

## **GREATER WHITTIER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**9/10/13**

**ATTENDING:** Rebecca Langton, FCS; Kelly Bender, Lazy Otter; Andrea Korbe, Chugach School Dist; Brian and Debra Hicks, Church; Tom Bolen, C.O.W.; Scott Michaels, A.W.C.C.; Gwendolyn Granger, WPC/PCD; Gordon Burton, DOT; Seth and Leslie Cotrell, Inn At Whittier; Sue Cogswell, PWSEDD; Lisa Kruse, Phillips Cruises and Tours; Stephanie Carlson, A.M.H.S.; Alex Langton, FCS; Dave Goldstein, PWS-Eco; Sandy Bartles, FCS.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 12:10 Minutes for August accepted by Sue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Andrea.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** AK Marine , pics are on the site. Stephanie sent thank yous to supporters. It was a very good event and turnout. Last Cruise ship will be 9/21. Asked Princess for an overview of the season for the November meeting.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Lisa approved, Stephanie 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CITY REPORT:** Tom B. - PTBT, an ongoing issue which is in transition. Meeting with ATIA which questioned the tax and how it works. Still seemed like a new idea to some businesses. Spoke with Tom from Major Marine who felt targeted, but caused Tom B. to look deeper into the laws, local and state. Looking into any and all exemptions that the larger companies have claimed. Hopefully the letters sent will lead to an even playing ground next year. Kelly – no user fees because private docks got built. Dave – initially brought up fee to help with the budget for the city. Hasn't been increased in 10 years so went from \$1.25 to \$2.50. Businesses have the option of sales tax or PTBT. Railroad shouldn't be exempt. Still a lot of inconsistency. Lisa – please send a copy of PTBT to each of us so we can understand better. Tom B. - \$500,000 possible from this tax, help the city stop being reliant on grants.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Membership:** Drive is going strong. Mailed over 100 applications. Emailed current members. Deadline is Sept. 15 or there will be a \$20 late fee. Paper – AT Pub had some trouble with the paper from China. They are looking into it and hoping new paper won't increase the cost. WE will need to pick up and deliver maps this coming printing.

Thank you to the City for buying the banner in the Mile Post.

Any questions on the application for membership, let Kelly know.

**Derby:** Big job! Can't be a fisher person, there is too much day work which they are on the water. Should this become a paid position? \$1000 - \$1500. Have to be a member, have to take the test, do printing, soliciting, media, Channel 2 news, radio spots, ticket \$ pick-up, etc. This can be posted at UAA and locally. Dave – focus has been on big prizes, right now needs to create a benefit to charter people. Focus should be on salmon, not halibut, too hard on captains. Kelly – it brings so many opportunities to the city. It's a lot of work, but so worth it. Tom B – just bringing people in is good business. Lisa – contact Pro Bass maybe, since it is new to the area, they may want to help. Motion Kelly – put out RFP for someone to build and run derby as “Derby Coordinator”. Gordon 2<sup>nd</sup>. Like to have a person by Jan 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Sportsman Shows:** The Mat-Su show is March 21-23. The Sully show is March 27-30.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**D.O.T.:** Gordon – Season was good. Things are going ok except the ferry is down and has slowed traffic.

**A.M.H.:** Stephanie – ferries are cancelled until Oct. 13 as of now. Ferry dock is broken. The Kennicott is gone until March. The Tustamina will hopefully be back for a sailing in January to Bellingham.

Seth – the Inn will be closing 9/29

**A.W.C.C.** – Scott – open 7 days a week until the holidays, weekends after that.

**Phillips:** running until 9/30. 9/17 100 teachers will be cruising that last weekend just to let businesses know.

**Next meeting will be November 12 @ noon @ Cattle Company in Anchorage.**