

GREATER WHITTIER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NOVEMBER 12, 2014

ATTENDING: Rebecca Langton, FCS; Dave Goldstein, PWS Eco-Charters; Gordon Burton, DOT; Doug Thompson, HAP Alaska; Ashley Tanis, HAP Alaska; Linda Brandon, Major Marine Tours; Stephanie Carlson, DOT/AMHS; Scott Michaels, Ak Wildlife Conservation Center; Linda Gutierrez, AND; Laurie Booyse, ATIA; Kelly Bender, Lazy Otter; Lisa Kruse, Phillips Cruises; Dan Blair, COW; Gwendolyn Granger, Passage Canal Development, LLC; Bill Rome, Willard Island Video.

CALL TO ORDER: 12:10

PRESIDENTS REPORT: No report for September, no quorum.

TREASURER REPORT: Stephanie and Kelly met with accountant to get caught up. Renewing Gaming Permit with Kelly and Kristen Labrecque as signers. Derby monies are staying in their own account so that we can still have a derby. Gaming monies are still set aside, but can be used for any Chamber project such as fish pens or visitors center; or can go into savings for a little extra interest. Dave made a motion to combine gaming accounts into general accounts, Lisa 2nd, all were in favor. Gwen – would gaming account go away? No, a minimum balance will be kept.

CITY: Dan – city has new City Mngr since August. Working hard to transition smoothly.

- Working on parking and launch fees – easier access.
- 90% funded for new Public Safety building.
- Shakespeare Creek improvement – pedestrian bridge, new trails, remove WWII relics from stream bed.
- Still waiting on railroad land swap.
- Stephanie – is there a diagram of the new metered parking? Dan – Yes. Doug – will the meters take dollars as well as cards? Dan – yes.
- Lisa – thank you for sticking with Whittier through these transitions.
- Bill – how is the Portage road maint. going? Gwen – Good, railings are up and they have seeded.
- Dave – will the bathrooms be updated? Dan – Yes and the monument will be moved along with landscaping and benches. Will there be additional harbor bathrooms? Yes, but they still haven't decided on locations. Some things are still pending on the land swap.
- Stephanie – will rest areas be covered? Dan – Possibly, but due to snow load, it would be very expensive. Stephanie – the ferry terminal is open to the public. Dan – luggage storage is in the works also, that way tourists can stay without having to struggle with luggage.

TUNNEL: Backup power project is underway, also the drainage project.

- Approximately 12,000 vehicles under average for 2014 to date.
- Cars make up 83% of tunnel traffic.

A.R.R. has chosen Dawn Gerety for the annual ARR poster. There will be signings from 10-12 on 11/15.

A.T.I.A.: Lisa and Laurie went to the visitor industry's travel convention, there were a lot of good topics.

Laurie – convention 2015 will be in Juneau. Once a year opportunity to see mom & pop businesses up to cruise ship companies. The Alaska Tourism Marketing Board was passed this last year. Now the state can work WITH the industry on tourism for Alaska. Funding is now with the state budget. Most businesses said their numbers were up, but those that said it flat lined, had not upped their marketing dollars.

OLD BUSINESS

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Drive is over. We lost a couple members and gained one new one. The map has been updated with a QR Code added. AT Publishing is offering the same price as last year but will probably go up next year. Getting a count of maps still at the tunnel so that we can order the appropriate number for 2015.

Thank you Bill Rome for the new photos.

SPORTSMAN SHOWS: Kelly – asked Dan for a letter from the city with info of the goings on around town.

- Talked with Girdwood and Kenai about representing the Turnagain Arm area as a co-op. Kelly made a motion to attend Mat-Su show as a co-op, Scott 2nd, all were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Lisa – GWCC Facebook page is running. Please 'LIKE' the page. All kinds of info, like Chamber lunches, can be posted there. Pics of businesses are there, send photos to lisa of activities so they can get posted.

Linda – A.D.N. – working on Decembers issue of 61* North "City & Life Style" magazine. Used to be the holiday issue but now it is going to be the travel and stay-cation issue. Businesses/Chamber can still book ad space.

- 165,00 readers, ADN.com and new reporter stations around the state.
- News boxes may be around Whittier @ferry terminal, Inn, Anchor seasonally.
- Whittier will not be part of the Visitors Guide due to the layout, but could come back if things change.

AWCC will be having a free day the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Lisa made motion to adjourn, Kelly 2nd, 1:11pm.

NEXT MEETING JANUARY 14, 2015