

To: Honorable Mayor Cremata and Skagway Assembly Members

From: Dyea Community Advisory Board

June 15, 2022

Dear Mayor Cremata and Assembly Members,

At our last regular meeting on May 4th, the DCAB discussed fire mitigation at length. This has been a topic of concern for us for many years and we decided to invite the Skagway Fire Department Chief to be a part of our dialogue at this meeting. Chief Rauscher joined us and we had a fruitful conversation. She explained that fire mitigation in Nakhu Bay and Dyea would be approached much like any other rural area in Alaska and that with full time staff, response time should be more immediate. We then talked about actual response times and how long it takes to get from Skagway proper to Nakhu Bay, to the Dyea Valley, to the Dyea Campground, and to the growing residential property owners. We requested that the SFD document their response times and share those in a table format. We all agreed on the urgent need for a year round accessible water source in Dyea to help suppress fires as well as radio communication for emergency situations, like the rock slides, road closures, and flooding we've seen in the recent years. With the new subdivision coming (multiple new lots), the need for more public safety in Dyea will only increase. Additionally, we talked about the need for more effective fire safety signage in the municipal campground and are planning to further discuss this with Public Works. Dialogue and partnership with the SFD will continue as we move forward with solutions on public safety in Dyea.

We also discussed the NPS Chilkoot Trailhead parking lot project. Angela Wetz from the National Park Service was in attendance to share progress and completion goals. They are hopeful that it will be mostly completed mid June and that as soon as the new outhouses arrive, the entire project will be finished by mid July. In the meantime, tour operators and hikers are using the parking area across from the raft take out south of the bridge and it seems to be working out okay.

We are currently reviewing the Dyea Flats Management Plan and are nearing the end. At this meeting, we reviewed the Goals and Objectives section and will continue with Goal 9 at our July meeting.

Sincerely,

Dyea Community Advisory Board:

Bruce Weber, Wayne Greenstreet, Courtney Ellingson,

Michael Yee, Lynne Davison