

From: [Steve Hites](#)
To: [Andrew Cremata](#)
Cc: [Steve Burnham](#)
Subject: [External Email] HDC Meeting Report, MONDAY, September 26, 2022
Date: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 6:59:32 PM

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

Dear Mayor Cremata:

Please see below my report.

The HDC met on Monday, September 26, 2022 at 5:30 pm. In attendance were all 5 Commissioners, including currently serving Commissioners Joel Probst, Marvin Wishon, and Steve Hites, and newly appointed Commissioner Nancy Corrington and Commissioner Rosemary Libert. Assembly Liason Sam Bass was not present. Assistant City Clerk Steve Burnham was in attendance.

There was no correspondence, and no citizens who were present.

The new permitting official, Stacy Fairbanks, was introduced to the HDC.

There was no unfinished business.

Under New Business, Election of Officers, Steve Hites was elected Chairman, and Joel Probst was elected Vice Chairman.

This election brought up an important General Discussion. Hites is not planning to be present in Skagway until April. Probst does not want to be full-time Chair, but will serve as Vice Chair. If the Chair is teleconferencing, the Vice Chair would chair the meeting per Code. Wishron plans to be gone for 3 months starting November 11th. Rosemary Libert plans to be gone for January, February, and March for sales shows, etc. Nancy Corrington will be gone for at least 3 months.

Steve Burnham read the code (19.10.045) regarding the fact that the Municipal Code does not allow for more than 2 consecutive physical absences with the Commissioner teleconferencing, with a maximum of 4 teleconference attendances allowed in one year. Also, no more than 2 Commissioners can teleconference at any one meeting.

Based on the Code, and on the reality of the time available this winter for the Commissioners to be physically in Skagway, the HDC will not have enough members to meet after the meeting that will be held at the end of October 2023. There will not be enough members to make a quorum.

The Commissioners all agreed that the Code was out of sync with the reality of Skagway in 2022. There are 5 people who are able, interested, and willing to serve. They are all invested in the community. They all are greatly interested in the history of Skagway, in the value of the Historic District, and in the success of the community. Some have developed properties and built structures in the district. Many are business people. Some of them have a presence that is "seasonal", but they are all year-around active community members. They go to trade shows, to conferences, and on sales trip calls. This is all in the interests of Skagway. Thus, they are actively and intimately involved in the social and economic workings of the town.

The fact is that the actual activity of permitting in the HDC is only from March until October. There is very little in the winter for the HDC to decide on, or to deliberate.

The HDC feels that if the Assembly wants the HDC to continue as an entity, there needs to be a change in the teleconference rules for the HDC. There is a need to use the teleconference as a real meeting tool. It's like the use of zoom during the pandemic. That situation proved that this worked. The seasonal nature of the HDC's work should be able to allow for a change that can also accommodate the reality of the HDC members, and their ability to

physically be in Skagway.

There needs to be some kind of workaround put into Code by the Assembly for the HDC. Perhaps we only need to meet in the winter if and when work needs to be done? Perhaps November through the end of February are the "hiatus" for the HDC unless there is a project that needs to be addressed? Perhaps the Assembly would consider to re-write the Code as it pertains to the HDC, allowing for a certain percentage of the meetings to be teleconferenced, and allowing for consecutive physical absences if the Commissioner is teleconferencing?

Commissioner Hites was tasked with passing on these questions and these issues to the Mayor and the Assembly. With this email, I am doing that.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Steve Hites
Commissioner, HDC

Sent from my iPad