

**Mat Su State Parks
Citizens Advisory Board
Minutes
October 10, 2012**

The meeting was called to order by at 7:00 PM.

A quorum of the Citizens Advisory Board was present and due notice had been published.

I. MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Neil Fox	Jim Von Bose
Greg Ronnback	Nicole Troyer
Doug Bourne	
Barbara Russell	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dennis Mobley-excused
Larry Smith-excused

STATE PARK STAFF PRESENT

Wayne Biessel, Superintendent
Teri Zell, Secretary to the Board
Darcy Harris, Natural Res. Specialist Coordinator of the State Trails Program

Members of the Public present:

Dave Johnston, applicant for Board
Marjorie Bellringer
Dave Russell

II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2012 MINUTES

Barbara makes a motion to accept minutes as written. Doug seconds. All vote in favor. Minutes are accepted.

II. CORRESPONDENCE

none

III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

- Marjorie Bellringer, representing the Lynx Lake Home Owners Association
Marjorie is a homeowner at Lynx Lake and gives a brief presentation on her background on the history and present status of Lynx Lake as it applies to the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area Management plan (see attached).
- Darcy Harris, State Trails Program
Darcy gives an overview of where funding for recreational trails projects comes from; mostly funded through Federal Highways. The funding goes into Dept. of Transportation and then funnels to the Division of Parks and in turn goes to the state trails program.
State Parks lost FY12 funding due to an audit done by Federal Highways. However, Parks did receive approximately 1.4 million for FY13.

Public notices for grant applications must be posted by October 15th. Grant applications deadline is November 15th.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- The last monsoon we received in the area caused significant damage to some of our trails; work on the Upper Troublesome Creek trail project had to stop a month early due to the rain/freezing temps.
- Cascade Trail held up but there have been some tread failures of the new work done this summer. Damage control will have to wait until spring.
- The Byers Lake outlet bridge sustained heavy damage and more trail damage to the Byers Lake Loop trail. Those will be worked on next spring as well.
- Hatcher Pass trails also sustained damage - Reed Lakes trail, Goldmint trail and the bridge at mile 12 fell apart.
- Willow Creek reported only high water and some erosion.
- Trail crews completed the rough-in of the Mile 16 Bicycle trail in Hatcher Pass. We are hoping to get a grant for Phase II of this project for next year.
- The snowmachine corridor project for Nancy Lake State Recreation Area is almost complete.
- There is a notice from the Mat-Su Borough regarding the Crevasse Moraine public meetings on Oct. 25th and Nov. 14th at the animal shelter.
- Currently working on a trails program for the Matanuska Lakes State Recreation Area
- No regulations are in place for the implementation of the Hatcher Pass Management Plan. It is almost ready; only need authorization from the Commissioner and the Lt. Governor. Should be mid-November when we hear. It takes a long time for parks staff to prep for signs and they may have to relocate the signage due to the boundary changes.
- South Denali Phase I proposes 7 new public use cabins within the area.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- The Nancy Lake State Recreation Area Master Plan public review received 97 pages of comments.
- Years ago, Fairbanks state parks had problems with keeping up with getting funding for maintenance projects (CIP funding) and the Fairbanks CAB started a Legislative Briefing every winter. It has been very successful for them and they have the area Legislators on their side and are receiving more CIP funding. Our area has tried this in the past without much success. State Parks would like the Advisory Board to include this in their business plans for autumn, winter and spring – looking for a volunteer committee to ask for more maintenance funding from the Legislature. Nicole, Jim and Barbara volunteer to be on the committee.
- Also need a committee to following the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area management plan; Barbara, Doug and Larry volunteer.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- **New Public Use Cabin Proposal** – Wayne asks the Board to request the Friends of State Parks, Mat-Su (FoSP) to fund public use cabins for Mat-Su area State Parks. Barbara makes a motion to volunteer to write a letter on behalf of the Board to FoSP for one or possibly two new public use cabins to replace

existing cabins that are falling apart from age. Nicole seconds the motion and all vote in favor.

- Wayne asks the Board for letters of support for the 2013 Rec. Trail grant applications. The Board was collectively supportive on this request and the action was passed by unanimous consent. Wayne hands out examples of previous letters written. Grant applications that are being sent in by the Mat-Su area parks are:
 - Phase II for the Chicken Lake Cross Park Trail, NLSRA
 - Phase II Mile 16 Bicycle Trail in Hatcher Pass
 - Kesugi Ridge Trail in Denali State Park
 - Signage for Kesugi Ridge TrailGrant proposals are due November 15th.

- **New Board Applicants**

Dave Johnston, former park ranger in Denali State Park for 26 years. Dave lives in Talkeetna. He is responsible for at least 50 miles of layout of the Kesugi Ridge trail. He is also trying to get another Talkeetna resident to apply for the Board.

Barbara makes a motion to accept Dave Johnston's application and to forward to the Director for consideration. Doug seconds motion. Motion carries and is passed.

- **Hatcher Pass** – the application for the SnowTrac trail grooming pool funds for Hatcher Pass were not submitted in time for the deadline. SnowTrac Board and the Director denied funding for all late applications. Barbara makes a motion to ask the Director to reconsider his decision for the Hatcher Pass area especially due to the safety concerns for un-groomed trails in that area. Neil seconds the motion and will help write the letter to the Director. All vote in favor. Motion passes.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn. Jim seconds. All vote in favor. Adjourn at 9:25 pm.

Next meeting will be held at the Forestry Complex in Palmer, Tuesday, November 13th, 7:00pm.