

GREATER WHITTIER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

11/12/13

ATTENDING: Rebecca Langton, Fee's Custom Seafoods; Tim Melican, Magic Bus; Gary Zimmerman, AVIS; Bruce LaLonde, ARR; Meghan Clemens, ARR; Bill Rome, Willard Island Video; Kelly Bender, Lazy Otter Charters; Dave Goldstein, PWS Eco-Charters; Lisa Kruse, Phillips Cruises and Tours; Scott Michaelis, AWCC; Greg Vancil, HAP AK Yukon; Doug Thompson, HAP AK; Gabriel Kompkoft, Chugach Alaska Corp.; Andrea Korbe, Chugach School Dist.; Stephanie Carlson, AK Marine Highway; Michelle Hennessey, HAP AK; Gordon Burton, DOT.

CALL TO ORDER: 12:12 Minutes for Sept. accepted by Dave, 2nd Andrea.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: ATIA, good convention, lots of small business. There will be \$16 mil for advertising including the 3 major networks, ABC, NBC, CBS. VISITANCHORAGE is bring in good leads, Stephanie will start answering those leads instead of Kelly. Fish & Game has developed a watchable brochure for PWS. A wooden brochure rack will be in Princess for our maps, thank you Lisa for the rack.

TREASURERS REPORT: Brochures not yet paid, but will clear soon. Only 2 outstanding memberships left for this year to be paid. Bruce accepted, Lisa 2nd.

CITY REPORT: Council meeting tonight.

PRESENTATION: Princess; Doug brought schedules for 2014 HAP AK. The Dimond and the Sapphire are being relocated and they are bringing the Crown to Whittier. It holds over 3200 passengers and is too big to go thru the Panama Canal. It is the largest to ever service South Central Alaska. There are no Asia Cruises to or from Whittier this year. Motor coaches will be added for Crown days, which will add more foot traffic to Whittier. Better for businesses.

Greg – guests that are “in transit” passengers (14 days) love the maps – hikes, museum, etc.

Dave – What can Whittier do to make it a better place to visit? Doug – More places available for over night stays so visitors boarding the ships in the morning have time to enjoy the city; more tours/things to do; develop the Triangle. Lisa – How do we communicate with ship personnel to fill in daily trips/transportation for early morning disembarking passengers, storing bags, etc. Stephanie – runs into people “stuck there” on ship days. Kelly – a good start would be to make sure terminal staff know what's happening in town and surrounding areas.

Doug – looking to add a 4th ship back in Whittier in 2015. Norwegian seems happy coming to Whittier.

Greg and Stephanie want large laminated maps in Princess and Ferry terminals.

OLD BUSINESS

Tunnel: 2013 was a good year. No records were broken but numbers were above average. No big conflicts or delays. 11/20/13 closure noon to 3ish for fire safety training.

Membership: Looked at map today for final OK.

- About a dozen dropped from last year. - Mobile app up and running. - AT Publishing did not raise the price for 65,000 but we would like to go to 75,000 we did not distribute to everyone we normally do and we are about out of 2013 maps. Money is tight. - Getting help with delivery would be helpful.

Derby: a couple classes at UAA are looking at The Derby position. Andrea will have it posted in Whittier also. Anyone interested should contact Kelly. Dave - derbies are a good thing and bring great opportunities to local businesses. He recommends dropping the halibut and focusing on silvers. We have the silvers planted here and we should concentrate on the resources we have available here.

NEW BUSINESS

Industry Day - Scott and Kelly - We need to work on getting local employees knowledge about Portage, Girdwood and Whittier. Bring Forest Service, crew, business owners etc. Introduce and support one another by being able to answer questions about others in our area. How do we educate bus drivers on Whittier and the area?

Lazy Otter - offering Blackstone cruises in May.

PWS Eco-Charters - adding an underwater camera for customers enjoyment.

AWCC - Thanksgiving With The Animals, Nov. 24th 1:30 pm, call for more information.

- Visitors Appreciation Day, Nov. 30th, 10 to 5, this is a free day.

Clinic - The Cullum Room is now the new clinic in the BTI.

Greg - does anyone in town have wi-fi for cruisers? Kelly - All internet is terrible while the ship is in.

Dave - because cable comes into Whittier up the floor of the canal, can we not have better cell/TV service? Can we become a hub? This would help cruisers and locals.

Emails are going around for a "for profit" visitors guide. The Chamber IS NOT involved in this guide, BUT this guide did use the Chambers mailing list. Please be aware of the difference in the guides you choose to advertise with.

Next meeting will be January 14th, noon at Lonestar.