



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Minutes - Final

Planning Commission

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

****Special Meeting****

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Present: Darrell Windsor (Acting Chair), Stacy Mudry, Katie Riley, Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)

Absent: Chris Spivey (Excused), Wendy Alderson

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: Joe Ieremia, Sandy McClung, Loren Olsen, Laurie Booyse, Gerry Hope, Michele Martine, Wendy Lindskoog, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

Chair Windsor called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

IV. THE EVENING BUSINESS

A [MISC 21-09](#) Discussion/Direction on Short-Term Tourism Plan

Ainslie introduced the discussion on direct-use infrastructure needs for the short-term tourism plan and explained that indirect-use infrastructure needs would be discussed at the November 17th meeting. Ainslie noted that direct-use infrastructure applied to projects that would be used directly by tourists, some examples given were restrooms, waste and recycle bins, and benches. Ainslie explained that the purposed of the discussion was to identify what was needed, how many, and where they were needed.

Chair Windsor opened the floor for public comment. Ainslie read public comment submitted by John Murray, who identified lack of restrooms and the condition of restrooms as a concern, as well as an illuminated crosswalk across Harbor Drive, and pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Lake and Lincoln Streets.

Riley suggested portable restrooms along Crescent Park and Totem Square, and noted that supply and shipping challenges may be a challenge for procurement. Mudry suggested contacting a local provider. Christianson suggested an incentive program for downtown businesses or facilities to open their restrooms for visitors.

Sandy McClung of Sitka Sound Science Center agreed that a subsidy to offset costs of bathroom supplies and cleaning would be a good incentive. McClung explained that the Science Center received a lot of visitors requesting restroom access through the summer and that their capacity was limited, especially with regards to ADA

accessibility.

Riley noted that water fountains with bottle refill stations would help to reduce waste from plastic bottles. The Commission discussed the need for benches. Riley suggested that the city use local craftsmen to provide benches however, the Commission acknowledged the possible need for portability.

The Commission discussed signage needs. Laurie Booyse of Visit Sitka commented that graphic design continuity and consistency was important for visitors to navigate way finding tools throughout the city. Booyse mentioned that Visit Sitka had an online map for people to reference and updates to the map could be done quickly. Windsor asked if the maps could be downloaded from the ships to prevent overburdening of local WIFI and cellular infrastructure. Booyse replied that Visit Sitka was working with the cruise companies to make that possible.

Christianson and the Commission discussed the need to meet with the Assembly during and after the tourist season to discuss the results of the plan and make adjustments as needed.

The Commission agreed to continue their discussion after the following regular meeting.

No motion made.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no objections, Chair Windsor adjourned the meeting at 7:17pm.