

Manager's Update – June 15, 2023

Police Department Personnel: Following the Police Department audit and given the large volume of cruise passengers and the long lead time to hire a police officer, I have directed staff to begin advertising for an additional police officer. Also, I intend to propose to the Assembly a resolution to add the position of Dispatch Supervisor to the municipal employee roster. I understand I do not have a budget for this, and before we hire the positions or make any official offers, I will come to the Assembly to confirm finances for the additional personnel.

Disney Wonder: I toured the Disney Wonder with cruise ship representatives, and I was impressed with their efforts to push their environmental efforts to keep Skagway's environment clean. (See: [DCL-Environmental-Fact-Sheet.pdf \(dclnews.com\)](#); [Sustainable Disney cruise | environmental stewardship | blooloop](#); [The Walt Disney Company Sets 2030 Environmental Goals - The Walt Disney Company](#)). Disney is also working with the Skagway Recreation Center to offer a summer youth program, and they are working with the Visitor Department to develop other programs to benefit Skagway.

Senator Jesse Kiehl: I want to thank Senator Jesse Kiehl for taking the time to tour the Ore Facility with Port Director Jennings and me. The decommissioning and cleanup of the relic ore loading facility will cost millions of dollars, and the Municipality is going to need a lot of support to complete the cleanup and keep the community of Skagway safe and healthy.

Fireworks Proposal: A proposal was received from a citizen to conduct a small fireworks show on July 3 off the end of the Ore Dock. I intend to permit this use of the dock, but only with approval from the police chief per code and a fire safety recommendation from the fire chief. The permittee will also be required to sign a waiver of liability / indemnification document.

Library Director's Update: The Library Director has now completed all online training required for the implementation of the Accessible Libraries grant. Plans for a community conversation are now in the works, with the goal of installing the door this fall.

On the programming front, summer is in full swing, with the library's Summer Reading Program continuing with multiple events each week.

And finally, we would like to thank the Fire Department for their class offerings; the two full-time library staff members, Rachel Dewan and Crystal Harris, are now CPR and First Aid certified.

Tourism Director's Update: Please see the attached Tourism Director's update for June.

Recreation Center Director's Update: The Skagway Recreation Center is in our second week of summer camp, and we currently have 20 kids enrolled. The program is going very well and they've been on a variety of excursions already, we're looking forward to the rest of June camp!

We are happy to also be hosting crew from various cruise ships for basketball multiple days a week. We are continuing to make those reservations throughout the summer season to accommodate them.

Soon a service technician will be coming to town to work on our equipment in the facility, we will post times that he will be here should the weight or cardio floors need to be closed for a few hours. All spin bikes have been fully worked on, chains tightened & cleaned, new brake pads installed, and are riding smoothly once again! Our north climbing wall auto belay is back up and recertified for the next year, the east auto belay will be going out for service now.

The community garden is coming along nicely, there is another volunteer day planned for this Saturday June 17th from 10am-2pm. I invite everyone to come out and either spend some time gardening with us or swing by to look at what the future holds for the space.

I want to thank Manager Ryan and the Assembly for the budget amendment to help with repairs and maintenance in the facility. It will make a huge difference!

KayLynn Howard



Explore Skagway Tourism Director Report – May/June 2023

A. SVD Ship Schedule

- a. Thanks to Wendy for her tedious work on the SVD ship schedule. It is time consuming and had to be revisited more than normal while we waited to learn whether major changes would be made. I appreciate the community's patience in waiting for its delivery.
 - i. <https://www.skagway.com/cruises-and-ferries/>
 - ii. <https://www.skagway.org/svd/page/skagway-cruise-ship-arrivals-schedules>

B. 4th of July

- a. Theme Is "All Aboard! Celebrating 125 Years of Tourism".
- b. Grand Marshals are Helen B. Clark Award Recipient, Donna Griffard, and Don Hather Award Recipient, Kent Feilding.
- c. "Thank you" Jean Worley for graciously donating her time, materials, and creative flare to making the banner & Grand Marshal ribbons for the 33rd year in a row.
- d. ISO Volunteers to drive the Grand Marshals in this year's parade. Classic Cars are especially desirable.
- e. ISO Color Guard Volunteers.
- f. ISO Volunteers to carry parade theme banner.
- g. ISO Volunteers to carry Grand Marshal banners.

C. 40th Annual Klondike Road Relay

- a. We are working with Sport Yukon to plan the September 8th kickoff in Skagway.
- b. If you are in food service, please let us know what your hours of operation will be for that weekend so we can report options to the racers.

D. The Famous Idaho Potato Tour

- a. The Tater Team arrives in Skagway on July 20th for several days with their main event being attendance at the Skagway Art's Council's Blues, Brews and BBQ event at Dedman Stage on July 22nd. Stay tuned for more information.
 - i. <https://bigidahopotato.com/the-truck/>
 - ii. <https://bigidahopotato.com/the-team/>
 - iii. <https://bigidahopotato.com/tour-schedule/>

E. Free wi-fi locations

- a. Shoreline Park
- b. City Hall
- c. Skagway Public Library

F. Waterfront Ambassadors

- a. 5 Waterfront Ambassadors began mobile visitor information services on May 22nd. They are eagerly assisting visitors, shore ex's, tour operators, security and anyone who has questions on the Railroad Dock/Small Boat Harbor uplands, Broadway and Ore.
- b. Shifts are Monday through Friday 7am to 10am and 2pm to 5pm.
- c. Last week, June 5th-9th, Ambassadors assisted 2,980 visitors.
- d. I am debriefing each rep weekly and reporting observations and suggestions to the Port Department which has resulted in action and improved processes each week.

G. Fran Delisle Cancer Walk on June 3rd

- a. 22 Participants walked to earn money for this worthy cause. Fundraising continues through the end of the month with donation buckets at various business locations in Skagway.

H. Skagway Pride & Drag Show on June 3rd

- a. There was an excellent turnout for this special event at Dedman Stage and the music, performances, art, light show, food and fair was very entertaining. Thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard to put this together.

I. Duff's Skagway Marathon

- a. We had 17 Marathon Runners, 78 Half-Marathon Runners and 11 Walking Marathoners.
- b. Thank you Sponsors!
 - i. <http://www.skagwaymarathon.org/sponsors>
- c. Thanks to the Marathon Board, Volunteers, Aid Stations, Café on 5th and participants for making this an event to remember.
- d. <https://resultscui.active.com/events/DuffsSkagwayMarathonandHalfMarathon?fbclid=IwAR3QahbdoOPt5NtglpTJHkaghqvXV6KvpEXKH7Ns4Om6nmuN7sFob7dRYg0>
- e. <http://www.skagwaymarathon.org/>

J. Holland America's 150 Anniversary Plaque Exchange

- a. May 9th onboard the Koningsdam
- b. \$5,000 Donation to Paws & Claws

K. Brilliance of the Seas Inaugural Plaque Exchange

- a. May 4th at Ore where we watched a humpback whale surface from the bridge of the ship.

L. Silver Whisper Inaugural Plaque Exchange

- a. June 12th.

M. Disney Wonder Tour

- a. On June 8th, I toured the ship and learned about Disney's Shore Excursion process, sustainability initiatives, and environmental goals.

N. Senator Jesse Keihl

- a. Open House at AB Hall on Friday June 9th was well attended. We appreciate the Senator's engagement with Skagway residents.

O. Marketing Internship

- a. Designed Ad for the Skagway Alaskan.
- b. Signing up TBMP members & welcoming them to the program via e-mail.
- c. Reminding businesses to update their listing on Skagway.com.
- d. Providing new photos & videos for Explore Skagway visual asset inventory.
- e. Creating content on Canva.
- f. Attending and aiding in event implementation.

P. ATIA (Alaska Travel Industry Association)

- a. New President & CEO Jillian Simpson who has worked with ATIA as director of travel trade and international marketing to vice president over 17 years.
- b. ATIA received the Web Marketing Association 2023 Internet Advertising Competition Award for Outstanding Achievement in Internet Advertising & Best Travel Integrated Ad Campaign Awards
 - i. <http://www.iacaward.org/iac/winner/18722/alaska-travel-industry-association-and-miles-partnership--wins-2023-iac-award-for-also-known-as-alaska.html>
- c. Alaska Travel Industry Association's Travel Alaska program won the Silver Award for Regional TV in the Travel & Tourism category in the 44th annual Telly Awards.
 - i. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mkv_XSijT6M&t=5s
- d. I am registered to attend ATIA's Annual Convention 1n Fairbank in October.

Q. Busking

- a. I received the first application May 31st. Signage, permits and benches contain Explore Skagway branding with a special exception made to the color palette in honor of traditional Tlingit colors and to match the aesthetic of the new Shoreline Park Area.
- b. A special thanks to Explore Skagway Intern, Tatum Sager for permit design work and Visitor Information Specialist, Douglas Smith for his craftsmanship of the wooden benches and Public Works for Installation which we hope will happen this week or next.

R. Trail Maps

- a. Gunalchéesh to Skagway Traditional Council for sharing Tlingit name locations and translations for hiking areas in Skagway. They have been added to the Trail Map and the new version has gone to print.

S. Old Growth Forest Network

- a. Thanks to Lucy Yao, Juneau Trails Lead, signs were installed nearly a year after being inducted into the Old Growth Forest Network, to recognize the designation at "Jánwu Sít'i ("Mountain Goat Glacier" - pronounced "jon woo sit ee") also known as Deven Glacier.
- b. <https://www.oldgrowthforest.net/ak-denver-glacier-trail>

T. Flag Day, June 14th

- a. Skagway Elks Lodge hosted their annual Flag Day Ceremony on 2nd and Broadway to a large crowd of visitors and locals.

U. Skagway.com

- a. Remind visitors to submit to our photo contest.
 - i. <https://www.skagway.com/thisisskagway2023/>
- b. Post your events so the Visitor Department can help promote them.
 - i. <https://www.skagway.com/events/>
- c. Update your business listing with contact information, business description and photos.
 - i. E-mail us at skagwayinfo@skagway.org if you would like your password reset.

V. The Story of Art in America

- a. Met with Producer to pitch Skagway for docuseries.

W. Chalkboard TV

- a. Met with Producer to pitch Skagway for UK documentary.

X. Buy Alaska Local First

- a. Don't forget that this non-profit agency is free advertising for your business! Check it out!
 - i. <https://buyalaska.com/>

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

- a. Gold in the Yukon, Part 2 – Life in the Klondike
 - i. <https://www.qctonline.com/gold-in-the-yukon-part-2-life-in-the-klondike/>
- b. British Vets Embark on 1,300-Mile, Unsupported Kayak Quest: The Inside Passage
 - i. <https://gearjunkie.com/news/inside-passage-unsupported-kayak-expedition>
- c. Alaska recreational beach monitoring begins
 - i. <https://www.kinyradio.com/news/news-of-the-north/alaska-recreational-beach-monitoring-begins/>
- d. M/V Hubbard Receives Certificate of Inspection from U.S. Coast Guard
 - i. <https://dot.alaska.gov/comm/pressbox/arch2023/PR23-0019.shtml>
- e. 10 things to know before you book an Alaska cruise
 - i. <https://www.royalcaribbeanblog.com/2023/05/30/10-things-know-you-book-alaska-cruise>
- f. Island Air Express joins Kalinin Family of Companies

- i. <https://www.kinyradio.com/news/news-of-the-north/island-air-express-joins-kalinin-family-of-companies/>
- g. Klondike Road Relay registration opens
 - i. <https://www.yukon-news.com/sports/klondike-road-relay-registration-opens/>
- h. How Alaska's first tour guide, a holdover from the Klondike gold rush, developed his famous Skagway spiel
 - i. <https://www.adn.com/alaska-life/2023/05/28/how-alaskas-first-tour-guide-a-holdover-from-the-klondike-gold-rush-developed-his-famous-skagway-spiel/>
- i. Passenger plane escapes damage from bird strike at Skagway airport
 - i. <https://alaskapublic.org/2023/06/01/passenger-plane-escapes-damage-from-bird-strike-at-skagway-airport/>
- j. Cool Towns On The West Coast For Your Perfect Summer Vacation
 - i. <https://www.thetravel.com/best-small-towns-on-the-west-coast-for-summer-vacation/#chelan-washington>
- k. Pilgrimages: A Happy Accident Leads to Alaska
 - i. <https://wildhunt.org/2023/06/pilgrimages-a-happy-accident-leads-to-alaska.html>
- l. As three seasons of bridge work loom, Denali managers and tourist industry adjust
 - i. <https://alaskabeacon.com/2023/06/03/as-three-seasons-of-bridge-work-loom-denali-managers-and-tourist-industry-adjust/>
- m. Yukon News Centerfold
 - i. Yukon News featured Skagway in the entire centerfold of the May 17th issue with a story about Mayor Cremata welcoming Yukoner's for the Victoria Day weekend.