

Tourism Advisory Board Meeting/ Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, June 12, 2007 – 9:10 a.m.

Meeting Call to Order: Travis Reid

Roll Call:

Present – Travis Reid/Chair, Darsie Culbeck, Jeff Butcher, John Hunt, Judy Heinmiller/Vice-Chair, Scott Sundberg (arrived 9:15 a.m.)

Absent - Debra Vogt

Also Present - Lori Stepansky/Tourism Director, Bart Henderson, Karen Hess

Approval of May Minutes:

All approved meeting minutes from TAB meeting May 8 and joint meeting with Planning Commission May 16.

Approval of Agenda:

All approved agenda.

President's Report:

Chair Reid reported a strong start to the cruise ship season noting discussion should take place regarding a tent structure to provide protection from the elements for shore-ex personnel; the cruise ship shuttle contract should be awarded to SEABA during evening Assembly meeting and thanked Chilkat Cruises and Tours and Chilkat Guides for providing shuttle service the past two weeks.

Old Business:

Pavilion Project – Discussion took place regarding the joint meeting vote for location of the Pavilion Project, requesting appropriating funds that would have been put towards purchase of land for the other proposed location towards the project, and the pavilion subject being on the agenda for the evening's Assembly meetings.

Cruise Ship Shuttle – Discussion took place regarding the proposal submitted by SEABA and the contract being awarded by the Assembly during their meeting this evening.

New Business:

Appointment to TAB vacancy – *Sean Brownell's application for appointment to the TAB (Code requires that the board weigh in on applications before the mayor considers the appointment.)* – Discussion followed regarding Brownell's interest in filling board vacancy and ability to serve consistently. All members commented on the best interest of the board not being too heavily weighted with tour operators and filling the vacancy with representation of another segment of tourism in the community proposing it be someone that would have time to contribute. Reid motioned for himself to speak with the Mayor to obtain Brownell's letter of intent for board vacancy and talk with Brownell about his ability to attend the monthly meetings in regards to his summer and winter schedule. All approved the motion.

Directors Report:

Alaska Channel and other media – Stepansky reported Rich Cooper arrived in town the previous evening and would be meeting with her later in the day regarding the shoot schedule. Stepansky also reported she was working with other media coming to town the next two months.

ATIA Tour Operator FAM May 24 – Stepansky reported the ATIA organized tour operator FAM trip went very well and has received nothing but positive feedback about Haines.

Ride Yukon Update – Stepansky reported everything appeared to be on track for the Ride Yukon event June 22. Discussion followed regarding details of the activities for the event at the Southeast Fair Grounds.

Karen Hess opened discussion regarding road etiquette on the Haines Highway during the Kluane to Chilkat Bike Relay race this coming weekend and how to communicate concerns to necessary officials. Heinmiller offered to contact Chip Lende to convey the concerns.

Karen Hess opened discussion regarding the July 4th celebration activities and the expressed interest of Holland America's Ryndam being involved as the ship will be in port. Discussion included ideas for HAL to have a team involved for mud volleyball, participation in the parade, and other activities of the day; providing a calendar of events for the cruise ship passengers and having the information available on the PC Dock.

Chair Reid noted the *Sunset Magazine* featuring an article heavily weighted with Haines information included in the meeting packet.

Chair Reid asked Culbeck to open discussion regarding placement of a tent structure at the end of the pier to provide shelter from weather elements for the ship shore excursion staff. Sundberg motioned to acquire a temporary pavilion structure; Hunt second; all in favor. Culbeck will follow up with Borough Manager Robert Venables regarding process of acquiring temporary structure.

Public Comments:

Karen Hess questioned Sundberg regarding all required paperwork necessary to run the cruise ship shuttle for Wednesdays.

Butcher reported Avis will be re-established for car rental services from the Hotel Halsingland by July 1 beginning with five vehicles but hopes to have at least 25 in the future as well as inter-city service.

Hunt questioned the whereabouts of Debra Vogt noting she has missed two meetings. Hunt expressed disappointment of the time in which the Haines Video Script was provided and stated he felt this was an audio script only and was concerned about lack of mention of the shoot list for the video. Hunt also suggested acquiring a list of Alaska holidays celebrated and how to include it in calendar of events to send to cruise lines as he believes this will help bring people to Haines. Stepansky asked for clarification. Heinmiller commented on why Haines would want to provide statewide information if there were no local activities involved for potential visitors.

Discussion took place regarding the Pavilion project being on the agenda for the Assembly meeting. Discussion followed regarding the Pavilion project in consideration of the location, size, adding on to the structure in the future, functionality, and future plans for cruise ship business.

Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Assembly Chambers, Public Safety Building

Heinmiller motioned meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.; Culbeck second.