

MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY
Skagway Visitor Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
November 18 at 10 am. In the AB Hall Reception Room & via Zoom

1. **Call to Order: 10:04**

2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Beth Smith, Chair, Jeremy Jansen. Via Zoom: Jacqui Taylor-Rose VC, Katie Auer
Absent: Sean Watson, Johanna Evans, AR Hylton

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

A. October 20, 2022 BS/JTR

4. **Communications:**

A. Correspondence

Receive letter of resignation from board member Juliene Miles. She has taken a new job with City Hall and will not be available for meetings.

Received email from board member Johanna Evans regarding future meeting times.

B. Citizens Present

Liz Lavoie: Would love to see a town photo, possibly yearly. We need to figure out where we put a million people. The Broadway issue is still circling the room. Is available to assist with the discussion.

Karl Klupar: a rise in Sales tax was brought up at the assembly meeting. That will also impact the bed tax. It wouldn't hurt to compare Skagway to other communities in Alaska like Anchorage. We don't want to price ourselves out of the market.

Rosemary Liebert; In agreement with Karl about the tax. There is a sales tax cap in Ketchikan. It would be interesting to understand the impact of sales tax in comparison to other communities. How does that impact the perception of Skagway?

Promoting the stream walk and other places that would get visitors off Broadway would reduce congestion.

Look at a Go Fund Me account to pay for some of the rock slide info.

Would like to see input on the signage in the port development process

Star link is now available in Skagway. It would be great to have it available on AMHS

C. Directors Report presented & available in the meeting packet

5. **New Business:**

Election of officers

Motion made & passed to elect Beth Smith as chair and Jackie Taylor Rose as vice chair BS/JJ

6. **Unfinished Business:**

A. Mission & Vision Statement – Tabled until January work session

B. Yuletide 2022

a. Print Schedule Deadline Wednesday, November 9. In Nov 24 Skagway News.

b. Tree Lighting/Yuletide kickoff Friday, December 2.

C. Access Road Naming

Motion to name Harbor Way BS/JJ

D. Cemetery Naming

Motion to name cemetery Hillside Cemetery BS/JJ

E. Waterfront Update by Brad Ryan

Last night the assembly voted to not move forward with the alternate mooring plan for 2023. Many cruise lines are concerned if dock construction occurs, the docks may not be available for 2023.

The geo tech staff proposal after scaling rocks off the hillside is to put in 8' high geo blocks on the dock near the slide area to block any debris. Additional nets will be added to the hillside. Passengers can be transported by bus from the Aft dock. They also propose putting spotters on each end. These are all very tentative plans right now. We will still have 3 docks in 2023, possibly 4.

The cruise lines want to start regular working groups with the MOS & WPYR geo tech representatives so all invested parties all sharing knowledge to make the best operating decisions.

There is a possibility of offloading passengers by both tenders and buses. MOS is working with AMHS staff to use the storage area between the AMHS parking area & the Boat harbor storage area for a second offloading area to increase our tendering operations efficiency.

The other item approved is the laser system to real time monitor rock movement on the hillside. White Pass also have stretch lines to monitor the movement. All the systems have their pitfalls and positive attributes.

7. **Discussion Items:**

A. **2023 Season**

BS: October cruise arrivals are challenging. Seasonal staff are moving to their next seasonal gigs.

RL: was told by Norwegian that they would rather schedule ships in October, even if they have to cancel due to weather, because they still make more money than repositioning.

RL: When is the drop date for cruise lines to say if they are coming to Skagway or not?

BS: It depends upon the ships. Most are committed to the scheduled port calls. The ship lines are waiting to see which docks they are assigned. That information comes from Rick Erickson with Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska. Skagway is looking into contracting for tender service so we can have regular experienced captains operating the tender shuttles

JJ: Would like to have an update from the cruise lines regarding what the cruise lines expect for covid protocols for shore excursions.

B. **Payment for board member meeting participation**

BR: The assembly passed that board members will be paid for meetings. It will begin in January with the new fiscal year. Board members interested in being paid need to see Alana in payroll to sign up. The chair tracks who attend meetings and submits the information to Alanna

BS: Can we donate payments back, say for Christmas lights? BR: I think so. The school board does this.

Set next meeting dates: December 16 at 10 am

Agenda items: Vision & mission statement (January), October tourism

C. **Adjournment: 11:25**