

COVID-19 ECONOMIC STABILIZATION TEAM

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 21, 2020 **Location:** Online ZOOM **Time:** 7:00 – 8:15 pm

Participants: 23 Total (Meeting open to the public)

City Council Members:

Susan Warner, Joe Clark, Vice Mayor Brittney Cannamore, Joe Vanderzanden

Affiliates:

Leah Okin-Magowan, Gustavus Visitors Association (GVA)

General Participants:

Ben DeBoer, Emma Johnson, Erin Olson, Toshua Parker, Zach Decker, Greg Taylor, (Diane/Ken) Huff, Sara Doyle, Jake Ohlson, Forrest Braden, Kimber Owen, Justin Marchbanks, Kim Heacox, Jim Mackovjak, Kaitlin Nygard, Natalie Vaz, Elzbieta Kunat,

Introduction: This was the second in a series of informal conversations among Gustavus Community members on stabilizing our local economy and providing for a long-term recovery from the financial impacts of the COVID-19 virus.

Discussion: This session continued discussion from the May 16th first meeting, with the focus on rejuvenating our visitor industry and brainstorming ideas for increasing visitation, extending length of stay, and promoting our visitor economy. Discussion also touched on issues arising with a 2020 summer season opening with half a dozen members of the fishing and lodging owners present.

Sara Doyle from the National Park Service presented information on the Glacier Bay National Park Front Country plan and sent the document to the group via the chat section: <https://www.nps.gov/glba/learn/management/frontcountry.htm> Page 16 lists 48 guest rooms, 7,771 guests between 2016-2018. Jake Ohlson commented on planning and stated Aramark would have fuel at the fuel dock.

Regarding industry 4 efforts to develop Gustavus as a science, learning, and leadership conferencing & workshop destination, Kim Heacox presented an introduction to their emerging plans to unify the Inian Island Institute, the Arete Project, and other local resources into a 40 acre campus of a new John Muir Alaska Leadership School (JMALS).

Action Items

1. Warner, contact fishing & lodging owners to share summer mitigation plans with the community
2. Warner, report on Economic Stabilization progress at next City of Gustavus Meeting June 8th

3. Okin, Prepare “COVID-19 and Visiting Gustavus Business” pamphlet for residents & visitors
4. Cannamore & Okin, continue work on music festival for 2021
5. Warner, post notice & invites for **3. Elevate Food Production** meeting on Thursday June 4th

Other Notes

Ponch Marchbanks supplied a link for grants to build trails:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/grants/trails.htm>

Sara Doyle supplied a link to NPS “**Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance**” program where communities can apply for technical assistance to help plan “close-to-home recreation opportunities.” Applications are due by June 30th

Sara also posted an answer to Joe Clark’s question regarding length of stay at the Park
GBNP Average stay and spending (2015) see page 83-86

<http://npshistory.com/publications/social-science/nrr-2019-1924.pdf>

Meeting Audio Recording Available (apx 1 hour) at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/play/tMB_f-7q2o3Gd3EtQSDVvYvW9S0f6Ksgydl8vZezh61VXBQYwXwNeYVNrbZ2K2W3ndOvNV2V_W8HkYm

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 4th, 2020 7:00 – 8:15 PM
Elevate our Local Food Production capacity

Be sure to **Update to ZOOM 5.0 by Saturday May 30th**

You might also like to read the article Sara posted:

Sustainable Food in National Parks

This report describes a Food for the Parks initiative, including NPS concessions models and site-specific challenges:

<https://potrerogroup.com/files/FoodfortheParks.pdf>