

## **Manager's Update – July 7, 2022**

**4<sup>th</sup> of July:** The RV parks were fully booked as of June 29, 2022. To help manage this high-volume, I authorized overflow camping to go to Seven Pastures. To offset the impacts, we contracted for additional portable restrooms to be placed at Seven Pastures for the weekend. Another change for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July this year was the closure of 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues, allowing businesses in this area the same opportunity as businesses in the traditional closure areas between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

**Tendering in the Small Boat Harbor:** On Thursday, June 23 at around 6:15 a.m., a rockslide came down on the Railroad Dock in the forward berth area. Due to safety concerns and damage to the dock, the Quantum of the Seas diverted from Skagway and the Discovery Princess moved into the aft berth. Passengers from the Discovery Princess were tendered in to the Small Boat Harbor. The forward berth has remained closed and the Municipality and Small Boat Harbor staff have worked with WP&YR, CLAA and cruise lines to ensure safe and efficient movement of passengers in and out of the harbor. We have waived the passenger fees for tendering of passengers and expect to continue this practice.

**Rock Slide:** On July 5 and 6 the MOS had representatives of Shannon & Wilson Geotechnical and Environmental Consultants in town for a preliminary assessment of the new rockslide that damaged the Railroad dock earlier this month, and the larger active rockslide (northern rockslide) that has fencing and other attenuation measures installed at the base of the slope. In relation to the most recent slide, Shannon & Wilson recommends installing mitigation measures such as concrete barriers the length of the dock, from the most recent slide north to the larger slide. The bigger issue is the stability of the northern rockslide. At a meeting with White Pass, their geotechnical engineers informed us that the large rock at the top of the northern rockslide has been moving outward on average 1.5 inches annually, and last year the rate appears to have increased to 2 inches. This information and a site visit to the top of the slide has the representatives of Shannon & Wilson very concerned. They have informed us that the question is not *will* it fail but *when* will it fail. They also stated that we need to take action as soon as possible. They explained that with the movement of the rock and the large unstable mass at the top of the slide, the more the rock moves the harder it is going to be to mitigate the impacts, and eventually there will not be any contractors willing to work on the site. Therefore, it is critical that the MOS mitigate the hazard as soon as possible. I anticipate a written summary of Shannon & Wilson's initial findings and I will pass on the recommendations as they come.

**Community Garden:** The MOS has started to clean up the area next to Seven Pastures that the Assembly has designated as a community garden. Public Works took down the wooden fence separating the property from Seven Pastures because it was falling down and presented a safety hazard. Additionally, the Recreation Center staff will host a cleanup on Friday, July 15 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. I anticipate that MOS staff will continue to clean up the property this summer, and then over the winter the community can have the discussion of how the property should be managed in the future.

**Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF):** On July 6 the MOS hosted several representatives from the State of Alaska including DOT&PF Commissioner Ryan Anderson, Change Management Director Katherine Keith, Deputy Commissioner Rob Carpenter, Regional Director Lance Mearig, AMHS Operations Manager Anthony Karvelas, and more. The primary focus of the visit was to better understand the operation and needs of the Port of Skagway. This was a productive meeting and I am confident that DOT&PF better understands the needs of Skagway. We plan to meet with DOT&PF again in July to follow up on various topics of interest.

**Small Boat Harbor Accident:** The Haines Skagway Fast Ferry (HSFF) hit Float A in the Small Boat Harbor on Saturday, June 25, causing damage to the dock. We are awaiting an accident report from HSFF. In the meantime, we have PND coming to inspect the dock the week of July 10 to perform an onsite inspection and provide recommendations for repair.

**Breakwater:** Increased movement on the breakwater was recently identified. In 2018 there was a broken connection pin between the box cap and wall, causing similar movement. Repairs were made at the time but the issue seems to have reoccurred. PND will also be inspecting this during their visit the week of July 10. Repair recommendations will follow.