

Mayor's Report

Haines Borough
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AMHS Overnight Parking Waiver

Yesterday evening the residents of the Haines Borough received an official reprieve of enforcement of the AMHS policy of no overnight parking at the terminal in Haines. We can leave our cars overnight for 5 days until new construction is completed; and then we need to revisit our waiver.

AML

Thank you for supporting the Borough's membership in the Alaska Municipal League. Given the shaky economic and political environment that we in Southeast Alaska find ourselves in, there is no better time to cast our vote in favor of moving forward a statewide agenda that supports all Alaskan municipalities. Municipal Revenue Sharing and resolution of PERS liabilities are two of these issues. Statewide transportation infrastructure is another. The Alaska Municipal League is vigorously lobbying for state funds to maintain, and repair existing transportation infrastructure, including the Alaska Marine Highway.

I will bring you the AML Statewide Priorities and Resolutions in January and ask for a resolution of support from the Haines Borough. I am proud to report that I was re-elected to a second two-year term on the AML Board of Directors, representing all of southeast Alaska except Juneau.

As promised I was able to consult with two different economists regarding the economic impact study proposal brought to the Assembly by the Tourism Advisory Committee. I have communicated their observations to the TAB and to you in a separate email. Basically, I was told that the more targeted the study, the more useful the information.

I encourage you to read George Campbell's through report of his activities at AML to get the flavor of the opportunities available for lobbying and learning at the annual meeting. Any assembly member is welcome to attend and I hope you will be tempted to do so in the future.

Haines Highway Realignment

Numerous residents have questioned the borough's support for the Haines highway realignment project. I would like to take this opportunity to assure the community that the borough is not blindly supporting the project. Our comment listed our concerns and we will closely examine the revised environmental document to evaluate how those concerns have been addressed. I have told the Environmental planner Jim Scholl that I will personally look for the number of acres of fill put into the river system, the impact to wet lands, salmon spawning tributaries, eagle habitat, and cultural resources. Mr. Scholl told me that he is preparing a table that compares these impacts pre and post the re-design of the project.

Dusty Trails

I also followed up on the mysterious notice we received regarding Dusty Trails. I learned that the ownership of Dusty Trails is changing. The non-profit St. Vincent De Paul Society and the for-profit GMD development corporation out of Seattle will own it jointly. The facility will be renovated and will continue to offer income-controlled housing.

I am continuing to work with staff to find ways and means to notify the public of government affairs. We have synchronized the borough website calendar and the Haines community calendar so that borough notices appear on the Haines community calendar. Last week I encouraged the manager to advertise the borough website address in the Chilkat Valley News for a couple of issues to see if we can encourage folks to use the website to get up to date local government information. This costs \$52/week. We will track the traffic before and during the ad campaign to see if it is at all effective. In sum, one strategy cost nothing except a little digital ingenuity and human collaboration; and the other costs \$52/week.