

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT GENERAL MEETING

### **STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)**

Alaska Trails hosted its annual conference April 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> with two planning sessions related to the SCORP. The conference is a process to gather input from regional stakeholders. The Alaska Trails is assisting AK State Parks and NPS RTCA in the current 2022-27 update of the SCORP through facilitating the formation of regional working groups whose purpose it is to establish sets of regional priorities, projects, and recommendations for the SCORP. The SCORP is updated every five years and serves as a guide for all public outdoor recreation in urban and rural neighborhoods, cities, and regions for a given state. This plan attempts to bring together the wants and needs of the recreation users and providers into a single comprehensive document. The SCORP update is also an eligibility requirement for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund which provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

Ken (Ponch) Marchbanks attended the conference for the City and is ready to provide a report. THANK PONCH!

### **FLOOD EMERGENCY/DISASTER FUNDS**

On April 19 Council Taylor and I participated in the Exploratory meeting where we identified the categories of expenses and work yet to be completed. The Scoping meeting, where we begin to discuss project costs, is scheduled for April 30; I will provide an update during my report since the submission deadline for the work session has passed.

### **ARP**

During the ARPA meeting on April 16 we learned that late on April 15 the U.S. Treasury provided some initial guidance for major metropolitan areas funds, 50k and up populations; the guidance for smaller municipalities should be out within the next 2 weeks. Guidance for smaller communities such as Gustavus would have funding delivered through the state. Once guidance for the government level funds is provided, the other eligibility categories such as schools, CIP, small businesses, etc. should be provided.

I attended the National League of Cities ARPA Town Hall on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Still nothing from the Treasury on specific spending criteria that applies to us. The Town Hall's will move to once a month from now on (starting in May) because of the volume of information being released and the time necessary to unwrap the information.

On April 16, 2021 Governor Dunleavy issued the following press release. Details of the programs should be released soon, as well as the amount of funding we can expect; the federal formula has not been calculated by the state at this time but should be released soon.

Press Release:

The State of Alaska received a total of \$1.02 billion in ARP funds to assist in recovery efforts from COVID-19, which authorizes funding certain programs through December 31, 2024. All states are waiting for final guidance from the federal Treasury Department. The Dunleavy administration is working with national organizations and federal agencies to clarify amounts and understand the requirements tied to these funds, and further work with the Alaska Legislature on details as additional guidance is provided.

- **Protecting Alaskans – \$80M**

- Emergency response costs including addressing the domestic violence impacts of COVID-19 (\$6M), portable equipment, and individual security including food security, and fishermen COVID-19 coverage.
- **Alaska Tourism Revitalization – \$150M**
  - Industry relief to promote tourism and adapt services for potential loss of cruise ship season.
- **Economic Recovery and Innovation– \$325M**
  - Relief to businesses and organizations impacted by the pandemic and preparing Alaska’s economy to emerge as a destination for workers, investors, and families.
- **Build Alaska – Infrastructure Investment – \$325M**
  - Alaska’s backlog of infrastructure needs includes safe water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure investments; leverage local and other funding using matching grant programs will benefit under this proposal.
- **General Fund Offset – \$139.26M**
  - Utilize ARP funding, up to \$1.02B, to offset existing general fund expenditures.

The American Rescue Plan Act also provided \$230.7 million for payments to Alaska communities, of which \$185.4 million requires appropriation and distribution by the State of Alaska to communities based on a federal formula.

Numerous state programs were awarded increased federal funding through the ARP, totaling \$220 million for public health and safety, workforce development, education, transportation, and emergency management.

### **OLD POST OFFICE BLDG**

The City did not receive a response to the RFB for the evaluation of the old post office building. I am working with Council member Lewis in developing an approach to address the building. Given the direction by the Council to explore the extent and costs to repair the building and make it serviceable, the following suggested steps are provided for consideration.

Combining some projects could assist in shortening the completion. Bundling small RFQ’s, following the P&P for small purchases under \$10k, projects could include the following examples (thanks Mike):

- Remove dilapidated outside entries and replace with new. We could specify making one or both larger, or providing for future expansion to have a larger covered porch, at least on the main entry on the road side.
- Evaluate and restore the septic system.
- Plumb bathroom sink and toilet as needed.
- Paint exterior (could be done by volunteers—maybe council members?)
- Service heater to return to service. (returning the oil heater to service is the cheapest, but we could do a heat pump in the future.)
- Some basic landscaping

Maybe Ben could be used to assist or complete some of these projects.

Remember, this building is within a state designated historic district and exterior work must meet the guidelines established by the state historic preservation office (SHIPO). This shouldn’t be an obstacle given that we want to renovate and repair the building. Also, this project could be a candidate for the ARP funds.

One other consideration. If we convert the building to a commercial use and lease it for a local business, we will need to identify another building for storage and covered work area for Ben. One suggestion would be to look around the community for a small building to repurpose, or

construct/purchase one and place it near City Hall for easy access to utilities, etc. Again, this could be eligible for ARP funds. Regardless, this investment will provide for 2 purposes and address the need to restore the City's asset.

### **AUDIO FOR THE DAIS**

There has been some discussion about purchasing audio equipment (microphones, etc.) for the dais to improve speaking during meetings. The addition of the microphones should resolve some of the computer operated issues and make transmission clearer, eliminate the echo, and eliminate the mute problems. Although the microphones would only be used by Council members at City Hall during the Zoom period, there are some members that participate from City Hall and would benefit from the new equipment. Equipment like this will be necessary if the council would like to continue providing Zoom meetings for residents even when the council itself eventually begins meeting in person at City Hall, something that residents have expressed a desire for. The cost of the audio system would be around \$4,500. Does the Council support this purchase?

### **MOVEMENT OF THE STEEL FLOAT**

The steel float has been moved back to the City Floats on April 23<sup>rd</sup>; the ramp was lowered on April 26<sup>th</sup>. They will be moving the Skiff floats and Wooden float in the next few weeks.

There were a couple of problems with the south end anchor lines being twisted, they will need to pull the lines from the water to see if they can undo the tangle. Because of the nature and placement of the problem they were not able to detach the spectra line to the float from the buoy (anchor lines) and were forced instead to detach them from the float itself and leave them free in the water. The broken collar tie hinge did break loose completely from the collar and is now hanging by a chain in the water below the float. The intent is to leave it there until the State comes out to make their repairs. The rest of the collar ties moved freely and with the exception of some dipping they all seemed to be intact and undamaged.

Once again, a big THANKS to Toshua and his Claim Jumper crew, our Marine Facilities Coordinator Ben Sadler, Justin Marchbanks, and Vice Mayor Vanderzanden.

