

Douglas Advisory Board (DAB)
August 14, 2019 – APPROVED MINUTES

Call to order: 5:32pm

Members present: Norton Gregory (chair), Teri Tibbett (secretary), Adam Garner, Joyce Vick.

Others present: Dave Scanlin, Eaglecrest General Manager

I. Approval of Agenda: Approved.

II. Approval of Minutes: **June 12, 2019:** Approved. **July 10, 2019:** Held.

III. Presentation by Dave Scanlin, Eaglecrest General Manager.

Mr. Scanlan offered an overview of Eaglecrest's mission, current/future activities, results of McDowell Group research, and more. Future activities under development include:

- Keeping Ptarmigan lift (the advanced life) open longer in spring after closing the lodge, ski school, and food operations.
- Improved snowmaking with recently-purchased equipment and improvements.
- Develop summer operations: Trails for hiking (improvements to existing summer trails, develop new trails to Mt. Ben Stewart and Mt. Troy, Wedding Bowl); mountain biking (bike rentals and safety gear to rent, trails for all riding levels, lift operations to carry bikes up); aerial gondola (ADA accessible, to parallel current Ptarmigan lift); summer lodge on Pittman's Ridge (food and beverages, new bathrooms, rentals for events); mountain coaster (gravity system through the trees, skier's right of Sneaky run); long-span zip line (beginning on the ridge between Ptarmigan lift and Hogsback, down to the lodge); ropes course and adventure maze (below the bottom of Ptarmigan lift, near the lodge); cabins at Cropley Lake, Hilda Dam, and Dick's Lake); disc golf, Frisbee golf, gold panning, and expanded public events.
- Economic benefits of summer operations: Year-round jobs to increase employee stability, recruitment, and retention; grows Juneau winter and summer economy; supports ski area financial stability, with plans to expand from 70% to 100% recovery; responds to McDowell Group research related to low-cost, high-volume activities for cruise ship passengers and accommodating growing independent and adventure travelers; seeks supplemental funding with no additional tax burden to Juneau residents.
- Community benefits of summer operations: additional recreation opportunities for residents and visitors; improved quality of life; accommodates a growing demographic of 30-40 year old who cite outdoor activities as a high priority.
- Cost for development of full package is about \$35 million. Eaglecrest expects to raise funds for these capital improvements, possibly through a Douglas Recreation Development Fund; and is considering three potential choices: 100% public ownership and funding, 100% private funding and ownership, or a public-private partnership. If private funding and ownership is undertaken, the restrictions under the Land-Water Conservation Fund require that activities at Eaglecrest remain open to the public. *Note: Eaglecrest Ski Area was originally funded by a lands-water conservation fund grant, which supports improved access to outdoor activities and has restrictions for how the area can be developed. These current planned activities accommodate those parameters.*

- Anticipate breaking ground in May 2020.
- Next steps include finishing up community presentations to Juneau stakeholders, then finalize funding pathways and work with public to get buy-in.

Discussion: Members requested a future DAB meeting for Eaglecrest updates, to include an invitation to Douglas residents, possibly in October or early November; members discussed writing a letter of support, but tabled discussion until the September DAB meeting.

IV. Old Business:

- **Bathrooms at Treadwell Arena/Savikko Park.** Norton will review MK's draft letter of concern and bring revised version to the September meeting for final approval by DAB.
- **Douglas Island Day event.** DAB remains in communication with the Treadwell Historical Society and other planners about the exact date and other planning elements. Possibly early September.
- **Douglas Harbor Improvements.** Joyce will send out a draft letter supporting Douglas Boat Harbor improvements and request that CBJ inform DAB of all improvement plans.
- **New tower across from North Douglas.** Teri will research the decision made by FAA (or whomever) related to the tower being constructed by the airport and potential impacts to North Douglas residents, and report at September meeting.
- **Crosswalk in front of Douglas Depot/C Street stairs.** No update.
- **Communication between DAB and CBJ.** No update.
- **Douglas Island Cemeteries.** No update.
- **Douglas Island Welcome Sign at Roundabout.** No update.

V. New Business: None.

VI. Announcements.

- **Next DAB meeting:** Wednesday, September 11, 2019.

Adjourn: 7:50pm