

Seward State Parks Citizens Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 8, 2016 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
AVTEC Culinary Arts Building Banquet Room, 518 Third Ave

I. Call to Order

- A. The meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Paquette at 5 pm.
- B. Minutes-taker: Mark Luttrell
- C. Roll Call: Terry Rude, Carol Griswold, John Eavis, Mark Luttrell, Paul Paquette, Herb Wottlin, Dan Walker
 - Board members absent: Benjamin Pister
 - State Park Staff present: Jack Ransom
 - Public present: none
- D. Minutes Approval: **Approved**
- E. Agenda Changes and Approval: no changes, **approved**.

II. Public Comments/Presentations: None

III. Reports:

- A. State Park Staff Report: Jack Ransom
 - Our Parks district will have no further financial cuts this year. Next year's budget uncertain as budget negotiations continue.
 - One ACC summer position is funded.
 - Suitable surplus landing craft located, need to secure funding to achieve this goal.
 - Search for office and boat storage space continues.
 - Revenue: Possible fee for backpacking on a Parks trail.
 - Andy Bacon starts March 14. #1 trail priority is to fix the N. Tonsina Bridge extension.
 - This summer: volunteer at Parks Ranger Station at CHSRA to collect visitor data.
 - Jack reported that the adjacent 70 acre parcel is not available.
 - Bylaws status: final version with signature page needs to be resent to Jack Blackwell
- Motion by Terry Rude to adopt the bylaws of the Seward Area State Parks Citizen Advisory Board, version January 22, 2016. Seconded by John Eavis. Motion passed unanimously.** Dan will collect signatures.

B. Committee Reports:

- 1. Lands and Property:
 - Discussion re: private use cabin with expired permit. Jack will check the Kenai Area Plan to confirm that the cabin is on DNR administered lands. Board requested accurate maps re: state park boundaries and legal description.
 - Paul Paquette sent owner an email asking about intention. No response yet. Board decided to wait for owner's response before pursuing discussions with DNR re: removal of structure and debris.
- 2. Education and Interpretation:
 - Bulletins to be printed and laminated for LPSRS and CHSRA kiosks.
- 3. Public Use Cabins
 - Jack Ransom received detailed plans from Superior log builders for a 16' x 16' PUC with 6" logs. A ballpark estimate is \$25-\$30K.
- 4. Legislative
 - Jack reported that Ben Ellis, as a representative of the governor, responded to the board's letter asking for increased funding for a staff position. Request was denied.

IV. Old Business:

Goals review

- Improve State Parks website: our only influence is through suggestions to the webmaster
- Trail goals: Derby Overland Trail needs work to prevent further erosion.
- Revenue through PUCs: Jack suggested that the CHSRA ranger station could be rented as a way to bring in revenue. It could bring in a reliable source of revenue. But some issues need to be addressed:
 - *code egress of loft windows
 - *propane resupply, removal of propane refrigerator
 - *firewood resupply and the possibility of resource damage
 - *security concerns - whether to keep the facilities locked or not
 - *latrine needs to be moved and new hole dug
 - *ranger station needs new roof
 - *bunk house has a fuel oil stove unsuitable for public use
 - *generated revenues - would go to general fund and not to district.
Use of a 501c3 non profit could redirect the revenues to local use.
- Revenue through parking: Paul reported that he assessed the Lowell Point SRS lower parking lot and believes that if a few rocks and trees were removed, four additional parking places could be created. These could possibly generate \$100 per week. Jack liked Paul's idea and there was a discussion of how it might be done. Compacting the spaces in the upper and lower parking lots could also increase parking revenue.

V. New Business:

Bicycle Use of Tonsina Trail and those at CHSRA in response to public request in February:
-Administratively, Clair LeClair will be retiring in May and by the time a new replacement is up to speed it may be fall 2016. That position is responsible for the public process, collecting district recommendations for regulation changes, in the form of a regulation package that would be presented to the legislature.
-Jack reported that so far, this has not been a huge user conflict, and only a few complaints from public about bicycle use (currently not allowed.)
-Board is concerned about safety, erosion, and off trail impact caused by bicycles.
-Fat tire bikes are increasing in popularity and desire to use on Park's trails will likely increase. We need to plan for future with hardened, suitable trails, signage, and education. Kodiak Borough Road System Trail User Guide is a possible resource.
-Does the 2015 FEMA reconstructed portion of the Tonsina Trail and the anticipated trail improvement on the switchbacks of the Tonsina Trail meet multiuse standards?

VI. Correspondence: None

VII. Adjournment

A. Board Comments

Mark Luttrell inquired about the board status of Mark Dalpes. No certain action taken yet.

B. Date/Location of Next Meeting: April 12th at 5pm in the AVTEC Culinary Arts Building

C. Motion to Adjourn: meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.