

From: [Max Jewell](#)
To: [Steve Burnham](#)
Subject: [External Email] Re: Comprehensive Trails Ad Hoc Committee meeting Agenda & Packet for June 16 meeting
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 4:03:24 PM

[ATTENTION: This Email was received from outside the Municipality]

June 15th 2022

3:45PM Time of writing.

Dear Skagway council members,

Please excuse any misspellings, grammatical errors, and if this letter feels rushed. I have a very short window of time to draft up a letter and submit it before the deadline, and this matter just recently came to my attention. This letter is in reference to the proposed resolution (22-18R), to take the portion of municipality Garden City Enterprises, LLC (DBA Jewell Gardens) has been operating on since its inception (1996 if memory serves.) I will try my best to keep this concise and to the point, but some background and topics must be brought to attention as they are simply part of how we got to the current state of affairs today. My hope is that this resolution proposal can act as a catalyst for greater collaboration and to take the next step toward my ultimate and most important underlying organizational goals which I will make an attempt to sun up here. As an organization our goals are to support, encourage, and inspire greater health and sustainability both on the individual level through the food we eat, grow and serve, but also on the level of our local community and the world at large. We exist for the direct benefit of our community and are always trying to move towards things like greater food security, education and inspiration through our tours, guest interaction, school programs, and so forth. We in the past have held weekly Farm Stands to sell local produce to the town and act as a gathering space, hosted CSA's, Sold food to our grocery store, health food store, the school for school lunches, and in our restaurant as an effort to be as "Farm to Table" as possible. And this is just the tip of the iceberg of what we hope to accomplish. To change the world you must first educate and inspire and through the people whom you touch, ripple effects that translate into tangible positive actions can and do spread. We also exist to serve as a gathering place for music, town events, workshops, and large community gatherings. Lastly, we exist in hopes to preserve the land on which we operate on. The goal is and has always been to be of benefit for the community and our guests centering around the above efforts and more. This entire business is a series of departments working in symbiosis and providing one another with cash flow and collaborative overlaps.

During COVID, unfortunately, operations became unrealistic. Furthermore, after I lost my bookkeeper and had zero staff, I neglected to send in some state employee contribution forms with \$0's which has resulted in the state accessing my bank account and pulling numbers into the triple digits from all liquid forms of capital including lines of credit deeming

a lease renewal unrealistic until the problem has been handled. I currently have a CPA working on this and expect it to be settled within the next two weeks. Furthermore, I have the intention to rebuild the garden starting early July, and was going to propose a purchase negotiation with the city manager and to the public outlining the above-mentioned organizational goals as well as my plan and desire to form, and allow non-profits to operate on this land, and working in collaboration with the "LLC" as a way to better focus on these goals, and also to fulfill my dream and my mother's dream of expanding into multi-day and multi-week workshops, retreats, and MUCH more community involvement. . **This has been the business plan ever since I took over, and was my vision for the past 10 to 15 years. My mother as well was heading in this direction. The best way to proceed and also assure the longevity of the project as I saw and still see it, was to secure the previously leased section of land; and to form a separate non-profit that works in close almost seamless collaboration with the LLC.** Why must the LLC or myself own this land?

1: Because I believe the aspect of seamless collaboration is key in many areas, workshops, equipment, when necessary funding and cashflow, the restaurant and the tours.

2: By taking this land for purely city use, it cuts my business in ½. The produce is served in the restaurant, the garden tour IS an element contracted and our Brand to basically every single tour we offer. Without this we are just a restaurant and glassblowing company.

The take-home points are this. It is my full intention to restart operations. I would like to table this community garden proposal only for the amount of time to be involved in the process. I would like to request to be granted permission to negotiate the purchase of that land parcel with the City Manager with the understanding and conditions that we do support and work in collaboration with non-profits, as well as section off and support an area for a community garden, if there is enough support in this direction. Again, we are here and have always been here for the sake of our community and do to some good in the world.

Remember our history; when this business started and was in its infancy, the entire area was found contaminated and dug down 8'-12' in order to remediate this area. Cash retribution we're never paid so a lawsuit occurred leading to the eventual land settlement and expansion of the business. My parents worked hard shipping in soil from the lower 48's and trucking in soil from the Yukon, transplanting huge birch and spruce trees, and rebuilt this piece of history that was a farm for the benefit of Skagway dating back to Gold Rush Times. Then again in 2017 when my mother and most recent founder and driving force in this community passed, I walked away from a plausible early retirement to make sure this beautiful important piece of Skagway was preserved. Eventually I hope this business will be a host for multiple non-profits and other symbiotic businesses to take shape, for the benefit of the community and to try our best at making the world a little better of a place through the guests we inspire. Jewell Gardens always has and always will be free and open to citizens of Skagway. Please do not misunderstand the current grounds and business neglect of these recent COVID years as an image of what is to come or as a sign I do not fully intend

to rebuild and continue this organization evolution, because I absolutely do desire this and think it would be a massive loss to the community if this were hastily disrupted and not allowed to continue evolving due to some negligence with bookkeeping during a global pandemic. Believe me when I say falling behind was never my intention, and this lesson has been learned and then some.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and support. Let's take this as an opportunity to collaborate, create, and sustain an important piece of Skagway's history, legacy, and future together, instead of being a cause for separation and possible failure of my business. I have dedicated my life to the success of this project, please allow me the opportunity to achieve this. When I say I, I do not mean to imply this is a singular effort in any way. I welcome and need the support and participation of the community, after all that's why we exist. Let's find a way to move forward together. Thank you, and now as the deadline is approaching I need to email this off. My apologies for the rushed letter. Lastly to clarify please understand I am not against most of what I see proposed in resolution (22-18R), I simply would like to have the opportunity to purchase the property, and have an input. Then let a group or non-profit work together on this section of property as well as my already owned chunk of land and businesses. I see collaboration as the path forward, it has always been the goal, and I have been hoping that rebuilding after COVID would provide me with exactly this type of opportunity. I am actually very excited about the group that come together and would love to be involved and support this so long as my business and purchase of the land can be considered. Thank you again for your time and understanding
-Sincerely,
Max Jewell