

Tourism Advisory Board Meeting/ Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 8, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Call to Order: Travis Reid

Roll Call: Present - Travis Reid, Judy Heinmiller, John Hunt, Scott Sundberg, Jeff Butcher, Darsie Culbeck (Joined meeting at 9:20)

Absent - Debra Vogt

Also Present - Lori Stepansky, Robert Venables (joined meeting at 10:15)

Approval of April Minutes: Heinmiller first, Sundberg second

Approval of Agenda: Unanimously approved

President's Report: Reid welcomed new board member John Hunt and noted other board members to encourage persons in the community that may be beneficial to fill the board seat vacancy.

Old Business: **Alaska Channel/Haines Video – Conference call scheduled** – Yael Kaufman of Alaska Channel called in for conference at approximately 9:15. Board members asked questions regarding costs outlined, technical issues, production and duplication, and scripting. Video crew should be in the area in June. Conference lasted 40 minutes. Stepansky noted discussions with Borough Manager, Robert Venables regarding funding coming out of current fiscal budget. First draft of video script should be available early next week. A meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday, May 16 to review script if available.

Pavilion Project – Sundberg reported project is status quo at this time. Discussion followed regarding previous estimates, original plans of the project, dock flowers, and have at least one board member present at the Planning Commission meeting.

Title V – Tour permitting – Scott Sundberg – Sundberg commented on Title V issues regarding tour permitting process especially for air carriers and expressed concerns for legalities of processing. Recommendations will be made to Debra Vogt and any governmental committee addressing the topic.

Bed Tax – Scott Sundberg – Sundberg commented the bed tax should be reviewed again for the potential of being appropriated to the tourism department due to the changes of the broader area of where the tax is collected. Butcher commented on the amount of funding for the tourism department should have increased from the dedicated portion of the sales tax verses bed tax but noted it may be good to re-visit the subject again.

(Borough Manager Robert Venables joined the meeting)

New Business:

John Hunt recording meetings for KHNS – Stepansky noted this should be run by Borough Manager, Robert Venables, and Borough Clerk, Julie Cozzi, to verify the lines of conflict of interest. Discussion followed in regards to role as board member and role as member of press. It was acknowledged that although meetings are already recorded, Hunt could have recording equipment on hand but not positioned with him at table. It was agreed interviews should take place after meeting times and not be conducted and recorded during meetings.

Sundberg reported about his participation in the non-profit board training provided by Foraker Group and funded by the Haines Borough.

Culbeck brought up the topic of email notification of board meetings for TAB. Discussion followed regarding meetings being publicly posted, board members forwarding meetings and agendas on to interested parties, and process of local happenings and information for calendar of events. Culbeck will contact Borough Clerk, Julie Cozzi, for additional information.

Borough Manager Venables commented on the Pavilion project and potential location below Fort Seward Lodge. Venables asked the board to contact Planning Commission Chair Lee Heinmiller for a meeting next week regarding the proposed location and other pavilion project details. Reid stated he would contact Heinmiller about attending the meeting to be scheduled for Wednesday, May 16. Discussion followed regarding location of bathroom facilities.

Directors Report:

Visitor survey – Stepansky reported meeting with Butcher to discuss ideas for a survey of visitors at local accommodations through the summer months as an inexpensive mode for a conversation study which would help gage the effectiveness of advertisement, visitor guides, and how visitors are finding their way to Haines.

Ride Yukon – Accommodations – Stepansky reported a few local accommodations told potential Ride Yukon attendees Haines was already booked. Stepansky has worked with Ride Yukon organizers to direct people to contact the Visitor Center for a running list of available accommodations. Stepansky noted increasing efforts for assuring accommodations in regards to tenting and billeting local homes.

Cruise Ship Shuttle – There have been no bids submitted for the shuttle service for large cruise ships at the PC Dock. The RFP ad is being run again. Stepansky noted the first cruise ship date of May 23 only being two weeks away and service may not be provided. Discussion followed regarding the profitability of the service.

Reid initiated discussion regarding the Restaurant and Shopping brochure Stepansky provided to board members. Discussion followed regarding production of piece.

Public Comments: N/A

Set Next Meeting Date: Special meeting to be scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 9:30 a.m.
Agenda is discussion regarding Haines Video script and meeting with Lee Heinmiller and Planning Commission regarding Pavilion Project.
Assembly Chambers, Public Safety Building

Monthly meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 9:00 a.m.
Assembly Chambers, Public Safety Building