

**Talkeetna Parks Advisory Committee**  
**DRAFT Minutes of December 21, 2016 Meeting**

A regular meeting of the Talkeetna Parks Advisory Committee (“Committee” or “TPAC”) was held at the Talkeetna Library on December 21, 2016. Core members John Strassenburgh, Billy FitzGerald, Howard Carbone, Jim Trump, Chris Mannix, and Iris Vandenharn were present. Other attendees were Ed O’Connor (DNSC), Chris Love (Denali State Park) , and several individual community members.

- I. Six core members were in attendance, establishing a quorum. Chair Iris Vandenharn called the meeting to order at 5:06.
- II. The agenda was approved.
- III. The minutes of the September 22, 2016 meeting were approved.
- IV. Announcements
  1. The Ridge Trail. A draft trail development plan by Agnew::Beck for the ridge trail system will be released for public review and comment on January 6, 2017.
  2. There will be a public workshop on the draft plan on January 24, 2017, place and time TBD.
  3. The old dump fence removal volunteer project in Talkeetna Lakes Park was a big success. Kudos to Brian Okonek and other volunteers.
  4. TPAC meetings are now bimonthly, the third Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Talkeetna Public Library. 2017 dates are Feb. 21, Apr. 18, June 20, Aug. 15, Oct. 17, and Dec. 19.
- V. Persons to be Heard
  1. Chris Love of Alaska State Park gave an update on improvements in Denali State Park. There are now two miles of groomed ski trail at Kesugi Ken. The hiking trail up Curry Ridge is open but is non-motorized. Five miles of ski trail are planned for Byers Lake. Three new public use cabins are now open for rental at Kesugi Ken.
  2. Ed O’Connor of Denali Nordic Ski Club asked if Jacque and Lisa Drum could groom a trail from the Whigmi parking lot to Tigger Lake. It was revealed that he could as a Denali Nordic Ski Club groomer under the club’s trail care agreement with the borough.
- VI. Committee Reports
  - A. Comsat Talkeetna Lakes Park Access: A safe point has been identified along Comsat Road for a parking lot with access to Christiansen Lake and Y Lake that can replace the unsafe, difficult, and unregulated current access. Roger Robinson is working on a concept plan and will present it at a meeting in the

spring. The process will ultimately require TPAC and community council comment and approval.

B. Talkeetna Lakes Park signage: Iris summarized a grant request to the revenue sharing committee, but it was denied. Signage has been inadequate and confusing for years and the borough has failed to implement recommendations from TPAC for many years. Iris is working on getting approval from the borough for TPAC to do it themselves.

C. Village Park: Howard will contact Roger Robinson about odor filters for the toilet vent.

D. Ridge Trail: Iris showed a map from the draft plan showing existing and proposed trails and reroutes. The current main trail will be improved to be a non-motorized trail designed for hiking, skiing, biking, and mushing. A motorized/non-motorized pass-through trail will ensure transportation links permanently. Some land will be reclassified as public recreation but the Beaver Road gravel pit will retain its resource management and reserve status. Comments can be sent to Iris.

E. Whigmi Parking Lot. Jim Trump is looking into what it would take to fix it.

## VII. Unfinished Business

A. Canoe Storage. A simple structure for public canoe storage is planned for Christiansen Lake. If successful, other lakes may follow.

B. Christiansen Lake Park Vehicle Access – covered in Committee Reports.

## VIII. New Business

1. Talkeetna Lakes Park Signage Funding was covered in Committee Reports.
2. Fish Lake Park Access. \$100k is available from the bond package to develop access to Fish Lake Park. Access could be from the Dragonfly subdivision or the spur road. It potentially could include a parking area, a boardwalk to cross a wet area, a bridge across Gator Creek, and a trail to the park boundary. This would not include funding or planning for access and use within the park. Chris Mannix made a motion to establish a committee to examine development plans. Billy seconded. The motion passed. Adrian McMullen, Iris, Chris Mannix, Aubrey Smith (DNSC), Jack West, Jim Trump, and Chris Love volunteered for the committee.

IX. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Carbone

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