes, emphasizing that the focus would be on refining the code and procedures rather than the land use policy or plan.

**C. Presentation on E-bikes by the Assembly Members JJ Carlson and Timothy Pike**

Assembly Member Carlson discussed the challenges of bike riding on downtown sidewalks, citing the lack of street indicators as a major issue. She noted most bike rentals in Sitka are Class 2 e-bikes, with no plans to offer Class 3 bikes. Carlson emphasized the importance of creating a protective path for bikers and e-bike riders to ensure their safety.

Carlson also addressed ongoing concerns with e-bikes and electric scooters, suggesting that stricter rental guidelines and physical fitness checks could improve safety. She raised questions about the classification of e-scooters alongside e-bikes and called for a more thorough commercial tourism permitting process. Additionally, she pointed out the difficulties in tracking e-bike accidents, emphasizing the need for better data collection. The discussion also touched on managing conflicts between pedestrians, e-bikes, and scooters, particularly around shared paths near the creek. Carlson advocated for more educational awareness, clearer definitions for e-bikes and scooters, and considered state legislation to address these challenges. Another issue raised was the problem of e-scooters being left scattered around town, with difficulties in locating the companies responsible.

**XI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD** (For items on or off the agenda - (Not to Exceed 3 Minutes)  
None.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting would be on October 8, 2024, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall. Hearing no objection, Chair Poulson called the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Attest:  
Jess Earnshaw,  
Municipal Deputy Clerk