

## Dyea Community Advisory Board Report, May 11, 2023

Per municipal code, the DCAB has thoroughly reviewed the Dyea Flats Management Plan and developed proposed revisions. Over the course of two years, our work has included updating the plan to the new exigencies of the Dyea Flats; for example, you are now more likely to see a fox than a coyote so we've adjusted the description sections of the plan to account for this change. We recognized that some of the goals of 15 years ago have been met while other goals have lost some relevance with time. Throughout our series of discussions, we prioritized the spirit of the two previous plans; preserving a natural historic space for residents' physical, mental, emotional health and wellbeing. We will forward the proposed plan revision, along with a description of our work to the assembly for approval after our next meeting.

Public Safety has been and continues to be our primary unfulfilled goal. We have met with the public safety committee and will attend their next meeting. We feel that designing a fire mitigation plan for Dyea is critical and would like MOS to put such in place with urgency. Over the years we have talked about various plans from pump houses to dry hydrants. The fire damage above Hackett's hill stands testament to how real the danger is. As well, the floods of last fall were a shock to most of us. Again, we need a plan to avoid as much flood damage as possible and a plan-B to deal with the failure of our first plan. We also need to update tsunami protocols.

We have forwarded a plan to the city manager to provide a route for residents to harvest firewood with minimal damage to the environment. Changes in the river have made it difficult to harvest firewood from the east side of the river and residents have moved to the flats side of the river to get that firewood.

We collaborated with municipal staff to ensure that the new house numbering system functioned well for those served on the Dyea Road.

We've listened to STC Environmental Coordinator, Reuben Cash's research to identify activities on the flats which might negatively impact migrating birds and fish.

Fallout from the closure of the Chilkoot Trail caused a change in operations for two hike-and-float tour companies. The DCAB, initiated conversations to better understand implications and if changes would bode well for city lands. We alerted the municipality and we also found that both companies recognized the importance of protecting city property as they design alternative tour options. The municipality may want to consider whether those adjustments warrant changes in their legal relationship with the hike-and-float companies.

We have listened to reports about the condition of the A-Frame home in Nahku Bay. We have asked the municipality to design a plan for making access to the ocean from the beach at Nahku Bay easier for kayakers, SUP'ers and individuals harvesting seaweed and other resources on the beach.

We have reviewed the plans for the new subdivision along West Creek. Following the West Creek flood the city designed a dike to protect homeowners. Apparently, the dike was not designed to protect the land of the new subdivision. At one point, the river bank is currently only 12 feet from the road that parallels the creek. Any dike construction might also include east of the West Creek bridge to protect a large piece of property there. That parcel has been used extensively for construction and recreation. We also think that the municipality should investigate the building issues regarding placement of wells and septic systems in 16 acres of land with a very high water table and two acre lots. We plan on attending P&Z meetings to voice our questions.

Upcoming discussions will include focused work to advance public safety as well as conversations about the Dyea Community Advisory Board's physical boundaries, mission and procedural practices.

Bruce Weber  
Dyea Community Advisory Board