



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Meeting Minutes Tourism Commission

**Officers:** Chair Jeremy Plank; Vice Chair Ian Dempster; and Secretary Carol Bryant-Martin

**Members:** Devon Calvin; Vaughn Hazel; Bethany Lowrance; Alana Peterson; and Rachel Roy, Visit Sitka (Ex Officio)

**Staff Liaison:** Amy Ainslie, P&CD Director (Ex Officio); and Jessica Earnshaw, Deputy Municipal Clerk

**Assembly Liaison:** Chris Ystad

---

April 10, 2025

6:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

---

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Jeremy Plank called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** Carol Bryant-Martin; Devon Calvin; Vaughn Hazel; Bethany Lowrance; Alana Peterson; Jeremy Plank; and Ian Dempster Riley; and Rachel Roy (Ex Officio - Via Zoom).

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** Amy Ainslie, P&CD Director.

**Public:** Mary Beth Nelson; Lonneke de Weerd; Anastasia der Hende; Jana Feller; Kres Kolsteeg; Julia Kokendy; Amy Kramer Johnson; and Annemarie LaPalme.

Secretary Bryant-Martin called roll. She confirmed quorum was present.

### III. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

No agenda changes were made.

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M-Lowrance/S-Vaughn moved to approve the minutes dated March 10, 2025. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

### V. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. TBMP Draft Guidelines

Commission members reviewed the TBMP draft guidelines. The members discussed revising text to include tour operator guidelines for local recreation areas on days when Sandy Beach is heavily utilized by the public. Alana Peterson suggested changing language for the visitor agreement to visitor pledge. She volunteered to revise the language of the text to highlight a more regenerative exchange versus a visitor centric tone throughout the document.

#### B. TBMP Community Meeting

The Commissioners members agreed to host a TBMP meeting on April 30, 2025 from 6 to 9 p.m. to invite members of the public to review the draft document, fill out a survey, and provide feedback for language revisions. Plank and Ainslie discussed compiling a presentation and an agenda for the public forum. Ainslie would promote the TBMP meeting via radio, newspaper, social media, and online ahead of the event.

**C. Downtown Street Closure & Pedestrian Safety Stations**

Ainslie reported that she met with Assembly members, city administrators, and local merchants to discuss mitigation measures for downtown traffic. Lincoln Street will remain open during the month of May to gauge traffic flow and assess pedestrian safety. The city planned to hire crossing guard employees to monitor pedestrians and jaywalking at Harrigan Centennial Hall, and key intersections with heavy foot traffic, which include Lincoln/Cathedral Way; and Harbor Drive/Katlian Street. Crossing guards would manage pedestrians with stop signs and whistles. In addition, the commission members discussed possibly adding pedestrian directions (namely the previously used spraypainted bird footprints) along the SMC sidewalk between the Sitka National Historical Park and the Alaska Raptor Center.

**D. Harbor Drive Barricade Options**

The Commission members discussed strategies to help deter visitors from jaywalking downtown, placements of barricades on Harbor Drive, and associated impacts on parking spaces with the loss of seven parking spaces. Commission members agreed that a barricade option that could preserve parking spaces and accommodate signage for welcome and traffic safety messaging was preferred.

**E. Temporary Restrooms**

Commission members discussed possible locations for temporary restrooms. Roy stated that merchants appreciated temporary restrooms located downtown. In addition, Visit Sitka created restroom maps. The commissioners agreed that temporary restrooms are an important service and need. Ainslie indicated that she will discuss concerns about bathrooms and locations with the administrator.

**V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (*For items ON or OFF the agenda and not to exceed 3 minutes*)**

Chair Plank recognized members of the public to speak. Mary Beth Nelson addressed wildlife concerns. Annemarie LaPalme spoke about traffic issues.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Chair Plank asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Bethany Lowrance moved; Alana Peterson seconded; and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Minutes By: Carol Bryant-Martin, Secretary