

Manager's Update – May 18, 2023

RV Parks Disposition: Currently, both Garden City RV Park (GCRV) and Pullen Creek RV Park (PCRV) are in operation, with GCRV functioning with only electrical utilities and a dump station, but no water or sewer utilities. The Assembly had directed that we hold off on improving the GCRV until its disposition was clearer. PCRV is full-service and last year, the water lines in the park were upgraded.

Currently, there is no funding in the municipal budget for RV Park upgrades. Additional upgrades are needed at the PCRV, including upgrading the current restroom facilities and office. Design for restrooms is likely to cost \$100,000 - \$200,000, and construction of a new restroom facility alone will be in excess of \$1,000,000.

I am looking for direction from the Assembly about conducting upgrades to the RV Parks. If upgrades are desired, either a budget amendment should be proposed or the upgrades should be included in the FY24 municipal budget.

Impact Fee for Rockslide Mitigation: In April, the Ports and Harbors Advisory Board discussed the implementation of a \$5.00 per passenger environmental response fee on all docks to fund long-term protections for the Port of Skagway, including for a Rockslide Mitigation project. The cost of these projects in the future is anticipated to place an unbearable financial burden on the Municipality, and without funding the Municipality cannot move forward on a long-term fix for the rockslide area above the port. After consultation with the borough attorney, I intend to bring forward to the Assembly on June 1 an increase to the Vessel Impact Fee in Tariff No. 3, to cover these future costs.

Cruise Ship Schedule: We expect an updated cruise ship schedule later this week from CLAA. The Norwegian Encore had previously committed to calling Skagway with the Majestic on May 17, on a trial basis. Both ships were able to successfully berth on the Railroad Dock, and within the next few days we expect the Encore to confirm calling Skagway as scheduled without hot berthing.

Ore Peninsula Redevelopment Pre-Bid: Tuesday, May 16 we held the mandatory pre-bid meeting for the Ore Peninsula Redevelopment project. We had 20-25 attendees. The bid closes on June 21 at 3:00 p.m.

Petro Marine Fuel Barge: We have been working closely with Petro Marine and CLAA to reschedule Petro Marine's May 14 barge, which was delayed departing Washington. As we all know, the Port is extremely busy this time of year and accommodating schedule changes can be tricky. However, we were able to reassign cruise ship berths to ensure Petro would have uninterrupted access after the Crown Princess departs the Broadway Dock on Wednesday, May 17 until the Carnival Spirit arrives at the Ore Dock on Friday, May 19.

Shore Ex Booth: We placed a booth at the Ore Dock for Shore Ex use.

Tourism Director's Report: Please see the attached Tourism Director's report for April and May, 2023.

Library Director's Report: As we wrap up our winter programming and transition into summer at full swing, the final Book Club meeting of the year will take place on Sunday, May 28th at 4:00 pm. In summer news, our Summer Reading Program will begin next week, with activities for kids of all ages, 0-18, every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday until mid-August.

On a day-to-day basis, we continue to see an increased number of visitors to the library each day. To be sure that we are as prepared and safe as possible, full-time library staff are currently taking the online CPR training with the fire department and will be completing the practical part of the training at the end of the month. Big thanks to the fire department for providing this service.

And now that the American Library Association has released their press release about the Libraries Transforming Communities (LTC): Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant national award winners, the library will be announcing our award this week. The Director is currently participating in the grant's mandatory webinars and will be discussing next steps for the implementation of the grant.



Explore Skagway Tourism Director Report – April/May 2023

- A. State of Alaska Division of Public Health: No COVID Reporting Requirement for the 2023 Season**
 - a. May 2023, Ends the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE)
 - b. <https://health.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/Pages/pubs/conditions/default.aspx>
- B. Dock Parking Permits for 2023**
 - a. <https://www.skagway.org/portofskagway/page/forms-and-applications>
 - b. Signing up for TBMP is required.
- C. Skagway Tourism Best Management Practices Program (TBMP)**
 - a. Signing up for Explore Skagway's Tourism Best Management Practices program is a requirement to receive the permit.
 - i. <https://www.skagwaytbmp.com/becomeapartner>
 - b. See a list of Skagway TBMP partners here. THANKS PARTNERS!
 - i. <https://www.skagwaytbmp.com/partners>
- D. Skagway Yukon Tourism Networking Night on May 5th @ Skagway Brewing**
 - a. Department of Yukon Tourism & Culture sponsored this this event and SVD orchestrated the presentation and event details. It was a huge success!
 - b. 21 businesses from Skagway & the Yukon pitched their businesses in two-minute segments.
 - c. Skagway Brewing Company Catered.
 - d. I've attached a pdf version of the presentation in SVAB meeting packet for your information.
 - e. We appreciate all the presenters!
 - i. Yukon First Nation Culture and Tourism Association
 - ii. Department of Yukon Tourism & Culture
 - iii. Alaska Fjordlines
 - iv. Skagway Development Corporation
 - v. Haa Shagóon Hídi, the Cultural Center of C/TFN
 - vi. CaribouCrossingCoffee
 - vii. Bearhead Photography
 - viii. Carcross Tagish Limited Partnership
 - ix. Café on 5th
 - x. Matthew Watson General Store
 - xi. Skagway Zen LLC
 - xii. Red Onion Saloon
 - xiii. Cabins Over Crag Lake
 - xiv. Skagway Brewing Company
 - xv. Wild Adventure Yukon
 - xvi. Alaska X
 - xvii. Who What Where Tours

- xviii. Icycle Sports
- xix. Friends of the Klondike Corridor
- xx. Skagway Spirits
- xxi. Yukon Furs
- xxii. Sockeye Cycle
- xxiii. Yukon Suspension Bridge

E. May the 3rd Event with STC

- a. 30 participants
- b. Skagway Pizza Station Catered.
- c. I've attached a pdf version of the presentation in the SVAB meeting packet for your information.

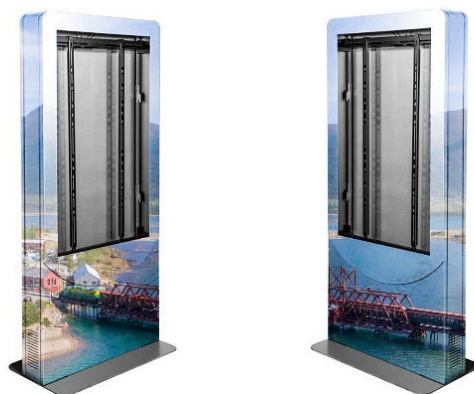
F. Clean Sweep

- a. Over 89 participants registered through the Visitor Center (Compared to 19 last year).
- b. Westmark & Alaska Mountain Guides each brough 15 employees, HAP brought 16.
- c. Thanks to every volunteer!

G. Skagway's 4th of July Theme Is "All Aboard! Celebrating 125 Years of Tourism".

- a. I appreciate the Assembly's review and approval of this so we can start planning.
- b. Grand Marshals are Helen B. Clark Award Recipient, Donna Griffard, and Don Hather Award Recipient, Kent Feilding.
- c. Jean Worley has graciously offered to donate her time and material to making the banner & Grand Marshal ribbons for the 33rd year in a row. Thank you doesn't even begin to express my gratitude!
- d. Last year's schedule is in the meeting packet to aid with discussion for this year.

H. Yukon Tour Sales Kiosk coming to WP&YR Depot in May.



I. Walk Southeast Alaska

- a. <https://juneau.org/parks-recreation/walk-southeast-jnu>

J. Skagway is one of 14 groups in the first cruise-led green corridor zero-emission initiative for cruise and shipping routes between Alaska, British Columbia and Washington.

- a. The group aims to decarbonize without exacerbating other environmental issues such as underwater noise, water and air quality, and marine ecosystems.
- b. <https://www.seatrade-cruise.com/environmental-health/first-cruise-led-green-corridor-details-its-action-plan>

K. Alaska Economic Trends – Tourism's Comeback (Also Inside, Have wages kept up with inflation?)

- a. <https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/node/14459>
- b. "The state departments of Labor, Commerce, and Revenue released a report in 2021 estimating the direct economic blow to communities in 2020 from the loss of cruise ships at \$98.6 million in lost revenue. Including lost wages, state and local revenue, business revenue, and doc fees plus the cost of unemployment payments brought the year's loss to \$1.7 billion."

L. Whitehorse Main Street Town Square

- a. "The City of Whitehorse is considering creating a Main Street Town Square this summer. This temporary pilot project consists of turning Main Street into a pedestrian-only square between Second Avenue and Front Street. The Town Square will serve as a Downtown hub for people to gather, eat, and shop."
- i. https://ehq-production-canada.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/04754dcad7369061b41044aa98c7a88cd8c5af23/original/1679433776/84ddaeea874e21f490a9e669e56b9d45_Main-Street-Town-Square-Map.pdf?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIA4KKNQAKIOR7VAOP4%2F20230329%2Fca-central-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20230329T231219Z&X-Amz-Expires=300&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=0b8748c58b184e11d6089d1a4a1b904d24e9a0753336716639e738736e890a45

M. Skagway RV Parks

- a. With help from MOS Finance Department and our contracted managers at Heger Construction, we can now take online reservations and the website and maps have been improved.
- i. <https://skagwayrvparks.com/>
- b. The transportation plan for the Rail Dock Passengers will require use of the RV Park spaces normally utilized in the Small Boat Harbor Parking Lot.
- c. RV Caravans that were slated for Pullen Creek RV Park will be moved to Garden City RV Park so they can still be accommodated.

N. Skagway Visitor Department Newsletters

- a. Sign up here: <https://www.skagway.com/plan-your-trip/enewsletter-sign-up/>

O. Dyea Maintenance Road Closures in 2023

- a. <http://www.ak2020stormrecovery.com/>

P. Alaska Seaplanes Community Advisor Board

- a. I will attend my first meeting on May 10th.

Q. Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA)

- a. Monthly Membership Coffee Call on April 20th for a casual discussion with ATIA chapter representatives on their chapter activities and how you can get involved:
 - i. Adrianna Oliva-Parks – Ketchikan Chapter
 - ii. Sarah Lowell – Juneau Chapter
 - iii. Cierra Hahn – Anchorage Chapter

R. ATIA Government Relations Subcommittee

- a. We met April 7, 2023 to discuss legislative climate and an annual Government Relations Engagement Plan to guide ATIA.

S. Busking in Skagway

Public Hearing, Second Reading, and Adoption of Ordinance No. 23-10: Amending SMC to Allow Busking in Certain Locations

Action: The Assembly amended Ordinance No. 23-10 to replace with the proposed amended version dated April 12, 2023 from the Parks & Recreation Committee, which is in the packet. They further amended the ordinance in the following ways:

- extending the allowed time to 4 hours
- allowing the busker to network for non-commercial purposes
- to include “visual arts” in the definition of what a busker does
- to change the permit revocation ability to be the Borough manager or his designee and the Police Department

The Assembly adopted Ordinance No. 23-10 as amended.

Impact: **Tourism Director**—proceed with issuing permits as appropriate.
Clerk—finalize document.

T. Waterfront Ambassadors

- a. Five new SVD staff have been hired and will start Waterfront Ambassador contracts on May 22nd.

U. Simpleview Summit in Houston Texas

- a. I attended Pre-conference workshops to bridge my knowledge gap and better maintain Skagway.com which was extremely helpful.
- b. As a bonus, I was introduced to some great marketing people, tools, resources, and emerging technologies. I took advantage of every class time that was offered.
- c. <https://www.simpleviewsummit.com/schedule/complete-schedule/>

V. Friends of the Klondike Corridor

- a. “In this video, time traveler Tin Cup Kelly visits the former boomtown and now National Park Service site of Dyea.”
- b. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_AQsxy1Jm8

W. Medias, Ads & Internet finds for Skagway & Alaska Industries

- a. Holland America Celebrates Its 150th Anniversary
 - i. <https://theknockturnal.com/holland-america-celebrates-its-150th-anniversary/>
- b. 9 Cutest Small Towns in Alaska
 - i. <https://www.worldatlas.com/cities/9-cutest-small-towns-in-alaska.html>
- c. Record number of cruise passenger expected in Skagway this year
 - i. <https://khns.org/record-number-of-cruise-passengers-expected-in-skagway-this-year>
- d. Digital marketing for your seasonal business: Tips for our friends in tourism
 - i. <https://www.thompsonpr.com/news/digital-marketing-for-your-seasonal-business-tips-for-our-friends-in-tourism>
- e. Large Rock Throws Wrench into Skagway's Cruise Ship Schedule
 - i. <https://www.ktoo.org/2023/04/11/large-rock-throws-wrench-into-skagways-cruise-ship-schedule/>
- f. Alaskan Side of the Chilkoot Trail May Reopen August 1 Following Yukon Opening in June
 - i. <https://www.yukon-news.com/travel/alaskan-side-of-the-chilkoot-trail-may-reopen-aug-1-following-yukon-opening-june-1/>
- g. The Ancestry and activity that informed Alaska author Lily Tuzrolyuke's celebrated debut novel.
 - i. <https://www.adn.com/arts/books/2023/04/15/the-ancestry-and-activity-that-informed-alaska-author-lily-tuzrolyukes-decorated-debut-novel/>
- h. Royal Caribbean begins skipping schedule stops in Skagway, Alaska.
 - i. <https://www.royalcaribbeanblog.com/2023/05/03/royal-caribbean-begins-skipping-scheduled-stops-skagway-alaska>
- i. Royal Caribbean Removes Popular Alaska Port From Many Cruises
 - i. <https://www.cruisehive.com/royal-caribbean-removes-popular-alaska-port-from-many-cruises/100515>
- j. British Columbia announces Port Electrification
 - i. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023MOTI0047-000455>