

Tourism Advisory Board Meeting/ Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 12 – 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Call to Order: Judy Heinmiller - 8:35 a.m.

Roll Call: Present - Judy Heinmiller, Michael Ahmuty, Gregg Johnson, Chris Schelb, Jeff Butcher, Jason Gaffney (phone)

Absent - Juanita Lidholm (excused), John Hunt (unexcused)

Also Present - Lori Stepansky

Approval of April Minutes: Schelb motioned to approve; Johnson seconded. All approved.

Public Comments: N/A

Approval of Agenda: All approved

Johnson inquired if anyone had an update on the downtown planning project and suggested it for the next meeting.

President's Report: No report from Chair Heinmiller

New Business: Ahmuty asked Stepansky about the ATCO temporary bathroom facility. Stepansky did not have an update at the time.

Old Business: N/A

Directors Update: Cruise Ships – Updates, Schedule, and Events

Stepansky reported the Haines High School Senior Luncheon was set up on May 20th. She also reported an Environmental Tour on the Ryndam was scheduled for Memorial Day, Monday, May 25. Stepansky inquired if anyone from the board wished to take the tour. Heinmiller and Johnson indicated they would; Stepansky noted she would contact them to turn in the information required as soon as possible as space was limited. Stepansky also reported being contacted by Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska via the Harbormaster about an additional call from the Ryndam on July 13.

Volunteers for Peplemover Cart

Stepansky reported difficulties in arranging volunteers for the Peplemover Cart on cruise ship days. Discussion followed regarding the Haines-Skagway Fast Ferry docking at the PC Dock this year and conversation which took place at the Tour Operator meeting last week regarding the Borough hiring someone for this position. Stepansky noted she was unaware of the status of the situation at the

time as to whether or not a position would be posted or contracted for this service. She indicated her concerns were short-term and she knew Manager Bolen was going to look in to it. Board members commented about contacting Manager Bolen to support the idea of a hiring someone for the position and paying for it with head tax funds.

Budget Report/Update

Stepansky reported during the Committee of the Whole where the Tourism budget was discussed, Assembly member Lapp had motioned for the Tourism budget to be increased by 2 – 3% with the amount going in to the advertising portion. Stepansky reported his motion resulted in an additional \$6900 for the advertising budget. Board members asked about the approval of the budget. Stepansky reported the first hearing was scheduled at tonight's Assembly meeting.

Yukon Trade Show Report

Stepansky reported the trade show was a success and her visits to local car and RV rental places revealed they are doing as well as last year if not better in their bookings and reports are the European market is very strong for the Yukon with the Condor flying in on a regular basis. Stepansky also noted it would be beneficial next year to have someone with strong fishing experience and/or background work the trade show booth for Haines.

Board Comments: N/A

Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 – 8:30 a.m.
Assembly Chambers, Public Safety Building