

Manager's Update – July 21, 2022

Municipal Facility Use Requests: The facility request forms have been updated, so when the public or entities would like to serve alcohol on municipal property, they must indicate it on the form and then attain Manager approval. This clarifies the approval process as these requests no longer need go before the Assembly.

Community Garden Beautification Volunteer Day: Recreation Director Katherine Nelson indicated that the Community Garden Beautification Volunteer Day was a great success; there were 12 volunteers on site and they got a lot of work done. Katherine says she looks forward to scheduling another day with more volunteers to focus just on the section for growing food to prepare it for spring 2023. Discussion of the property use as a community garden and green space will commence this fall/winter.

COVID-19 Cruise Ship Program: The Skagway Visitor Department reports that the CDC has allowed their COVID-19 cruise ship program to sunset as of July 18. Information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/cruise-travel-during-covid19.html>. Cruise Line International Agency is currently working with CDC and member cruise lines to determine, what, if any changes will be made to current protocol for this season.

Waterfront Lease RFPs: The General Waterfront Lease RFP (Heliport property) deadline was July 12. The Freight Waterfront Lease RFP deadline is today. The selection committee consisting of the Mayor, Borough Manager, Port Director, Ports and Harbors Advisory Board Assembly Member, and Ports and Harbors Chair will evaluate the proposals and make a recommendation to the Skagway Borough Assembly at the next Assembly meeting on August 4. The Fuel Waterfront RFP closes August 9 and a recommendation to the Borough Assembly will be brought forward at the August 18 meeting.

Meetings with ADEC and Army Corps of Engineers: Port Director Jennings and I traveled to Juneau, Monday, July 11 to meet with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss permitting for the Ore Peninsula redevelopment. We had a positive discussion with both agencies and expect to have the permit application finalized by the end of the month. The permit application for the north berth extension and associated dredging will be filed separately, as this process is more complex and has a longer lead time.

Port Safety and Security All Hazards Meeting with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG): USCG held a meeting July 20 at the Public Safety Building. There were representatives from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, NPS, WP&YR, CLAA, AMHS, Skagway PD, Skagway FD, Petro Marine, several MOS departments, and representatives from the USCG. It was great to touch base with the various agencies and discuss a collaborative approach to safety and security in the Port of Skagway.

Canada COVID Testing Protocols: The Government of Canada resumed mandatory random testing on July 19 for travelers who qualify as fully vaccinated, arriving in Canada by air to four major Canadian airports, Vancouver, Calgary, Montreal and Toronto.