

Notes to a Meeting, February 29, 2024

To: Haines Borough Assembly Members; Harriett Brouillette, Administrator, CIA; Annette Kreitzer, Haines Borough Manager; Rebecca Hylton, Tourism Director; Sean Bell, Haines Harbor Master

Fr: Debra Schnabel

Re: Portage Cove Facility Development

Attendees: Harriett Brouillette, Zach Wentzel, Brittany Dunbar (CIA) and Debra Schnabel (BORO)

Our meeting was called at the invitation of Chilkoot Indian Association (CIA) to initiate a preliminary discussion about port development and impact fees under consideration for cruise ship clients entering our community through Portage Cove facilities. We identified some important talking points about how we might join forces to maximize community benefit from commercial activity in Portage Cove.

The Borough currently receives Commercial Passenger Vessel Tax. It is considering imposition of additional fees to support the construction of a floating dock that would enable easier transfer of passengers between ships and the Borough's dock.

The introduction of a floating dock to be used singularly at the Borough Portage Cove Cruise Ship Dock could impact the marketability of CIA's facility. Should we be thinking of how improvements to the Borough's facility could benefit CIA? Are there ways that the Borough and CIA might cooperate, collaborate or otherwise enter use agreements that would "raise the tide" for development of both government facilities?

When discussing Impact Fees specifically, the Borough could consider the value of imposing a "Tribal Lands acknowledgment Fee" on all passengers that enter our port. This could supplement - or replace - the generic impact fee, would be shared revenue and (most probably) set a standard for all southeast Alaskan ports welcoming cruising passengers.

These notes are offered to draw attention to the possible benefits that could derive from a comprehensive and inclusive approach to raising, sharing and directing revenue to build on the assets we have. It is the beauty of our community – an asset belonging to everyone – that brings people to our port. No one owns that, and so it seems that we should work collaboratively to reap the most benefit from the industry markets.

In conclusion, we suggest a discussion of port development and impact fees be topics for two governments working together.