

April 20, 2023

Dear Mayor Cremata and Skagway Assembly Members:

We'd like to provide a brief 2023 update from the Skagway Recreation Advisory Board regarding the updating and recent happenings at the Skagway Recreation Center.

We are thrilled with Director Howard's prioritization on safety of the facility equipment and policy since her start with the SRC. She has taken on the management of the facility at full speed with staffing, equipment repair and upgrades, planned the 2023 Summer Camp program, and is gearing up for the community rummage sale and summer crew usage of the facility. In addition, she's also been addressing suggestions for new or improved programming offerings and equipment too. We are very pleased to be working with Director Howard.

As Director Howard has been assessing all of the equipment at the SRC, she brought to our attention the poor condition of the set of sea kayaks and kayak equipment on-site. Much of the sea kayaks or equipment need repair or replacement. It requires an extensive amount of storage space and there were only a few rentals in the past few years.

After lengthy discussion, our board believes the equipment is more of a liability than an asset to the Municipality, and we recommend the Municipality sell off or dispose of the equipment through your disposal policy. This would provide storage space for current needs and would create some equipment funding for other needed or requested items. The board discussed canoes or paddle boards as a possible replacement that could be rented and do not have such a steep safety curve. Our major concerns with the kayaks are the poor condition of the equipment (kayaks, drysuits, paddles, spray skirts), the large amount of storage space they require, and then the potential for someone getting trapped beneath the water. On the other hand, we would prefer to place our efforts towards paddle boards and canoes in the future because they are significantly easier to transport, use, and can be used locally at Lower Lake, the Black Lakes, and in the Taiya River or Nelson Slough.

Lastly, at our April 17th meeting, we approved the Recreation Grant request for Skagway Youth Basketball Intramural for \$816.61 to support the opportunity for the 1st-6th grade students to participate in weekly basketball skill training and games for six weeks this spring.

Have a wonderful evening,

Mary Thole
Secretary to the Skagway Recreation Advisory Board