

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PARC) meeting

January 29, 2015

Location: Library Great Room

Members Present: Rich Chapell, Jon Gellings, Ginger Jewell, Meredith Pochardt,

Members Absent: Daymond Hoffman, Al Giddings

Assembly Liaison: George Campbell

Visitors: Ron Jackson, Mike Case, Jan Hill

Call to Order at 5:35pm

Approval of Agenda

Agenda amended unanimously to add Norm Hughes, Harbor Committee, presentation on Lookout Park.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from 11/20/2014 unanimously approved.

Public Comment

None

New Business

Lookout Park in Portage Cove Harbor expansion plan

Hughes asked PARC to review the current harbor redevelopment plan, which shows a large parking lot to be built on 3 sides of Lookout Park, seaward and extending 200 ft to the south of the memorial site. PARC should consider the fate of this Borough facility. Feature that would be lost are the seashore frontage. Dredging spoils will be available for fill if the park is moved to a new location.

Current Lookout Park features are accessible parking spaces, sidewalks recessed off Front Street, accessible concrete decks & railings, totem pole, pavilion, picnic table, grass lawn, steam drill, bear-proof trash can, memorial monument. What will be lost by being surrounded by a broad gravel parking lot is a direct view and access to the grassy intertidal area and shoreline.

Harbor design is at 35% and will be at 65% by March. Norm Hughes will email electronic plans; Chapell will circulate to PARC members. Next Harbor Committee meeting is Feb. 22. PARC members should have comments ready for next PARC meeting Feb. 19.

Baby Brown timber sale offered by Haines State Forest

ADNR/Forestry comment deadline is Feb. 6. Ron Jackson was asked by Borough Manager to inform PARC and ask if they have input. Chapell will submit these comments on behalf of PARC:

- Recreational access via Flower Mountain trail should be maintained throughout the timber operation.
- Develop and maintain access to potential recreational trails up Glacier Creek and to Jarvis Creek that are identified in the Comprehensive Plan. Access includes parking and trailer turnaround areas at trail heads.
- Consider and mitigate avalanche hazard of steep clearcuts uphill of roads/recreation trails.
- Require contractor to maintain roads under heavy log truck use.

Old Business

Sledding hill - Does PARC want to give design input on landscaping for multiple use?

Rich will review timber clearing and earth work contracts with Public Facilities Director to see if input is allowed at this time.

Organizing the townsite ATV park working group - Progress report

Hoffman (absent) volunteered to chair the working group. Chapell will ask him for progress report.

PARC action plan

The Jewell draft action plan circulated by email was unanimously accepted with amendment:

- Add Objective 1.5: Develop Borough code to designate current Borough lands used for recreation. Jewell will add this to draft action plan and circulate by email.

Next meeting

February 19, 2015 5:30 pm at Haines Borough Public Library

Potential agenda items

- Lookout Park recommendation for Harbor expansion plan
- Invite Economic Development Director to consult on action plan
- Recruit 3 new PARC members, potentially from these user groups:
 - Indoor leisure facility users, such as Gym Dandy Walkers;
 - Pool users such as Haines Dolphins Swim Team board;
 - Trail users such as Swifts;
 - Sportsman's Association;
 - Chilkat Snowburners

Meeting adjourned 6:45 pm