

## **Tourism Advisory Board Meeting/ Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, May 11 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Call to Order: Gregg Johnson 8:37 a.m.**

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

**Absent** - Judy Heinmiller (unexcused)

**Also Present** - Lori Stepansky

**Approval of April Minutes:** Hunt motioned to approve. Butcher seconded; all approved.

**Public Comments:** N/A

**Approval of Agenda:** Butcher motioned to approve. Lidholm seconded; all approved.

**President's Report:** N/A

**New Business:** Butcher commented Hunt's birthday cake make by Lidholm was very good.

Johnson reported he spoke with Maintenance Facilities Manager, Brad Maynard about the Waterfront Project and the permits were in. The project was just waiting on Coeur of Engineers to move forward with the bid process. Discussion followed regarding the project being on the Assembly agendas, the new bill for the revised head tax, and where head tax funds are spent.

**Old Business:** **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

Stepansky reported there was an effort of Borough Administration to purchase pole brackets and decorative flags for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Haines as a city as well as other seasonal flags to be placed throughout town. Funds would come from Economic Development. Stepansky also reported it may be possible for the July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities to include the Centennial theme and that there was a committee being put together to plan celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Brief discussion followed regarding flags and locations.

**Directors Update:** **High School Senior Luncheon**

Stepansky reported Holland America approved hosting the high school senior luncheon again this year which will be held on Wednesday, May 19, on board the Ryndam.

**First Cruise Ship Day**

Stepansky reported on activities and preparation being conducted for the first cruise ship next week. Board member Ahmuty inquired about who to talk with about security staff driving on and off the dock throughout the day when it is

extremely busy with passenger foot traffic. Stepansky referred him to the Borough Manager at this time. Discussion followed regarding placement of the Visitor Info Booth on the Dock and the Shore Excursion booth on the apron of the pier.

### **Budget**

Stepansky reported the budget hearing meeting went relatively well and although no additional funds were added at the time, there were no cuts made either. Discussion followed regarding portions of the budget, proposed items to be cut, and comments from Assembly at the hearing.

### **Visitor Center Staff**

Stepansky reported the Visitor Center was slightly reducing hours this season and all staff was in place including new season staff person, Tonya Clark.

### **Biker Bruce Martin**

Stepansky reported through Google Alerts she learned about Bicyclist, Bruce Martin, would be riding his bike from his home in Las Vegas to Haines in support of Multiple Sclerosis. His anticipated arrival in Haines is August 16. Stepansky said she would be following his progress through a special blog thread and would like to try to plan something special for his arrival. Stepansky will forward the link to his information to board members.

**Board Comments:** Various board members asked additional questions about the budget.

Board member Hunt commented on his participation with the Chilkat Center Board and the status of the structure's needs as well as the potential uses for the center should repairs be made. Hunt stated he may request the two boards to meet and further discuss letters of support for Borough Administration to fund the repairs. Discussion followed regarding current actions by Borough Administration and projects already being worked on.

**Set Next Meeting Date:**     Tuesday, June 22    , 2009 – 8:30 a.m.  
**Assembly Chambers, Public Safety Building**

Butcher motioned to adjourn. Hunt seconded; all approved.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.