



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Minutes - Draft

### Planning Commission

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Wednesday, June 2, 2021

6:30 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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#### **\*\*Special Meeting\*\***

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Present: Chris Spivey (Chair), Darrell Windsor, Stacy Mudry, Wendy Alderson, Katie Riley

Absent: Thor Christianson (excused)

Staff: Amy Ainslie, Ben Mejia

Public: Hugh Bevan, Pat Kehoe, Chuck Trierschield, Jill Scheidt, Ariadne Will (Sitka Sentinel)

**Chair Spivey called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.**

#### **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA**

#### **III. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

#### **IV. THE EVENING BUSINESS**

##### **A**     [MISC 21-12](#)     Public comment/feedback on cruise passenger dispersal.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment on cruise passenger dispersal. Hugh Bevan commented that cruise passengers could be lightered to town from the cruise ship dock using CPET funds. Spivey asked if using the O'Connell lightering dock as a drop-off location would create congestion concerns. Bevan replied that it would reduce road traffic. Ainslie read written comment from Bruce White, who expressed concern about the noise and air pollution impacts that tour buses have on residences along their routes and requested a limitation placed on tour bus operation.

**No action taken.**

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

Ainslie reported to the Commission responses to questions asked in an earlier meeting. Ainslie explained that the primary economic benefit for the city from cruise tourism is the cruise passenger excise tax (CPET), sales tax, and the fish box tax which goes to the Harbor Department.

Ainslie informed the Commission that Royal Caribbean Lines provided estimates of their overall operations in Alaska, wherein 30% of passengers participate in excursions and 1,600 charter fishing tours were sold on-vessel across all 8 Alaska ports during a 20 week period in 2019. Ainslie noted that this did not account for shore-side charter

fishing sales and so would be difficult to quantify an accurate estimate.

Ainslie discussed the upcoming tourism planning meetings, including downtown business forum on June 3rd and the June 16th special meeting. Ainslie asked the Commission if there was additional information the Commission would like. Windsor requested a summary of public comment from the tourism forums to include number of recurring suggestions. Spivey asked staff to contact the charter fishing fleet to inquire about cruise passenger pick-ups. Spivey also requested information regarding the contract with the coach company used for cruise passengers. Riley requested that staff provide the Gateway Community Planning Assistance document written by the National Park Service in 1995.

The Commission opened the floor for public comment. Pat Kehoe asked for clarification on exactly how CPET funds could be used.

Ainslie explained that CPET funds were to be used on projects that would benefit cruise passengers but staff would work to provide a more comprehensive list of allowable uses.

**No action taken.**

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

**Seeing no objections, Chair Spivey adjourned the meeting at 7:09pm.**