

**GREATER WHITTIER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**APRIL 8, 2015**

**ATTENDING:** Rebecca Langton and Sandy Bartles, FCS; Kristen Labrecque, Saltwater Excursions; Jody Mason, Alaskan 4 Star Charters; Cole Haddock, Harbor Master; Linda Brandon, Major Marine Tours; Bill Rome, Willard Island Video; Laurie Booyse; ATIA; Kris Valencia, Milepost; Gordon Burton, DOT; Tim Melican, Magic Bus; Dave Goldstein, PWS Eco-Charters; Scott Michaels, AWCC; Kelly Bender, Lazy Otter.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Kelly 12:18

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** Review last minutes. Kristen made changes to her helicopter hours of operation. Sandy accepted, Kristen 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Introduction of Cole Haddock, new Harbor Master. Congratulations to Scott and the AWCC for the successful musk ox relocation.  
The movie Hunter Killer has pulled out of Whittier. There were several reasons, #1 Tax Credit – too much uncertainty. #2 The weather was too nice. #3 Space issues in Whittier and Anchorage. #4 Communication with production company. S.B. 39 still needs our attention. Hopefully they will come back in the fall for the scenery shots.  
Juneau – \$8.9 million is being cut from the tourism budget. We need to make a clear message to our legislators, tell our stories about how tourism affects us.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** 75,000 maps are printed and paid for.  
Derby monies moved into Chamber checking. Waiting for project for, possibly new Parks and Rec. committee or brochure from Fish and Wildlife.  
Treas. Rep. accepted by Kristen, Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CITY REPORT:** Dan – Busy winter. Public Safety building is underway. \$4million budget. Hopefully the new space will include room for the clinic.  
- Phase 4 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Salmon Run culvert this year.  
- Waiting on report for Buckner Building contaminates.  
- Dave – With state budget cuts, will they affect tunnel times at all? Dan – not the times, but possibly the rates. Our CVP monies have been spent wisely and planned for so hopefully won't be messed with.

**D.O.T.:** Gordon – Early closures for rail rehab. 4/20-24<sup>th</sup> and 4/27/30<sup>th</sup>, closing at 9:30pm.  
- July 1, fees increase not more than 10%. Old tickets will still be accepted. Services will stay the same.

**HARBOR MASTER:** Ocean Dock – the containers are being moved from there to Smitty's Cove. The gangway is getting replaced. To possibly be used for fish off loading. More money for the city directly.  
- City Dock - bracing has been updated and replaced.  
- Travel Lift - \$18,000 in updates. Completely overhauled.

- D Floats – being replaced. Old floats are being used as fill at tank farm. Loosing a total of 12 slips. Small gangways are going away.
- Parking – meters are being put in. \$12 instead of \$10 per day/\$250 annual. You can pay by app or kiosk. There will be one at the launch ramp and one at the Harbor Masters office. Cars will need to register for permits. Whole lot will be 2 hour parking. Dave – Can people still park on their personal lots? Cole – The rules say no.
- Gangways are moving so loading zones will be moving also. No overnight parking.
- April 15<sup>th</sup> the parking/camping lots open.
- Trash – 40 ft. cardboard container is coming. Trash dumpsters will rotate being locked/unlocked as needed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Sportsman Shows:** The numbers were down for both shows. It has been recommended to stop doing the Mat-Su show. Kristen motioned, Dave 2<sup>nd</sup>, all agreed. Guidelines for booth will be reviewed for next year.

- Kenai Show will be manned by the Girdwood Chamber with the Whittier pop-up.

**4<sup>th</sup> of July:** Kristen – would like to offer heli rides like at Fur Rondy. Offering this to the city, split monies with the Chamber. Looking for a city center landing spot for the day, city park?

### **NEW BUINESS**

- Frontline - May 7<sup>th</sup>, 400-500 people attend; hotels, restaurants, etc. We will attend using the Whittier pop-up.
- AKRR – Free train rides around ANC. Whittier brochures will be available.
- Girdwood Industry Day – May 13<sup>th</sup>, will be larger this year. Bus drivers, tour companies and Chamber members are invited, 4-7pm at the day lodge.
- Cruise ship terminal training with Kelly will be happening May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Gail Morrison of Allied GIS is asking for public opinion on what to put in her maps, Kristen will be inviting her to a future meeting.
- Lauri – ATIA - \$17 million budget for 2014, Gov. broke up budget last year to private entities, this allowed the state to reach out to international advertising. Tourism for summer 2015 should be awesome. New budget has been cut to \$8.9 million (\$6 from state and \$2.9 from advertising). Television is gone. Trade shows are gone. Lowering acceptance of leads from 750,000 to 600,000. These impacts will be seen 2018/19. Ak. Tourism Marketing Board (ATMB) will be meeting to decide where the monies will be spent. Dept. of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) will make the final decisions. PLEASE remind your legislators how important tourism is to each of us!!
- Milepost – No time tables listed for the Ak. Marine Highway due to frequent schedule changes.
- AWCC – Summer hours go into affect May 9<sup>th</sup>. Annual free day on Mother’s Day.

**Next meeting will be June 11<sup>th</sup> in Whittier, location to be announced.**