

Tourism Advisory Board Meeting/ Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 13, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Call to Order: Travis Reid

Roll Call: Present - Travis Reid, Judy Heinmiller, Jeff Butcher, John Hunt, Chris Schelb, Deborah Marshall, Gregg Johnson

Absent -

Also Present - Deborah Vogt, Lori Stepansky, Jessica Edwards

Approval of May Minutes: Marshall motioned to approve; Schelb second. All in favor.

Public Comments: N/A

Approval of Agenda:

Vogt stated Mike Ward had mentioned in the last assembly meeting that the Tourism Advisory Board should review Tour Permits and requested adding this item to the agenda.

Marshall motioned to approve agenda; Schelb second; all in favor.

President's Report: Chair Reid reported the tourism season was going well and cruise lines were asking for numbers from operators for 2009 which was challenging with rising fuel prices.

New Business: **Welcome new board member Gregg Johnson**
Chair Reid acknowledged and welcomed new Tourism Advisory Board member Gregg Johnson.

Visitor Center and Bathroom Building Facility (*Facilities Maintenance Tech, Eddie Bryant, has completed a report regarding the condition of the Visitor Center Buildings. The report has revealed serious structural issues for both buildings. Stepansky will provide details of the situation.*)

Stepansky reported Eddie Bryant had completed a review of the Visitor Center and the bathroom building facility. The report showed a great deal of rot to the point of structural problems in areas. Discussion followed regarding the situation of Borough buildings, location of the Visitor Center, and Stepansky's suggestions of a new structure.

Tourism Advisory Board Reviewing Tour Permits

Vogt stated Mike Ward had suggested at the Tuesday Assembly meeting that the Tourism Advisory Board should review tour permits due to the issue of operator Alaska Mountain Guides applying for a permit in the area of the Chilkoot Corridor area. Discussion followed regarding the Chilkoot area and permit review processes.

Hunt motioned to send action request to the Assembly as worded: The Haines Tourism Advisory Board is requesting direct and permanent involvement for the tour permit and review process; Marshall second. Discussion followed the wording of the action request.

Hunt amended his motion to send the action request to the Assembly to read: The Haines Tourism Advisory Board is requesting involvement for the tour permit and review process; Marshall second. Discussion followed regarding time issues of reviewing permits.

Old Business:

Pavilion Project (*Drawings were provided by PND but did not arrive in time for the last TAB meeting. Stepansky pass them on to the Mayor. The drawings should be available for this meeting.*)

Stepansky reported interim Borough Manager, Bob Ward, had reported in Tuesday's, Assembly meeting the figures for the Pavilion project provided by PND were \$135,000 for the building and \$865,000 for the foundation and piling work. Lengthy discussion followed regarding what might be involved in these figures and what Borough Management was doing at this point regarding review of other options.

Schelb motioned to table the discussion until more information was provided from the Haines Borough Assembly regarding details and options; Heinmiller second. Additional discussion followed regarding the project. Hunt requested Schelb withdraw his motion. Discussion continued regarding efforts of the Borough Administration moving forward. Vogt commented the Borough Assembly was just made aware of the new figures and felt tabling the issues was appropriate. Vote on the motion: Schelb and Heinmiller – yes; Hunt, Marshall, Johnson, Reid, Butcher, no. Motion failed four to two. Discussion about the Pavilion Project continued.

Haines Tourism Management Plan (*At the last meeting, board member Butcher motioned to discuss at the next meeting low-cost alternatives for a strategic planning session if enough board members were present.*)

Butcher commented on pursuing a strategic tourism planning session for the board. Marshall stated she would like to see a date established for a strategic tourism planning session and suggested an afternoon workshop one day in September with a goal to establish criteria for a facilitated session. The board agreed to set a workshop/meeting date of Friday, September 19, 2008, 2:00 p.m. at the Hotel Halsingland.

Directors Report:

Visitor Center Staff – Stepansky reported an employee she hired had given notice after one week for a higher paying job. The staff aide position was re-posted and Natalie Pardee had been hired.

Volunteers on ships – Stepansky reported the new program with volunteers on the ships to man a Haines information table was going well although there were a few issues for the last ship call which were being addressed. Discussion followed regarding brochures and information provided on the ships and at the kiosk booth on the dock.

Brochures – Stepansky reported the re-print of the Haines Restaurant and Shopping Brochure was in the process of being organized and hoped to see it in hand within a few weeks if response to participate was good. Stepansky also reported the Fort Seward Walking Tour Brochures had been reprinted and were anticipated to arrive any day and the ‘Haines, Valley of the Eagles Brochure’ was in the process of being reprinted with new pictures and updated information.

Heinmiller commented on the condition of sidewalks in the community and would like to see the board make an action request to the Assembly to address the issue.

Vogt inquired if there was any update for the schedule of Fort Seward Days. Discussion followed regarding the event schedule with the visit of Senator Ted Stevens.

Chair Reid asked Heinmiller if she wanted the board to make a motion regarding her action request about the sidewalks. Heinmiller declined noting she would bring it up to the board at a later date.

Set Next Meeting Date: Friday, July 25, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.
Assembly Chambers, Public Safety Building

Motion to Adjourn: Heinmiller motioned to adjourn; Marshall second.