

## **Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PARC) meeting**

5:30 PM April 9, 2015

Location: Library Great Room

### **Unofficial meeting due to no quorum**

Members present: Chapell, Hoffman, Jewell, Al Giddings (non-voting)

Member absent: Pochardt. Vacant seats: 3

Also in attendance: Mike Case, Ron Jackson, Jan Hill, Tom Morphet

### **PARC membership**

April 9, 2015 was Hoffman's last meeting.

PARC now has 3 members and 4 vacant seats. PARC cannot reach a quorum without new members.

### **Work session on small boat harbor expansion and Lookout Park**

There is widespread concern that the viewshed and tranquility of Lookout Park will be lost when the Harbor Expansion project surrounds the park with a parking lot. Many people on the Ports and Harbors Committee, Parks and Rec Advisory Committee, Tourism Advisory Board, and Planning Commission would like to see options for mitigating the negative effects of the harbor parking lot expansion.

Five options were discussed:

1. Leave Lookout Park where it is;
2. Move Lookout Park to the bluff above Front Street (on Presbyterian Church property);
3. Construct a scenic walkway on top of the rubble mound breakwater on the east side of the Harbor. (See picture on the next page of a similar walkway in Sitka);
4. Move Lookout Park to Picture Point;
5. Move Lookout Park to the southeast corner of the expanded parking lot with a park access strip from Front Street along the south perimeter of the parking lot. (See picture next page of a harbor edge park strip in Sitka). In trade for this new site, the current footprint of Lookout Park would be integrated into the parking lot. Removing the 65% design plan's park bulge intruding in the expanded parking lot would result in a net increase in unobstructed useable area in the expanded parking lot.

We reviewed the waterfront plan in "Plan for Public Use and Access in the City of Haines" (Sheinberg Associates June 2001). That plan assumed harbor expansion would be northward.

There was agreement that features such as signs, items, side walk pullouts, etc. are needed to attract and guide tourists from the Port Chilkoot dock to downtown where they can spend money. Jewell suggested students in the industrial classes could make signs. Tom Morphet said the Downtown Revitalization Committee's plan envisioned a visual cue, like the restored steam drill assembled to full height, at some point on the Harbor side of Main Street.



A park strip along the edge of the downtown Sitka harbor.



A simple boardwalk built on top of the rubble mound breakwater leads to a lookout of Sitka Sound.