

**PORT & HARBORS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
DATE: February 13, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Port & Harbors Advisory Board regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., at City Council Chambers, in Ketchikan, Alaska.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Mark Flora	(Chairman/Council member)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tim Hemme	(Vice-Chairman)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Lee Bethel	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jim Castle	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Russell Cockrum	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Lunde	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jay Rhodes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Steve Wilsie	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Excused

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Mark Flora	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tim Hemme	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Lee Bethel	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jim Castle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Russell Cockrum	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Lunde	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jay Rhodes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Steve Wilsie	<input type="checkbox"/>

Harbor Staff Present:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Dan Berg
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ms. May Caguiat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Craig Bisson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. James Wilson

CHANGES TO AGENDA:

None

MINUTES: MOTION was made by Mr. Lunde to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of the Port and Harbors Advisory Board from January 9, 2024. MOTION SECONDED by Mr. Castle. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Ketchikan Cruise Ship Rate Study
DNR Support Letter
Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce Board Email
Fourth of July Port Closure Memo

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Shauna Lee worked in tourism for many years. She urged member of the board to have a compromised plan instead of closing the Port on Fourth of July.

Shellie Greaves concerned that closing the Port on Fourth of July will put a burden on fundraising for the kids. She suggested that we need to intermingle Fourth of July activities rather than closing the Port completely.

Michelle Cain family enjoyed the Fourth of July last year and excited to see how people in Ketchikan celebrates this year. She expressed that celebrating Fourth of July here is not about revenue, it was about the culture.

Teya Plamondon relayed a message from Rob Sheer who is the CEO of The Great Alaskan Lumberjack Show. The message was to consider what protections and benefits closing the Port on Fourth of July will do. She also repeated that Port closure is economically punitive on many loans and many businesses will lose revenues.

Rick Erickson talked about scheduling process for Cruise Lines Agencies. He converged on the challenges that the cruise lines will have when a Port is close for one day of the week. He also pointed that they are already working on 2026 cruise schedule and understands the implication of closing Port for one day.

Kari Erickson worked for HAP Alaska Yukon Transportation. She agreed that revenues will be lost if the recommendation for closing Port on Fourth of July in the future goes through. She suggested modifying things to be beneficial to everyone.

Jaimie Palmer represents three entities. She reiterated that from an economic development standpoint, one day of lost revenue would be awful. As the owner of Captain's Lady on Creek Street, she had been through so much lost revenues from the past years and would like to see more tourist into this community.

Brindalyn Greaves grew up in Ketchikan and actively involved in the community. She strongly opposed closing Port on the Fourth of July. As a young person to live here and

continue calling Ketchikan home, she is worried that this recommendation could impact her future.

Stephanie Sons talked about Berth IV restrooms being unavailable for public use unless there were ships docks on Berth IV. She also discussed how closing Port on the Fourth of July will take revenue away from businesses.

Trevor Shaw president Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce and Administrative Officer Ward Cove Group. He mentioned that the board of the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce voted to unanimously oppose the closure of the Port on the Fourth of July.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Closing the Port on Fourth of July

Board member Lunde noted that the proposal to close will be a two to three years head start so it does not affect any current schedules. He quoted that people in the public have approached him that would like the Port be close on the Fourth of July.

Board member Bethel agreed with everything that's been said by the public present at the meeting. He added if this will open up to potential needless litigation due to the constitutionality of the issue.

Board member Cochrum was unsure about the idea of closing Port on the Fourth of July. His thought was there is no other way and we're too far down this trail.

Board member Castle mentioned that previous discussion was more of a consideration to explore rather than what most of the people wanted to see happen.

Board member Rhodes agreed to what Board member Castle said, that it was brought up as a topic of discussion than to pursue closing the Port. He liked the idea that was brought up to close a Berth and moved some festivities to that area.

Chairman Flora thanked everyone for coming and speaking at the meeting. He expressed his observation that closing the Port on Fourth of July will be wildly unpopular and any changes that affects the schedule is a chain reaction of events. Chairman Flora suggested to find a way to compromise. Speaking for the board, Chairman Flora ended the discussion of closing the Port on Fourth of July and he will withdraw the topic from the City Council agenda.

MOTION was made by Chairman Flora to change direction and to not confer the proposal to close the Port on Fourth of July to the City Council. **MOTION SECONDED** by Board member Rhodes. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Vice Chairman Hemme was not present.**

Voting yes: Mr. Flora, Mr. Castle, Mr. Cockrum, Mr. Lunde, Mr. Rhodes, Mr. Wilsie and Mr. Bethel. Vice Chairman Hemme was not present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bar Harbor Breakwater

Acting Harbor Director Wilson mentioned that floating breakwater project is on hold due to funding issues.

EC Phillips Army Core Application

Coast Guard emailed Port & Harbors looking for input and concerns regarding EC Phillips application to tear down their building on 1775 Tongass Avenue Ketchikan, AK 99901.

Port Rate Study

Acting Port Director Craig Bisson explained how the Port of Ketchikan is in the middle in terms of fees, compared to other Ports in Alaska. Chairman Flora thinks the more rational goal is to see what rate structure we need to maintain operations.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Acting Harbor Director James Wilson and Acting Port Director Craig Bisson reviewed the Director's Report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Mr. Lee Bethel Thanks May and thank you everyone.

Mr. Steve Wilsie Thank you May for all the info. It always helps to see it in paper.

Mr. Jay Rhodes Thanks to all the staff and it was good to see a full house.

Mr. Jim Castle Thanks for putting everything together. Thanks May.

Mr. Russell Cockrum Thank you everyone.

Mr. Eric Lunde Thank you

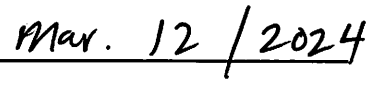
Mr. Mark Flora Thank you guys and thank you for everything May.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Chairman Flora at 8:56 p.m. **MOTION
SECONDED** by Board Member Rhodes. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**



Acting Chairman
Chair/Vice Chair Signature



Date