

Tourism Advisory Board Meeting/ Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 26, 2008 – 9:30 a.m.

Meeting Call to Order: Travis Reid

Roll Call: Present - Travis Reid, Chris Schelb, Jeff Butcher, Greg Johnson, Deborah Marshall

Absent - Judy Heinmiller

Also Present - Tom Bolen, Michael Omady, Lori Stepansky, Deborah Vogt

Approval of August Minutes: Hunt motioned to approve; Johnson seconded. All approved.

Public Comments: Borough Manager Tom Bolen addressed the board stating he is happy to be in Haines and saw a lot of community support and involvement.

Approval of Agenda: Hunt added teleconferencing update to the agenda. (Was requested to be a new section as Committee Report but was moved to Board Vacancies under New Business.)

Schelb wanted to add Arts Confluence to Old Business

President's Report: Reid reported the Haines Reception on the eve of ATIA was cancelled due to conflicts in schedule due to ACA (Alaska Cruise Association) hosting a reception at the same time limiting the number of cruise line people that would have been able to attend the Haines reception. Haines attendees were encouraged to join ACA to have the opportunity this year to meet with cruise line representatives. Haines will get public notable mention at the ACA reception/meeting for working with ACA so all delegates could attend. Discussion followed regarding the situation.

New Business: **Board Vacancies** (*Board member Marshall stated at the Tourism Board Workshop the board should discuss possible options of community members to fill vacancies of the board and establish a member of the board attending Assembly meetings.*)

Marshall commented that three board seats would be up in November and felt options for replacements to be encouraged to apply for the seats and wanted to see teleconferencing for board members that travel or are absent for lengthy periods of times through the winter to be explored. Discussion followed regarding teleconferencing options with circumstances of establishing this in the Assembly Chambers and/or holding meetings in other locations in the Borough properties.

Old Business: **Strategic Planning Retreat** (*The board discussed options of having a strategic planning session and wanted to continue the discussion of whether or not to have one and when it might take place at this meeting.*)

Lengthy discussion took place regarding functions of the board including the board weighing in on all tour permits, the 2002 McDowell report, the issues of the

Chilkoot Corridor, and the Pavilion Project, as was board structure and training. Means of communication with the Assembly from the board were also discussed.

Pavilion Project (*Board Member Johnson wanted to follow up with any new developments and status of the Pavilion Project.*)

Borough Manager Bolen reported the Pavilion Project was moving forward and would be completed this time next year.

Director's Update: All-American Road

Stepansky reported the application process for nominating highways in to the National Scenic Byway program had opened with a deadline of December 1 and the project of applying for All-American Road was top priority. Stepansky noted she would be spending an entire day at the DOT office upon return of her upcoming trips. Stepansky also requested a support letter from the board again.

Fall Travel

Stepansky told the board about her upcoming conventions and trade shows for the next two months which were currently demanding time in preparing presentations, media kits, and requesting appointments.

Convention Update

Stepansky reported the CHARR Convention was next week with about 100 delegates registered at this time. Stepansky also reported the Harbormaster convention would take place a few days later and staff person Christa Rayl had been working closely with Harbormaster Phil Benner to assist in coordination of catering and venue set ups. Stepansky also reported acquiring the Southeast Conference for 2009 in September. Board member Schelb commented on the conference as he attended this year's event in Prince Rupert.

New Copier

Stepansky reported the new copier arrived and was installed just a few days after the old one quit working and she was struggling with Xerox to pick up the old equipment. Stepansky noted acquiring the copier was made possible thanks to CFO Jila Stuart for making the budget amendment to include purchase of the copier and also commented on the modern features of the copier.

Reid inquired about the status of the Vacation Planner. Stepansky noted the supply was low and would like to have additional amounts printed as well as in German. Discussion took place regarding support for these options. Johnson motioned to encourage Stepansky to have additional copies of the planner printed and options for German printing of the planner. Schelb seconded.

Set Next Meeting Date: Thursday, October 30, 2008 – 9:30 a.m.
Assembly Chambers, Public Safety Building