

**EAGLECREST SUMMER OPERATIONS TASK FORCE
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
March 17, 2022 5:30pm, Zoom Webinar
Minutes**

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Members present:

Assemblymember Greg Smith (Chair), Carole Triem, Wade Bryson
Michael Satre, Shawn Eisele

Members Absent: Jonathan Dale

Staff present: Dave Scanlan, Robert Palmer, Di Cathcart

Others in Attendee Mode: Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Jeff Rogers, Bruce Garrison, Bruce Denton, Kevin Klein, Lyndsey Brollini, Jeremy Hsieh (KTOO)

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as presented.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

None

4. Update from City Attorney Rob Palmer/Key Dates & Milestones in Gondola Purchase

Mr. Palmer gave an update and overview of what CBJ staff is working on towards procurement of the gondola. Discussion was had related to shipping costs, potential buyers within Europe and the U.S., securing a licensed ski lift engineer as well as staff that would travel to Austria to inspect the gondola on-site. If the gondola purchase does not go through, CBJ would have expended roughly \$150,000 Euros in non-refundable funds.

5. Summer Operations at Eaglecrest – a brief history

Mr. Scanlan discussed the cost of the “no action alternative” and the increasing pressure for more general funds to continue running the ski area under status quo levels of operation. There was some conversation on how to define sustainability of Eaglecrest in regards to levels of General Fund Support for Eaglecrest. There was talk about the future capital schedule needs for Eaglecrest over the next 5 years. Mr. Scanlan noted that the Board has been planning annual capital needs of \$500,000 per year to begin major upgrades of core infrastructure. Mr. Smith asked what has happened in bad snow years financially. Mr. Scanlan answered that during bad snow years the Ski Area with cut expenses to try and manage to the bottom line and ultimately will draw from some of the reserve fund.

Mr. Satre spoke to the Comprehensive Plan and the goals of Eaglecrest to become a year-round recreational facility. These goals are shown in the Comprehensive plan in the following chapters and sections; Chapter 5 Tourism and Visitors, Policy 5.6 and SOP 4, Chapter 8, Chapter 9: Parks, Recreation, Trails and Natural Resources, Chapter 9: Policy 9.1 and Implementing Action 24, Subarea 8: North and West Douglas Island.

Mr. Scanlan walked the task force through a list of meetings the task force had since 2019 as well as various groups Mr. Scanlan has given summer operations presentations to between 2019 and present. Mr. Scanlan also showed the results from a 2012 Master Plan survey prepared by McDowell Group and highlighted items from the survey that are now completed. In 2019, Eaglecrest did an informal survey to current users of Eaglecrest asking what summer activities users would explore if offered at Eaglecrest; expanded hiking/biking trails and a gondola from base to summit were among the top choices of respondents. A mountain coaster, long span zip line, disc golf, ropes course and playground all ranked over 25% for interested uses.

6. Current Vision, Plans, Timeline and Associated Costs for Summer Operations

Mr. Scanlan shared a PowerPoint presentation of potential Eaglecrest area summer attractions as revenue generators such as a mountain coaster, additional hiking/biking trails and project costs. He also discussed other winter activities that could be possible such as expanded ski area boundaries, snow tubing and higher elevation access to a new Nordic ski trail area.

There was short conversation about the viability of certain components and potential lift alignments.

7. Unknowns and Uncertainties

Mr. Scanlan discuss some of the uncertainties that still exist as is customer being in the early stages of large construction projects. As the project continues forward additional certainty on various aspects we continue to be clarified. Some discussion ensued.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the task force, meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.