

Debra Thompson

From: Daniel Tucker <daniel@icefieldfarm.com>
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To: Assembly
Subject: Future of tourism comments

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Greetings

I am glad to see that there will be a meeting on the future of tourism in Petersburg and I plan to attend. The other night in the sauna I heard a fisherman say "Give it five years and Petersburg will be just another trashy tourist town like Juneau and Ketchikan". Growing the tourism industry without selling the soul of our town is a challenge, and it won't happen without imagination, focus, and teamwork. But I believe there are great possibilities in sharing this place with visitors.

Here is a way forward as I see it:

Give ourselves permission to dream big and imagine a future for our community that we're actually excited about. This will create the energy and vision to reach those goals. Everyone will have different ideas but there will be common ground somewhere and that's what we should focus on. And remember the values we need to protect like clean water, healthy ecosystems, and a strong community.

I imagine a new Viking ship that's actually seaworthy, Norwegian-style floating saunas for rent, and more beautiful public art that tells the story of this place. A bigger space for the Claussen Museum would be great too, this town has so much history and knowledge to share, particularly around fish and fishing. Find a way to attract talented chefs and share more of our abundance of fresh seafood with visitors.

Find or create attractions in the off season to spread out tourism activities. I have friends who just took a fantastic midwinter vacation in Banff- the Canadians know how to make winter awesome.

More trails and other amenities on the mainland could create big opportunities for local eco-tourism businesses while leaving fish and game resources for local use. My wife and I are building a farm at Point Agassiz, and we want to offer visitors the experience of amazing farmstays complete with a wood-fired sauna and excellent fresh meals, permaculture workshops, healing retreats and more. I know that our business will be much more viable if it's part of a whole ecosystem of attractions in the Thomas Bay-Point Agassiz area. I imagine kayaking, hiking, river rafting and mountaineering excursions, all creating awesome visitor experiences without taking away any fish or game from locals. There is great potential for cooperation between different tour and lodging operators. All of us are selling the brand of Petersburg, Alaska.

I think it's a good idea to invest in another small cruise ship dock and maintain majority ownership locally. Design it to be multifunctional as much as possible so other industries could use it. More docks are a good thing around here.

I think small cruise ship visits are a great way to introduce Petersburg to a larger audience, but the real objective should be attracting independent travelers who stay for days or weeks at a time. This creates a lot more opportunities for local businesses than ship passengers with only a few hours to spend. There

are a lot of possibilities for targeted marketing online; I believe that our future visitors are out there, we just have to reach them.

Sincerely,
Daniel Tucker



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