

Tourism Advisory Board Meeting/ Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 28, 2010 – 8:30 a.m. – Called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Meeting Call to Order: Judy Heinmiller

Roll Call: Present - Judy Heinmiller, Gregg Johnson, Jeff Butcher, John Hunt, Juanita Lidholm, Jason Gaffney, Michael Ahmuty

Absent - N/A

Also Present - Lori Stepansky, Mark Earnest, Brad Maynard, Scott Sundberg

Approval of September 2009 Minutes:

Public Comments: N/A

Approval of Agenda: Lidholm motioned to approve, Johnson seconded; all approved

President's Report: Chair Heinmiller noted seeing a bid for clearing brush along the waterfront. Brad Maynard spoke about this project and what it would entail. Discussion followed regarding use of volunteers and liability.

New Business: N/A

Old Business: Waterfront development project – PC Dock

Brad Maynard took the floor to update the board about the status of the Waterfront Development Project and the current plans to be presented to the Assembly by PND. Discussion followed regarding the flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic, safety concerns, the DOT improvement project in the area, the improvement project for the dock, and project costs. Maynard commented the deadline for public comment regarding the Waterfront Development Project was February 15 with plans available for review this coming Friday. Construction would begin this fall barring any delay with permits. PND will present 65% of the design plan to the Assembly at their February 9 meeting.

Hunt motioned to send a letter to the Assembly to support the current Waterfront Improvement Project they are reviewing; Johnson seconded. All in favor. Chair Heinmiller will write the letter.

Letter of Support for Dave Pahl

Board member Hunt wrote a letter to thank and support Dave Pahl and all non-profits for their efforts and support of tourism in Haines. Discussion followed regarding the time-line, wording, and purpose of the letter. The board agreed not to send the letter.

Head Tax Recommendation List

Board member Butcher commented the board should have input on cruise ship head tax funds being spent on tourism related impacts. Discussion followed regarding a few suggestions which included signage and maps for passengers off the cruise ships.

Winter Tourism – Scott Sundberg joined the meeting late as part of the public and was called upon by Chair Heinmiller for comment. Sundberg spoke to the recent decisions of the Assembly regarding heli-skiing and commented on the importance of winter tourism of all kinds to the local economy. Sundberg also requested the board renew their discussion and support for winter tourism. Discussion followed regarding various types of winter tourism and regulations for tour operators.

Directors Update: Stepansky gave each board member a packet with board seat terms, relevant Borough Code for the Tourism Advisory Board and the Tourism Department along with the current By-laws. Stepansky noted she wanted to make sure all current board members had a copy for their files.

Stepansky also gave the board a copy of her 2009 Year in Review for accomplishments of the Tourism Department and also a copy of the projected cruise ship numbers for 2010 according to the current schedule. Discussion followed with a few questions from board members regarding some of the details of these two reports.

Stepansky reported she is waiting to hear whether or not the grant process would open up with the Scenic Byways Program. If this happened, she reported she would focus on applying for grant monies for re-doing the interpretive signage for Fort Seward and an interpretive theme for the entire Scenic Byway route.

Stepansky commented on the teleconference set up for this meeting stating it was a special arrangement through the services of SATC (Southeast Alaska Tourism Council) and noted the cost. She stated she would be happy to continue providing this service at the board members' cost. Board members Gaffney and Butcher calling in stated they had other, less expensive options and would use those options in the future. All board members agreed to members incurring their own costs if they had to call in for a meeting.

Board Comments: Hunt commented on the attendance of Assembly liaison Jerry Lapp. Chair Heinmiller stated he had attended meetings and had not notified him about today's meeting.

Set Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 18, 2009 – 8:30 a.m.
Assembly Chambers, Public Safety Building

Meeting Adjournment: Hunt motioned to adjourn; Johnson seconded. All approved.
Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.