

GREATER WHITTIER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

11/14/18

ATTENDING: Rebecca Langton, FCS; Kristen Labrecque, Saltwater Excurions; David Goldstein, PWS Eco-Charters; Bill Rome, Willard Island Video; Mary Pignalberi, Salmon Berry Tours; Wanetta Ayers, PWSEDD; Gordon Burton, AKDOT; Mark Robinson-Wilson, HAP AK_YK; Kelly Bender, Lazy Otter.

CALL TO ORDER: 12:08

Approval of minutes Kyle, Mary 2nd.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Kelly – ATIA – Big decision last year, Trying to get legislature to reimplement car tax. Making a move to get car rental tax back into tourism budget, 1.5 million the last couple years. 3 million for the 2019 year.

Lazy Otter got recognized at the Alyeska Ceremony.

TREASURERS REPORT: Taxes are done. Quarterlies are getting done. Memberships are coming in. Deposit to Boat Show is made. Report approved by Kyle, 2nd Mark.

TUNNEL: Gordon – Construction will be changing th schedules thru April. They will be posted. AKRR tracks/panels are being repaired. October #'s were up with the nice fall weather.

Dave – Would the smaller tunnel ever be used for bike/pedestrian passage? Gordon – No plans for that. It's mostly used by Enstar.

Dave – Seward Highway road closures have been postponed. Will they coordinate with the tunnel. Gordon – We are hoping for better conversations with up coming projects.

CITY: Kyle – Interim Jim and Annie were at Alaska Municipal League conference.

New chief is coming, very seasoned, Robert Baty.

Emergency funding request to the state for fill of erosion on The Triangle and Ocean Dock.

NOAA is moving the weather station.

Delong Dock is under repair and waiting on insurance.

Comprehensive plan is on going.

Whittier Seafoods has been working on updating.

OLD BUSINESS

*Video – Luke is waiting on other videos to make into a whole video. Looking for 1st draft @ end of Nov.

*Membership Drive – Complete. Dawn and Carolyn have website updated. We lost 5 members and gained 3.

*Krystal Sabrino taking over our email base and responses. 4-10 hrs per month.

*Boat Show – form will be going out. City is paying ½. Brochures on the table \$25? Kristen – Are the prices/traffic supported? Kyle – Seattle Boat Show is also an option. We'd be part of the Alaska booth. Dave – Pac Expo & Boat Show are big. Both could be tremendous oppertunities. Wanetta – Sign up nowfor next year. Highly focused maritime audience. New video will be shown. Wanetta – Can there bea tracking note or something on the brochure? Kelly – that would be up to the vendors. Later in conversation - Brochures will be free, but pop-ups, displays, jet skis, kayaks, etc. will be \$100??

NEW BUSINESS

*Wannetta – The survey of businesses about doing business in PWS is looking for more responses. Whittier business Climate Survey – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YVMZ3HQ>

*Summr schedule is out for public viewing. Aurora needs repowering, project puts it out for 10 months. The Taslina is supposed to take over but can't dock in Whittier as is. Dock modifications MUST happen now. Chenega and Tatitlik would have NO SERVICE AT ALL. State Reform Initiative is getting looked at. Repairs on the Aurora are federally funded. Tustamina has been held up. Fast ferries will be going away in AK.

* PWS Reg Transportation Plan needs to be updated. In talks now with D.O.T.

*PWS Stewardship Foundation is busy, new campground in Blackstone, etc. Opening up advisory board.

*Kristen – NOAA met, halibut charters are getting cut more. Putting boat rentals under charter rules and now looking at putting private anglers in that category also.

*Bill – Coast Magazine did an article about Whittier.

*Mary – Salmon Berry Tours is expanding to Fairbanks.

Next meeting January 16th Marco T's Pizzeria @ noon.