

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

**Tuesday, September 22 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Meeting Call to Order: Judy Heinmiller: 8:40 a.m.**

**Roll Call: Present** - Judy Heinmiller, John Hunt, Juanita, Jeff Butcher, Gregg Johnson

**Absent** - Jason Gaffney, Michael Ahmuty

**Also Present** - Lori Stepansky

**Approval of Excused/Unexcused Absences:** Chair Heinmiller stated Gaffney's absence was unexcused

**Approval of \_\_\_\_\_ August 2009 \_\_\_\_\_ Minutes:** Butcher motioned to approve; Lidholm seconded. All approved

**Public Comments:** N/A

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

**President's Report:** Chair Heinmiller opened discussion regarding recent letters to the editor and the inaccuracies in the letters published. Discussion took place regarding rebuttal letters. The board agreed to submit a letter for this week's edition of the paper.

Heinmiller also commented about meeting with Manager Bolen regarding plans to remove brush from the waterfront with this project anticipated to be completed this fall.

**New Business:** **Board Member Seats** (*Board member Chris Schelb is resigning his position on the board. Seat terms for board members Butcher and Hunt end in November. Letters of interest for seat renewal or new board members should be submitted to the Mayor's office directly or via the Borough Clerk.*)

Discussion took place regarding the now open seat by Chris Schelb who is moving to Juneau and interest of the two board members Hunt and Butcher renewing their seat terms which end in November. Discussion continued with possible options of those who might be encouraged to submit a letter of interest.

**Old Business:** **Head Tax Recommendation List** (*Creating a list of recommendations for the Assembly regarding ways to spend the cruise ship head tax was discussed at last month's meeting. Board members were to bring their suggestions to this meeting. Recommended action: Discuss member suggestions to create a prioritized list after basic cost estimates have been gathered.*)

Lengthy discussion took place regarding issues of the cruise ship head tax and options listed on a list compiled by board member Butcher. The discussion also included the new effort to eliminate the cruise ship head tax with the lawsuit

against the state and the status of the Haines-Skagway Fast Ferry regarding this and next year's operation as to whether it should be subsidized. In addition to the list provided by Butcher, other items discussed and added to the list were: stairs at Tlingit Park, maps of town with weather-protected brochure boxes in key locations of town, boardwalk and other waterfront development, Waterfront Committee projects, staff for the Peplemover Cart, updating and revising Hiking Trail Maps, reprinting of brochures for the Visitor Center, and purchase of the Picture Point property. Additional ideas will be brought to the next meeting with intent to discuss a possible presentation to the Assembly.

**Directors Update: Southeast Conference report**

Stepansky reported the Southeast Conference was a success and was very pleased with the efforts from all in Haines who were involved in making it happen.

**End of Season summary**

Stepansky reported the season was wrapping up and she hoped to have season figures sometime in October or November but comprehensive figures for the year would not be available until the first part of next year. Stepansky also commented on when the cruise ship schedule would be available and upcoming travel.

**Board Comments:** Board member Johnson acknowledged the efforts of the Tourism Department for Southeast Conference.

**Set Next Meeting Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Thursday, October 29, 2009 – 8:30 a.m.**  
**Assembly Chambers, Public Safety Building**

Heinmiller motioned to adjourn; Johnson seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.