

Tourism Advisory Board Meeting/ Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, August 18 – 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Call to Order: Gregg Johnson

Roll Call: Present - Chris Schelb, Jason Gaffney, Juanita Lidholm, Jeff Butcher, Gregg Johnson

Absent - Judy Heinmiller, John Hunt

Also Present - Lori Stepansky, Michael Ahmuty

Approval of July 2009 Minutes: Schelb motioned to approved, Lidholm seconded; all approved

Public Comments: N/A

Approval of Agenda: Butcher motioned to approve, Gaffney seconded; all approved

President's Report: N/A

New Business: N/A – Johnson noted a conversation with Manager Bolen regarding monies for engineering/permits for the waterfront project would need to be approved by the assembly. Some discussion followed regarding the waterfront project and the cost.

Old Business: **Status for alder and brush removal from waterfront (*This topic was discussed at last month's meeting. A meeting was to take place with Chair Heinmiller, Dave Pahl, and Manager Bolen. Heinmiller will provide an update.*)**

Johnson reported this meeting did not take place. No discussion followed.

Items for a prioritized list of recommendations to the Assembly for use of cruise ship head tax this year and years to follow (*At last month's meeting, it was agreed for board members to think of items to create a list of recommendation for spending the cruise ship head tax funds, prioritize the list, and make recommendations to the Assembly. This should be beginning of these discussions and may require additional meetings.*)

Butcher reported discussion with board member John Hunt about involving the public in suggestions for the unused head tax funds. Butcher commented about his thoughts on how to approach moving this project forward and how it should be discussed at a level of sub-committee. Discussion took place about public involvement and input public might provide about various ideas for these funds verses the focus of tourism professionals. It was noted by Stepansky meetings are posted for public information including this board meeting with the agenda item and there was no public present. Discussion continued regarding head tax uses including possibly subsidizing the Fast Ferry and its importance of the cruise ship schedule for Haines next year. Conversation continued regarding moving forward

with possible ideas for a prioritized list of uses of the head tax to suggest to the Assembly. Johnson noted board members should be prepared to bring a list of suggestions and ideas at the next board meeting for discussion.

Directors Update: Director's travels

Stepansky reported she just returned from WACVB CEO Conference in Utah and found it helpful with ideas and suggestions from other colleagues in regards to dealing with CVBs surviving the tough, economic times and making the most of budget dollars.

Lefty Project

Stepansky reported she had begun a project to find out how many left-handed people were in Haines and many had indicated their southpaw status with at least 45 on the list at this time.

Southeast Conference

Stepansky reported challenges in planning the Southeast Conference arose just in the past week and she and her staff and the Mayor were working closely with SEC planners to confirm the banquet location at the Elks, catering by the Emblem Club, and transportation for delegates during the meetings.

Board Comments: N/A

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

Gaffney motioned to adjourn, Butcher seconded; all approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.