

1 **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH**
2 **PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD**
3

Chairperson - David Palmer – At Large 4
Vice Chair — Ed Strabel - District 6
Amy O'Connor– District 1
Stuart Leidner – At Large 1

George Brown – District 2
Kenny Barber – At Large 2
Sonya Walden - District 3
Scott Lapiene – At Large 3

VACANT – District 4
Cindy Bettine - District 5
Tomas Phillips – District 7

4
5 **DRAFT MINUTES**
6

7 **REGULAR MEETING**

8 **Lower Level Conference Room**

July 24, 2017
6:00 P.M.

9
10 I. **CALL TO ORDER**

11 Meeting called to order by Mr. Palmer at 6:00 P.M.
12

13 II. **ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

- 14 A. Members present: David Palmer, Scott Lapiene, Stuart Leidner, Cindy Bettine,
15 Tom Phillips; Kenny Barber, George Brown, Amy O'Connor
16 Members Absent:
17 Members Absent and Excused: Sonya Walden, Ed Strabel
18 B. Staff Present: Hugh Leslie, Recreation Services Manager
19

20 III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

21 MOTION: Mr. Barber moved, Mr. Leidner 2nd.

22 MOTION: Mr. Lapiene moved to add to New Business a Discussion of Overnight Night
23 Use of MSB Park Facilities. Mr. Barber 2nd. All in favor. Agenda approved as
24 amended.
25

26 IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

27 Mr. Palmer led the Pledge of Allegiance.
28

29 V. **MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

30 A. June 26, 2017

31 MOTION: Ms. Bettine moved, Mr. Barber 2nd. Mr. Lapiene would like to add
32 to line 96 “in the content”. Mr. Barber moved to include the added comment to
33 the minutes. Mr. Leidner 2nd. All approved. Minutes approved as amended.
34

35 VI. **BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS**

36 Mr. Leslie reported:

- 37 • Palmer and Wasilla Pools – 35% of drawing phase
38 ○ There were some changes from the initial drawings
39 ○ Next step is the 65% drawings
40 • Brett Memorial Ice Arena
41 ○ Most of the work will be to replace the refrigeration system, concert floor,
42 roofing, some external building panels.
43 ○ Cosmetic changes will be limited to the concession stand, birthday room, and
44 storage area.
45 ○ 60% drawings will be available by 8/14/2017
46 • Online registration for swim lessons is beginning.

- Slow rollout, starting with homeschool lessons first.
- Looking to have 100% online registration by the time Wasilla Pool reopens.
- West Butte Parking lot completed. Will open by August 1.
 - 2nd phase will include the electronic kiosk for taking payments.
- Jim Creek Campground
 - 11 bids were opened July 17th, low bid was from Dirtworks for \$160,283.00
 - Will go before the Assembly at their August 1st meeting.
 - Park Shop is behind schedule, supposed to start 3 weeks ago
 - The current lot that the Park's Shop is located on will go up for sale once the Parks Division is moved into the new lot.
- Mat River Park Campground
 - One of the best years ever at the campground.
 - We have been advertising for the last three years in The Milepost, we have been taking reservations for the last two years, and now are taking credit cards.
- There have been bear sightings at Crevasse Moraine, Mat Peak, and Government Peak.
- Trail Bond Updates
 - Asked for update from Capital Projects – did not get a reply in time for the meeting.
 - Ms. Bettine – suggested a letter to the manager asking for updates.
 - Mr. Palmer – will email manager regarding bond project updates and will CC Eric and Hugh. Responses from the Manager will be relied to the board within 48 hours of the initial email.
 - The board would like written documentation regarding this issue
 - Will have copy of communication at the August meeting
- Will have for the next meeting trail revenue broken out by daily and annual, as well as online vs pay pipes vs walk-in.

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD / AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Alaska LNG project – www.alaska-lng.com

- Project is ongoing
- Mr. Lapiene would like the Bed Tax history to be placed back on the agenda

IX. PUBLIC NOTICES

- Brasil Springs Trail Workshop meeting notice
- MSB00006968 – Easement (Kashwitna River)

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Notices

- Brasil Springs Trail Workshop meeting notice
 - Mr. Lapiene – has the state ever designated a portion of a section line for controlled use / non-motorized use? Has anybody had a discussion with DNR concerning that?
 - Mr. Leslie – does not know the answer to Mr. Lapiene's first question, but knows the when this bond project was first talked about, Mr. Krueger and Mr. Hoden talked with DNR specifically about this project. There were no

97 objections from the state. They have received concerns from the residents
98 regarding a trail “in their backyard”.

- 99 ○ Ms. O’Connor – Besides the public notice regarding the public meeting on
100 August 14th, what other modes of communication has the borough used to let
101 the general public, or trail users, know that this is happening?
- 102 ○ Mr. Leslie – Public Affairs will put something on the main web page, and on
103 Facebook.
- 104 ○ MOTION: Ms. Bettine moved to send a letter in support of approximately
105 three miles of trail to be developed and rehabilitated for a non-motorized path,
106 to connect this large section of residential land along with schools. Mr.
107 Leidner 2nd. Discussion of motion.
 - 108 ○ Ms. Bettine – this area is densely populated with lots of schools,
109 and it would be a safe pathway for kids to use. It wouldn’t be just
110 any old trails, but would be a connector.
 - 111 ○ Mr. Lapiene – would like to see a multi-use, separated trail,
112 recognizing that our ability to create a non-motorized trail is
113 woefully unsuccessful. Would the community support a separated
114 trail?
 - 115 ○ Ms. O’Connor – This trail would be the only non-motorized
116 connector that connects Crevasse Moraine, which is already non-
117 motorized. It would also be good for the equestrian community.
 - 118 ○ Mr. Lapiene – would like the board to consider supporting
119 designing a system that accommodates both, using a separate trail.
 - 120 ○ Ms. Bettine – this is what the people voted on when they approved
121 the bond package.
 - 122 ○ Mr. Barber – call for the question.
 - 123 ○ Four in favor, four opposed. Motion failed
- 124 ○ MOTION: Mr. Lapiene moved to have the board suggest to look at this
125 project to ascertain if it is practical to develop separated use trails in the same
126 corridor. Ms. Bettine 2nd. Discussion of motion.
 - 127 ○ Ms. Bettine – was it the intention of the motion to have Borough
128 staff do the feasibility study?
 - 129 ○ Mr. Lapiene – would have to say yes, because I don’t know of
130 anyone else who would.
 - 131 ○ Ms. Bettine – does not support the idea. Feels that it is too densely
132 populated and thinks that it would be very disruptive to this type of
133 neighborhood.
 - 134 ○ Mr. Brown – we are just checking into the feasibility of it. We
135 don’t make that decision. They might not be able to do it. I don’t
136 like seeing anything exclude anything.
 - 137 ○ Mr. Lapiene – Some part of this trail is being used, because the
138 scope of the project is rehabilitation, I bet that there’s motorized
139 use on portions of it that’s going to be displaced.
 - 140 ○ Five in favor, three opposed. Motion failed.
- 141 ○ MOTION: Ms. Bettine moved to take no action on the public notice of the
142 Brasil Springs Trails as an advisory board. Mr. Phillips 2nd. Motion passed
143 unanimously
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145
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- MSB00006968 – Easement (Kashwitna River)
 - MOTION: Mr. Lapiene moved that the advisory board provide comment supporting the creation of this easement as described in the public notice MSB00006968. Mr. Leidner 2nd. Discussion of motion.
 - Ms. O'Connor – concerns about with the water bodies and access that there is opening up an overland route that allows for the transmission of aquatic and non-aquatic invasive species. The borough already has major contaminates out there that they're spending a lot money for rapid remediation on. Another concern with the crossings being in the evaluation stage. Supportive of the trail but has concerns.
 - All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Ms. Bettine moved to extend the meeting to 8:15. Ms. O'Connor 2nd. Six in favor, two opposed. Motion passed. Meeting time extended to 8:15.

B. Discussion of Overnight Use of MSB Park Facilities

- Mr. Lapiene asked why would the borough prohibit the overnight use of a facility, i.e. Mat River Park for a bar-b-que competition?
- Mr. Leslie: told this group that they could not use the day use area of the Mat River Park for an overnight activity since there are hours of operation in place, and overnight activities could negatively impact the campers. He suggested the group contact the State Fair or the City of Palmer.
 - As far as he knows the day use area has never been allowed for an overnight activity.
 - He feels that if he says yes to this group then he would be obligated to say yes to other groups.
- Mr. Palmer – the Borough does not currently have rules of procedure to conduct such activities. If the board were to come up with a set of procedures / rules to conduct such an activity, would that be a reasonable effort on the board's part or would it be counterproductive? What if the groups came up with elements of control for their activity?
- Mr. Leslie - Not sure if it is within the purview of this board to get into the day to day operations and functions of these facilities.
- Ms. Bettine – would like to have this on the August 28th agenda.
- Borough Park use policy discussion will be on the August 28th agenda

XI. VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS

None

XII. CORRESPONDENCE

None

XIII. MEMBER COMMENTS

- Ms. Bettine:
 - Would like the Bed Tax to be placed back on the agenda, however she would like it to be on the September agenda since she will not be here for the August meeting.
 - Mr. Barber would like it on the October meeting
 - Ms. Bettine – will not be here in October, but might be able to call in.
 - Bed Tax will be placed on the October 23rd meeting agenda

- Mr. Phillips
 - Hugh has talked about staff doing their job, advisory board stay out of my wagon, I'm thinking advisory board is here to be a part of your wagon so if we have something to bring to you, I would like to be able to discuss it openly, and come up with reasonable action for or against whatever the has brought forward.
- Mr. Lapiene:
 - Mat Su Trails Council spread about 30 yards of material on a little non-motorized trail system behind Finger Lake Elementary School, which includes a dock out on Cottonwood Lake. We also built five new sitting benches. The trail is used by kids all the time, and it is a nice tool for teachers to use for education, and there is interpretive signage along the trail system.
 - We also did the first real maintenance on the Puritan Creek Trail bridge. It's been three years and hasn't required any significant maintenance on it. State holds it out as the "model to follow" for construction of swamp crossing.
 - There are some folks getting involved with a nationwide group to publish trail maps, particularly motorized trail maps with-out doing their homework.
 - We've been trying to educate them, we do have trails, even in the Mat-Su Borough Trails Plan that direct folks to cross private property where there is no easement.
 - We hope to use it as a stepping stone educate people about land ownership, what is state land, that is native land, what is a 17B vs a 2477 vs an ADL
- Ms. O'Connor
 - Mat Su Trails and Parks Foundation's big fundraiser, the Government Peak Music Festival, is this Saturday. Hope to see everyone there.

XIV. NEXT MEETING

- A. Next regularly scheduled meeting is August 28, 2017, Lower Level Conference Room, DSJ Building, Palmer.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Palmer adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

David Palmer - Chairperson

ATTEST:

Jill Irsik, Comm. Div. Admin. Specialist