

Supplement to Item 9E - PRAC 12/5/16 Minutes

From: [Karen Hess](#)
To: [Jan Hill](#); [Alekk Fullerton](#); [Julie Cozzi](#); [Brad Ryan](#); [Ron Jackson](#); [Margaret Friedenauer](#); [Tom Morphett](#); [Heather Lende](#); [Mike Case](#); [Tresham Gregg](#)
Subject: Parks & Rec committee
Date: Saturday, February 11, 2017 10:28:17 AM

Members of the Assembly, Mayor Hill, Manager Ryan, Julie & Alekka,

I am writing this e-mail in hopes that you all will be able to read it prior to your upcoming meeting on Tuesday. I attended the Parks & Rec committee meeting this week at the Library. Many of you were there but instead of my relying on your memories, I would like to voice my opinion. Besides, I have found in my experiences, when I rely on others to remember what happened, you get many different opinions of what happened.

There was a very large group of residents at this meeting, to say the least it was packed. We were accused (by some) of being an angry crowd, I see that opinion very differently. There was word put out that this committee was in the process of planning for the future that included non-motorized use at the 24 mile area. Possibly the 24 mile area was mis-information but I assure you the non-motorized use in areas for planning purposes was not mis-represented. I just read the minutes from the Dec. 5th meeting minutes from PRAC and found this.

Motion: PRAC would like the Borough Assembly to create a long term comprehensive plan for the present and future growth of winter recreation in the Haines Borough involving zoning and identification of specific areas designated for heliskiing, skiplane drop-offs, snow machining, and backcountry non-motorized use, including skiing and snowshoeing. Such motion was made by Thom Ely and seconded by Burl Sheldon. The motion passed unanimously.

Manager Brad Ryan assured the group in attendance, that there has not been any discussion regarding making 24 mile non-motorized, therefore he felt that there was a mis-representation. Well maybe the above motion doesn't specifically say 24 mile but it definitely mentions planning for "non motorized use". I do believe this is where the information came from that woke up this side of the community.

I urge you to consider this committee's intent. I believe some on this committee have a special interest in controlling HELISKIING and sectioning off areas where snowmachiners & ATV's, won't be allowed. This of course would mean that they want to make areas non-motorized. This valley has been open to residents and visitors alike and without conflict to my knowledge. I believe if you try to implement a plan map that zones off areas to motorized / non-motorized, you will undoubtedly see conflicts.

One more note, why is this committee even discussing Heliskiing or Skiplane drop-offs when those areas are regulated by the State.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Karen Hess