

Manager’s Update – September 21, 2023

Community Wildfire Defense Grant: MOS staff is coordinating with Alaska Municipal League to submit a bundled application (multiple communities) for a [Community Wildfire Defense Grant](#) (CWDG) from USDA Forest Service. The grant would provide funding for the MOS to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The grant requires a 10% match, but AML expects to show in kind contribution of staff time from participants, AML staff and other allowed expenditures that will satisfy the match with “in kind” contributions. Development and continuous use of a CWPP is one of the fundamental building blocks in creating a fire-adapted community. A CWPP can help the MOS identify areas of concern in the borough such as potential fire hazard in Dyea as described by the Dyea Community Advisory Board, so we can plan for data-based solutions. If the Assembly has concerns that it would like staff to address prior to the culmination of this planning process, we ask that specific direction to staff be approved by the Assembly.

Library Director’s Update: After a delay from previous years’ announcements, the library just received notification from the Alaska State Library that it was awarded a Public Library Assistance grant for FY24. Funds from this grant make up a large part of our collection budget and we are grateful for it.

On the programming front, on Monday, October 2nd at 4:00 pm, the library will be hosting a “Skype a Scientist” session where participants can ask questions to an astronomer via videoconferencing – all as preparation for the partial solar eclipse on Saturday, October 14th! And our winter book club is off to a great start with a fantastic lineup of books chosen by participants. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to contact the library for more information.

Port Director’s Update:

2023 Visitor Statistics: Based on data reported from Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska through September 15, 2023:

Month	Ships	Passengers	% of Projections
April	4	12,753	104%
May	81	195,509	93%
June	107	245,104	102%
July	112	262,732	104%
August	112	266,841	103%
September	47	106,107	97%
TOTAL	463	1,089,496	101%

Port Revenues: Reported March 19, 2023 through August 31, 2023. Does not include August VIF.

Total Billed/ Projected Revenue	\$ 6,096,504
Total Received	\$4,259,608

Ore Peninsula Redevelopment Update: The last cruise ships for the 2023 season will dock at the Ore Dock on Tuesday, September 19 and Broadway Dock on September 20. Going forward, all cruise ships will be at the Railroad Dock. Petro Marine will have a fuel barge in September 21 - 22. Barges for the project will begin offloading piling and other project materials on or about September 23. In-water work is expected to start October 7. Work is ongoing with Ore Loader abatement and the temporary fuel lines.

2023 Transportation Review: The Port Department will be hosting an end of season review to discuss successes, challenges, and ideas for 2024 as it relates to transportation. We have invited Skagway transportation companies and industry partners including US C&BP, CBSA, WP&YR, SMART, Skagway Tourism Department, Skagway Police and Skagway Fire. Thursday, September 28, 2023, 11:00am at Assembly Chambers.