

Haines Borough
Tourism Advisory Board Meeting
September 27, 2005
MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Marilyn Josephson, President called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.
2. **ROLL CALL: Board Members Present:** Marilyn Josephson, Judy Heinmiller, Karen Hess, Darsie Culbeck, Jeff Butcher

Absent: Shane Horton, Tom Crandall

Staff Present: Lori Stepansky, Shane Roberts

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** July Josephson/Hess– Motion to approve July minutes carried unanimously.
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
President questions if there are any changes to the agenda, no changes stated.

5. **PRESIDENT REPORT:**

A. Pavilion Project Update.

Josephson - stated Lee will again contact Ron for conceptual draft drawings that will be sent off to

the architect in Juneau.

Culbeck - suggests putting a deadline on receiving Ron's drafts. Culbeck also presented a disk with photos.

Hess - states that if we have photos than the architect could sketch it out himself.

Josephson - stated we were trying to save some money and keep it under \$5000.

Culbeck was directed to pass the photos off to the board by email so the board could agree on one.

Hess - stated that Lee was going to get a hold of the guy in Seattle because he was familiar with the Fort but she agreed with Culbeck because Lee has been hard to get ahold of and this has gone

on and on that we could agree on one of these pictures than ask the architect what it would cost to

get it into a workable document.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Tourism Tax Reform

Josephson – states the item is going to be on the ballot.

Culbeck – stated there will be two things on the ballot; area wide up 3 ½ % and keep the tourism tax to tourism.

Hess – stated item two is to keep it area wide for tourism and economic development.

Culbeck – stated Schnabel's goal didn't reflect how the final item is on the ballot.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. CHARR Convention Bid.

Stepansky – researched what the revenue figures would be for the community and Kodiak said the amount dropped in their community was around \$ 125,000 plus an auction brought in \$20,000 and was donated to the Kodiak football league. Other communities also donated items for this CHARR convention auction. Also the Kodiak CHARR Chapter took care of all the tour opportunities that were available to us.

Hess – states that this particular chamber would be responsible for putting this together and getting and there has been discussion to increase membership to CHARR chapters because these groups will spend money only in a CHARR membership.

Stepansky – stating it is going to be a good thing and most of it will be ran through her. Will have to report to Borough Manager and validate the importance of the trip, being there in person makes a difference at conventions to receive a bid. Also, the work needs to get started next year.

B. Board By-laws.

Josephson – questioned if the name change by-laws went to the assembly.

Stepansky – stated the by-law change didn't need to be accepted by the assembly and it only needs approval by the tourism advisory board.

Josephson – questioned if the Convention and Visitors Bureau has to vote on by-law changes before they are accepted.

Stepansky – stated that the change is a name change and that the board needs to adopt the change.

Hess – recommended finishing the by-laws and take action from to board to vote.

Discussion and changes were made on the by-laws.

Culbeck/ Hess - motion to approve the amended by-laws carried unanimously.

8. **DIRECTOR REPORT:**

A. Upcoming travel.

Stepansky – informed the board on future travel plans; ATIA, WACVB, AK Media Roadshow, TIA Yukon and NWCA.

B. New phone system at Visitor Center.

Stepansky – informed the board on updated phone system at the visitor center which was a large budget item \$4100.00, but was needed.

C. Corridor Management Plan update.

Stepansky – informed the board the RFP is out and posted in the newspaper and waiting for Borough Manager's approval to send out the actual documents to interested parties. Our Borough Assembly will than award the bid by the end of October.

D. Travel Writer Fred Folmer.

Stepansky – informed the board that he is a travel writer representative of Travel Agent Magazine and scheduled to visit the area for a few days, set up through ATIA.

E. Norwegian Dream.

Stepansky – informed the board about a lunch meeting with the captain of the Norwegian Dream. They discussed the docking options between Haines and Skagway and other items. In November's NCL Captains' conference, he will suggest bringing a ship into Haines.

F. Oosterdam Inaugural.

Stepansky – informed the board that the inaugural went well.

9. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Butcher – stated there are regulations that are in place to help Haines control the direction they want tourism to go.

Hess – stated that the docking facility is an approved bond and has to pay for itself or the residents will pay and question our candidates that are running for office.

Butcher? - discussed ferry issues effecting our tourism and getting advice from this board for any Haines marketing that goes out.

Stepansky – stated that what is coming out of the Button Hearing Case is there is a lot of vagueness in our codes, not just the tourism codes. We should see a lot of changes in the next few years and advisory boards need to be involved in the changes.

10. **SET BOARD MEETING DATE: November 4th at 8:15 am.**