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Submission information

Form: [CBJ Board Application](#) [1]  
Submitted by Visitor (not verified)  
Wed, 02/12/2025 - 3:51pm  
209.112.146.90

**First Name**

Jennifer

**Last Name**

Gross

**Residence Address**

[REDACTED]

**Mailing Address**

[REDACTED]

**Primary Phone Number**

[REDACTED]

**Secondary Phone Number**

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Board, Commission, Committee**

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

**Current of Prior Experience on CBJ Boards/Commissions/Committees**

N/A

**Reasons for Applying**

I am applying for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee because I believe the upcoming redesign of the skate park provides a unique opportunity to create a space that is truly inclusive and welcoming for a diverse range of skaters, including rollerskaters, beginners, and children. As a passionate rollerskater and mother, I've personally felt the limitations of the current design, which doesn't fully accommodate the needs of rollerskaters or those who are just starting out. I'm eager to lend my voice to ensure that these needs are not overlooked in the planning process.

While my primary focus is on making the skate park more accessible to all types of skaters, my broader interest lies in advocating for inclusive recreational spaces that cater to a variety of activities. As someone who is actively involved in multiple hobbies within the community, I feel I can offer valuable perspectives on how to better serve the diverse interests of residents. Whether it's developing safe spaces for families and kids to engage in outdoor activities, or enhancing accessibility for people with different abilities, I want to contribute to a broader vision of how parks and recreation can

support healthy and active lifestyles for all.

The opportunity to shape a space that will be enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels excites me, and I would love to have a lasting, positive impact on the community through this work. Ultimately, I want to ensure that the new skate park is a place that brings people together, fosters learning and growth, and supports the joy of skating for everyone—no matter their skill level or chosen activity.

### **Qualifications**

I currently serve as the chair of the Website Strategy Committee at the University of Alaska Southeast, where I lead efforts to enhance the institution's online presence and user experience. In this role, I collaborate with a diverse group of stakeholders to design strategic initiatives, ensuring that the website is both functional and accessible for all users. Additionally, I regularly attend the UA Accessibility Workgroup Meetings, where we discuss best practices for creating inclusive and accessible environments across campus. These experiences have strengthened my understanding of user-centered design and accessibility standards, which I believe are essential to creating equitable public spaces, like parks and recreation areas.

My previous involvement in various committees at UAS has provided me with valuable insight into committee processes, including how to work collaboratively with other members, make data-driven decisions, and advocate for diverse community needs. This experience has given me confidence in my ability to contribute effectively to a committee such as the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, where thoughtful decision-making and inclusive practices are vital.

Furthermore, my passion for outdoor spaces, combined with my experience in strategic planning and accessibility, makes me well-suited to serve on this board. I am committed to enhancing community engagement, promoting sustainable practices, and ensuring that all individuals have equal access to recreational opportunities.

### **Civic Activities, Memberships or Non-profits Involved With**

I am not currently involved with any civic activities that relate to PRAC. However, I do find myself involved with the Juneau Archery Club in a capacity that is manageable for myself.

### **Working with a Group**

When working with a diverse group with conflicting perspectives, I like to start from a place of assuming positive intent. I enjoy taking turns in conversation, and listening to understand. I recognize that everyone is coming to a discussion from different bases of knowledge and perspectives. It is important to be respectful and encouraging. I want to provide space for different or opposing perspectives! Finding a balance of what works for a diverse group would hopefully lead to discovering more effective, creative and inclusive solutions. If someone offends me or if I offend someone in conversation, this is a great opportunity for learning and gaining valuable insight and understanding. Currently I am pursuing my Masters of Social Work. The course work includes heavy topics such as racism and discrimination. As a black woman, sometimes it can be easy to assume I know a lot about these forms of oppression. However, I only know my lived-experience and I has been valuable for me to remain receptive to the perspectives of others.

### **Meeting Schedule and Attendance**

Yes, Tuesdays at 5:30. This works for now. I'm doing a Masters program, I hope to schedule classes with this commitment in mind

### **Date of Birth (Optional)**

██████████

### **Ethnicity (Optional)**

African American

### **Gender (Optional)**

Female

### **Acknowledgment/Certification**

Jennifer Gross

### **Resume, Education, etc. (Optional)**