



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Minutes Tourism Commission

Commission Members: Jeremy Plank (Chair), Bethany Lowrance (Vice Chair), Carol Bryant-Martin (Secretary), Sherri Blakenship, Devon Calvin, Lillian Feldpausch, and Vaughn Hazel.

Ex Officio: Judson Rusk and Victoria Wright.

July 9, 2026

6:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Plank called the Sitka Tourism Commission meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Sherri Blakenship, Devon Calvin, Vaughn Hazel, Bethany Lowrance, Carol Bryant-Martin, and Jeremy Plank.

Absent: Lillian Feldpausch (Unexcused)

Ex-Officio Present: Judson Rusk and Victoria Wright.

Secretary Bryant-Martin confirmed a quorum was present.

II. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M-Lowrance/S-Hazel moved to approve the minutes dated May 14, 2026 and June 11, 2026. The motion passed by a 6/0 voice vote.

IV. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Sales Tax Collection on Cruise Ship Retail Sales

City Tourism Manager Rusk reported that CBS will begin enforcing sales tax, which is already in the code, on any cruise ships conducting retail sales in Sitka Sound waters. This enforcement will take effect at the first port of call during the 2027 visitor season. No formal business action was taken.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

2026 Visitor Intercept Survey Questions

Commissioners reviewed the list of 2026 Visitor Intercept Survey Questions, which was included in the meeting packet. Rusk provided an overview of the questions in the survey, which is scheduled to go live from August 10 to 31, 2026. Wright explained that the survey will be conducted on the ground in locations with a high density of visitor foot traffic, while also employing passive survey collection methods like making the survey available in hotel rooms. Rusk added that due to circumstance, most respondents are assumed to be cruise ship passengers. He also clarified that the ground survey will cross-reference the airport survey.

M/Bryant-Martin/S-Lowrance moved to approve the 2026 Visitor Intercept Survey Questions. The motion passed 6/0 by voice vote.

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Chair Plank adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Minutes By: Carol Bryant-Martin, Secretary