

General Meeting Agenda

February 13th, 2020

Swiss Alaska Inn

**Call to Order:** 11:05 am

**Administrative Items:**

* Board members in Attendance: Critter Byrd, Bill Rodwell, Sabrena Combs, Lauren Kane (arrived at noon)
* Others in Attendance: Tina Pijuan, Bill Germain, Sue Deyoe, Corinne Smith, Noelle Mischenko, Bryann Hanks, Eric Chappel, Kathy Watkins
* Time Keeper/Minute Taker: Katie Gilligan

**Approval of Minutes:**

* December, January meeting minutes: Approved in board meeting

**Treasurer’s Report:** See attached

**Persons to be Heard:**

Eric Chappel- Fire chief

* Mill rate increase- It hasn’t gone up in over 20 years, and we have one of the lowest in the borough. The responders are paid on call (about $60-70 per year), trucks are out of date and need to be updated or purchased, grants have disappeared, etc., so the Talkeetna Fire Department now requires funding beyond what is currently available. They provide auto extrication, ambulance services, and respond to around 165 calls throughout the year.
* Would like the Chamber to write a letter to the borough assembly supporting the increase in mill rate. This doesn’t go out to the voters, it’s voted on solely by the assembly. Eric would like a copy if we do choose to send a letter.
* Both Sunshine and Talkeetna Community Councils have already voted to support it.

Bryann Zweifel and Kathy Watkins- Sunshine Clinic

* Sunshine Clinic will be opening a new location in the valley by December 31st
* They will be leasing the old AIC building on Bogard Rd
* Will be funded largely by federal grants
* Reasons for opening a new location outside of our area
  + Sustainability for the clinic- growth is important
  + Will provide upper valley residents access to specialty services in the Valley instead of Anchorage, such as dermatology services.
  + Larger employee base creates more opportunities and benefits for clinic employees, such as 401k and insurance.
  + This location will be able to accept Medicaid, Medicare, and offer a sliding scale, which is rare or currently unavailable in the valley. In theory this would prevent patients from the valley coming up to Talkeetna and Willow and clogging up our appointments.
  + This new clinic will also be reading x-rays, lab/blood work, etc. so patients won’t have to wait for it to be shipped to Seattle. In theory anything from the Sunshine Clinic would also be sent there.

Noelle Mischenko- Su Valley School

* No job fair this year, but in its place will be a job opportunity board in their library.
* Is asking the Chamber to include this information in the next newsletter and post on Facebook so that businesses in Talkeetna can provide flyers for the board.

**Old Business:**

* Taste of Talkeetna: Sold 9 less tickets than last year. Will work with restaurant owners to revamp the event next year.

**Additions to Agenda:**

* DNR quarry on Comsat: Comsat Quarry Committee asked for a letter
  + Would like to place a moratorium on giving permits to miners until the community can review what’s going on with the land.
  + Currently they have been working around the clock, affecting the neighborhoods, park, roadway, etc.
  + The quarry was originally classed as one that doesn’t require a public process, we would be voting to write a letter for a reclassification of the quarry and to support a responsible management plan.
* DBC asked for a letter re: amendment to restrict number of beverages served.
  + Alcohol/marijuana control office is proposing to limit the number of drinks served to an individual to 3 drinks (or 12 oz) per day (this applies to brewery type license holders only, not full liquor license holders like bars). It would affect the tasting room most heavily as each type of alcohol license would need its own building… 36 oz of beer vs 36 oz of mead/wine vs liquor, etc.
* Hindsight 2020:
  + Based on 1999’s idea of what 2020 would look like- create an event called Vision 2020.
  + Perhaps we could create an event this year to recap what did happen and what it’s like today, and what it looked like then.
* New board member and Vice President

**Committees:**

* Membership and Community Relations Committee: Bill has begun a discussion with a few other non-profits in the area about bathroom and trash solutions for summer 2020.
  + Scholarship- include 2020 application on Facebook and in newsletter
* Marketing and Tourism Committee: Visitor Guides are in the works
* Finance Committee: Pull tabs? Live at five, other fundraising needs? Will work on creating opportunities to use our gaming permit.

**Upcoming Meetings & Announcements:** March 10th and 12th

**Meeting adjourned at:** 12:30 pm