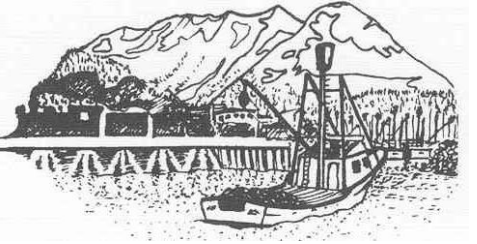


CITY OF CORDOVA



Chairman:
Robert Beedle
Commissioners:
Andy Craig
Max Wiese
Kenneth Jones
Jacob Betts
Harbormaster:
Tony Schinella
Admin Assistant:
Brandy Griffith

**HARBOR COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
APR 12, 2017 @ 7:00 PM
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM B**

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Robert Beedle, Andy Craig, Max Wiese, Ken Jones, Jacob Betts

- 1. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA**..... Page 1
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
A. Mar 08, 2017 @ 7:00 PM Regular meeting.....Page 2
- 3. COMMUNICATIONS BY VISITORS**
B. Audience comments regarding agenda items (3 minutes per speaker)
- 4. HARBORMASTERS REPORT**.....Page 3
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
A. Discussion on float plane docks at Nirvana Spit
B. Nirvana Position letters:
 1. Cordova Port & Harbor.....Page 4
 2. Cordova Historical Society.....Page 5
 3. NVE Tribal Council.....Page 6
 4. Parks & Recreation Commission.....Page 7-8
- 6. OLD BUSINESS**
A.
- 7. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**
A.
- 8. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**
- 9. COMMISSION COMMENTS**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
March 8, 2017 @ 7:00 PM
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM B

Call to order: This meeting was called to order by Robert Beedle @ 7:00 pm.

Roll Call: In Attendance: Jake Betts, Robert Beedle, Max Wiese, Andy Craig

Approval of Agenda: M/ Craig, 2nd/ Betts, Added Suzie Herschleb from Parks and Recreation discussion under communication by visitors, V/ Unanimous to approve as amended

Approval of Minutes: M/ Betts, 2nd/ Craig, V/ Unanimous to approve

Communications by Visitors: Suzie Herschleb spoke on the current issues of Nirvana Park. The area is currently being investigated for burial sites and there are concerns about the usage of the Park and spit. The Harbor Commission is being asked to weigh in on their position on keeping airplanes moored at the spit.

Harbormaster's Report: The report was printed in the agenda packet. Additions: Looking into installing electricity meters in the shipyard, looked at the evos room for using as the used oil building but it is probably too small. Tony will be in Homer April 17-20, for Tsunami Conference.

New Business: A. Discussion on adding two separate Wharfage Rates to Fee schedule: Raw fish rate and Commercial rate: Some harbors have a rate for raw fish coming across the dock, and a lower rate for commercial products. Notifying the commission of the possibility.

B: Potential additions to include in the South Harbor renewal project: General Discussion. Ideas proposed: Sewage Pumpout, Floating breakwater, transient power, T at the end of floats for more moorage, no freeze water lines, kayak storage

Old Business: A: Potential savings graphs and totals: included with packet

B: Fee schedules with possible increases, included in packet

Miscellaneous Business:

A: Set a date for a Strategic Planning meeting : consensus not available at this time

Audience Participation: Troy Tirrell: Cranes just need an overhaul by a machinist. Recommends contacting Rob Brown.

Commission Comments: Craig: Meeting went well and we are making good progress. Beedle: Looking forward to continuing strategic planning.

Adjournment: M/ Betts, 2nd/Craig, meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm

Harbormaster's Report

- Attended two Nirvana Park meetings
- Three finger floats on K float have been repaired. (Andy Craig will give details)
- Installed new gussets and bolts for L/H float attachment point
- Cut holes in splash boards for repairs on finger floats
- Snow removal
- Installed North Ramp floating dock
- Built new fire extinguisher shed, awaiting roofing tin
- Finished installing fender walkways on Ocean Dock
- Completed three burn barrel cycles
- Ordered bolts for Float plane dock bull rail project
- Ordered through bolts for dock repairs
- Installed Not For Public Use signs at dumpster enclosures
- Cleaned oil sumps
- Cleaned restrooms
- Cleaned up garbage around dumpsters
- Sent out monthly invoices
- Attended April 5, 2017 Council meeting
- Dock rounds
- Painted new slip name tags
- Repaired electrical pedestal in Shipyard maintenance area
- Issued intent to impound notices for five vessels
- Three vessels will be impounded on 10 April 2017
- The owner of the Oldetowne paid the past due invoices
- Vehicle maintenance on Harbor trucks
- Conducted 14 vessel lifts
- Made repairs to broken waterline in Travelift facility building
- Ordered new life rings & life ring cabinets for City Dock, Ocean Dock and loading dock

CITY OF CORDOVA



From the Cordova Port & Harbor Department

Due to recent discussions, recent findings, and past history of the different uses of the Nirvana Park and Spit area, the Port of Cordova been asked to weigh in on our past, current and future usage of the Nirvana Spit. For many years the Port of Cordova has managed the moorage of floatplanes at the spit during the summer months.

We fully understand the need for floatplane moorage on Lake Eyak, and fully support the floatplane pilots and owners in the continued historical use of the Nirvana Spit.

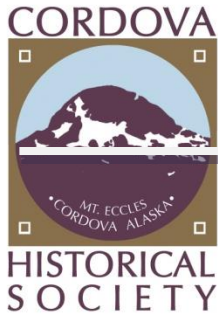
The Port of Cordova believes it is the State of Alaska's responsibility in managing moorage spaces within this area due to the State of Alaska requiring permitting and fees from persons mooring floatplanes on the Spit.

The Port of Cordova recommends the following:

- Require pilots/owners to obtain permitting from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.
- Floatplane moorage existing or newly created be maintained in way that does disturb or disrespect the historical burial sites.
- Restrict motorized vehicle usage in this area.

Respectfully,

Anthony J Schinella
Cordova Harbormaster
PO Box 1210
Cordova AK, 99574
(907)424-6400



*Preserving Cordova's past for the future...
A community museum and educational facility.*

PO Box 391, 601st Street, Cordova Alaska 99574 www.cordovamuseum.org

Position Paper

The Cordova Historical Society wishes to acknowledge the importance of the area in the community known locally as 'The Spit and Nirvana Park.'

As historians, the Society appreciates and acknowledges that this area of Cordova has over literally hundreds, if not thousands of years, accumulated a uniqueness and continuity of community spirit that we all treasure. As a sacred burial site for generations of local Alaska Natives; as a German immigrant's version of Nirvana in the 1920s and has a family gathering place for weddings, birthdays, swimming lessons and Easter Egg hunts.

Cordova's weather took its harsh toll over time. In the 1940's, Civilian Conservation Corps worked to save the Spit from eroding completely away by constructing a revetment to protect the sacred burial grounds.

Generation upon generation of Eyak, Supiqyat, Cordovans, immigrants, tourists all frequented the park for everything from corn chowder feeds, to picnics to Easter Egg hunts, to weddings, to birthday parties, to haunted forest adventures. And many a young person in Cordova has learned to first swim here along the safe shallow shores of Eyak Lake.

The Cordova Historical Society recognizes the continuity of community importance of this place and would like to go on record noting the following:

- CHS recommends the Spit become a non-motorized area limited to use by float airplanes.
- CHS recommends stabilization of the Spit to prevent further erosion of the burial remains that have been identified. In addition, add proper landscaping and interpretive markers be installed acknowledging the sacredness of the Spit.
- CHS recommends a replica cast-iron gate or other iron work to be used to distinguish where the Spit and Nirvana Park meet. This will clarify, delineate and assist in the education of the public to the specialness of the place.
- CHS recommends the City of Cordova and Parks and Rec Department work to expand a local swimming beach along the shores adjoining the Spit/Park..
- CHS recommends designating parking areas and trails throughout the Nirvana Park area with interpretive signs telling the stories of the first cemetery in Cordova, Nirvana Park in Feldman's day and the importance of the park today to the community.
- CHS recommends a working committee develop short-term restoration plans and long-term maintenance plans.

December 28th, 2016

Mike Webber
Cordova Historical Society
P.O. Box 391
Cordova, AK 99574

Dear Mr. Webber:

This letter is in reference to the Eyak Lake Spit proposed use cases. Native Village of Eyak Tribe has arguably the most vested interest in this area as first people and traditional users. As such an interested party, NVE participated in the X-ray project that was conducted to determine any underground burials and hosted a meeting for tribal members to share their stories and opinions on how to best preserve as well as use the spit.

Historical knowledge of this area by current Council members precludes a concrete conclusion of who is buried at the spit. It may be Eyak people, Chugach region people or even Chinese people or others. An Eyak person has been repatriated to the spit in 1993 as a separate burial.

The Tribal Council recognizes the sacredness of all burial sites, regardless of ancestry, and wishes to honor the departed by treating their final resting place with respect. The Council also wishes to encourage the use of traditional lands by current tribal members.

The spit has been used as an airplane and boat tie-up as well as a swimming and picnic spot. Many tribal members have used the spit recreationally, and continue to do so. The spit, however, has eroded substantially and has not been maintained in a manner consistent with traditional values of caring for burial sites.

Questions remain as to whether the spit is the best area to safely continue to contain bodies; if a memorial was erected, where the responsibility of maintenance would lie; and would a burial ground necessarily exclude all other activity by matter of being a burial ground, and if it does, how does that affect other popular recreational areas such as Nirvana Park.

At this time, The Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council recommends the following course of action to the City:

- Current Rasmuson funding be used to replace the eroded areas of the spit and to re-fill the area to prevent erosion from re-occurring and to protect the existing graves from damage and exposure.
- The alders and trees cut down and the site repaired and continuously maintained so that it looks respected.
- A memorial area at the end of the spit be created utilizing NVE input and that the City maintain it under its existing Parks and Recs program, and that this section be off limits to vehicular traffic.
- Existing outhouses or port-a-potties be maintained in good condition.
- Any airplane or boat tie-ups which may be created and/or maintained done so as to not disturb existing graves.
- Boat and wave-runner launching return to the existing boat launch site at the old Park-Air area.

Council realizes that there are concerns with launchers dis-obeying runway rules, however, education and enforcement should be an active and expected component in order to establish safe coexistence between user groups.

Respectfully,
Darrel Olsen, Native Village of Eyak Tribal Council Chairman



From the City of Cordova Parks and Recreation Commission

P.O. Box 1210
Cordova AK, 99574
(907)424-7282

The Eyak Lake Spit and Nirvana Park is a dynamic space for a number of reasons. Only recently has the Parks and Recreation Commission become better educated about the site's cultural history. The Parks and Recreation Commission desires to be an active partner in creating a new approach to using this property that inspires visitors to respect and celebrate the special space that it is.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is a group of volunteer advocates for recreation in our Community. The Commission is an advisory commission to the City of Cordova, City Council. The Commission's Mission Statement:

Cordova Parks and Recreation is essential for providing and fostering Parks, Programs and Facilities for all in the pursuit of a healthy sustainable community.

The Eyak Lake Spit has been the only open, public access beach to Eyak Lake for many years. For this reason, it is an extremely busy place on a beautiful summer day. During good weather spells it is common to see 10+ vehicles parked on the spit and garbage receptacles overflowing by midday Saturday. Multiple user groups will visit the Eyak Lake Spit simultaneously. Jet skiers frequent the beach launching and parking at the water's edge. Kayaking, swimming picnicking, bonfires and sunbathing are also common activities. The 60 gallon port-o-john cannot serve the number of people who visit the Park. Toilet paper is commonly found by maintenance staff all around the wooded areas of Nirvana Park.

The Parks and Recreation Commission has been concerned about the Department's ability to safely manage multiple user groups at the Park and Spit. Safety became an even greater concern with the placement of a buoy jet ski course; very close to the shore. Discussion at the Commission table focused on better managing this beach with signage. Designating a safe swim area away from motorized traffic on the lake was the highest priority.

As advocates for recreation, the Commission would like to suggest to continue to allow **some** of our Community's preferred recreational activities at the Spit, while providing an opportunity to learn about its history to everyone who visits the Park.

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends the following management practices and enhancements:

- Restrict all motorized traffic via land, water or ice onto the Spit.
- Restrict moorage of any motorized vessel/vehicle on the beach.
- Restrict motorized traffic within 50 feet of the beach; not only to protect swimmers but to further protect the beach /burial sites from erosion caused by the wake & moorage of motorized traffic via open water.
- Be thoughtful in selecting an acceptable form of erosion control to repair the existing issues and prevent further erosion caused by the prevailing weather. Use practices suggested by organizations familiar with techniques of erosion repair/control when dealing with burial sites.
- Place a higher capacity bathroom facility at the Park. This will prevent distribution of waste in undesirable areas affecting aquatic ecosystems and the health and safety of visitors.
- Create a culture of respect and ownership in the Park through interpretive signage and meaningful artwork that educates the Community about its cultural significance.

- Designate a swimming area for the Community to recreate safely. The Spit is a remarkable place to swim because it is beautiful, it has a nice slow slope into the deep water and it stays sunny from early morning all through the day. The Commission believes it would further enhance a swimming area to use a more comfortable surface material to walk on while entering the water; like pea gravel.
- Place fire rings along the beach to contain live fires and the debris left behind. These fire rings would be tended to by the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Create a number of private seating areas along the beach with the benches that have been crafted out of timbers harvested from Nirvana Park.

The Commission would like to defer to the City of Cordova Harbor Department and/or the Harbor Commission with regard to the sea planes that moor at the Spit seasonally. This use has never been the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will continue to strive to enhance and improve recreational opportunities for Cordovans. We look forward to working with our community partners to find a thoughtful plan for Nirvana Park and Spit.

Respectfully,

The Parks and Recreation Commission:

Wendy Ranney, Commission Chair.

Miriam Dunbar, Commission Secretary.

Dave Zastrow, Commission vice Chair.

Kara Johnson

Karen Hallquist

Marvin Van Den Broek

Stephen Phillips