

Mayor's Report 7_21_2022

Railroad Dock Rock

I was deeply disturbed to see the Railroad Dock rockslide report from Shannon and Wilson. The narrative from White Pass that this area was stable bedrock appears to be a mischaracterization of the facts. We now know that the "rock" has been separating from the mountainside up to 2 inches per year and accelerating over the past year. I'm thankful that the Assembly approved this study. I urge the Assembly to take swift action and protect the life and limb of everyone using the Railroad Dock's north end, which includes thousands of tourists and countless locals every day.

The Removal of the Ore Dock and Broadway Dock will Cripple Our Economy

Yet again, I am deeply disturbed that White Pass is threatening to dismantle the Ore Dock and Broadway Dock when their lease expires in less than eight months. For well over a year, Manager Ryan has asked White Pass for an outline of what they intend to dismantle when the lease expires without any response. Now, with no time to permit the replacement of essential infrastructure White Pass presents the MOS with a vague list of materials they intend to remove, which includes pilings, spin dolphins, and catwalks. Make no mistake, these actions would make it impossible to dock ships on either the Broadway or Ore docks until 2024, at the *earliest*. These actions would cripple Skagway's economy and could cause countless local businesses to fail.

I'm proud of the Skagway community for standing strong in regard to owning and operating our port. It's becoming more and more obvious what a massive mistake it would have been to put our collective trust in the former leaseholder.

Issuance of Port Revenue Bonds

Speaking of taking control of our future, this is it. Thank you, Assemblyperson Hanson, for bringing this item forward. Revenue bonds allow port revenues to pay for this vital piece of port infrastructure, which means Skagway residents won't have to foot the bill. The new dock that replaces the crumbling Ore Dock will be a state-of-the-art facility capable of berthing Quantum class ships and cargo vessels simultaneously. This dock represents the future of Skagway and will stand as a symbol of our autonomy from a 55-year lease that wore out its welcome long ago. I urge the Assembly to vote yes on the first reading of this Ordinance so that Skagway voters can have their voices heard this fall. If the Ordinance passes the second reading at our next meeting, I intend on scheduling two Town Hall Meetings so that every member of the community knows exactly what they're voting on and why it's so important for our future.

Ordinance to Shift HDC Responsibilities to P&Z

I asked that HDC and P&Z review this ordinance for two reasons. First, I am having trouble finding Skagway residents to fill board and committee positions. Second, the HDC has had limited work to do because of the pandemic and economic downturn. When the economy once again becomes robust and new businesses are opening on Broadway, it will be easy to

reestablish the HDC to ensure P&Z isn't overburdened. I ask that the Assembly approve the first reading of this ordinance.

- Andrew Cremata