From: Collin Sielbach
To: City Clerk
Subject: VITF 2.0 Recommendations Comments
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Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these issues that so profoundly impact living in Juneau.

In general, I believe that the industrialized 'cattle drive' tour model employed by the cruise ship industry is having a net negative effect on Juneau. The adverse effects of so many people being herded through town are not adequately offset by investment in keeping Juneau pleasant for the people that live here. I think this could be balanced by either reducing the impact (numbers) of this tour model or by increasing investment in the needs of residents.

I understand that our hands are legally tied, but being forced to spend Marine Passenger Fees as the cruise industry dictates is frustrating when so many needs are not adequately met due to lack of funding.

I have broken down comments on specific line items in the Draft Recommendations Tracker by their line number:

1-Please do something to reduce the impact of the helicopter noise ASAP. Whether they are rattling my windows in the valley or buzzing the trail on a hike, it seems that you can't escape them for more than 10 minutes in the summer.

3-Something needs to happen to address the cost of permanent, year round housing. Seasonal work, vacation homes, and short-term rentals must be impacting this.

5-19-I understand that compromises will need to be made to balance the interests of locals as well as the industry. Cruise ship tourism has completely overrun the downtown area. As far as I'm concerned, they can keep it if we can get some relief for the rest of town.

20-The number of whale boats crowding any animals in Saginaw channel has become

disgusting. Navigating this stretch of water and North Pass is a nightmare due to the volume of high-speed traffic. If possible, I avoid these areas even at the cost of burning extra time or fuel.

21/22-The new tour dock in Statter Harbor is a great place for tour boats to dock and load, unfortunately they still plug up the rest of the harbor when docked for the night. Maybe some sort of limit can be imposed to ensure that locals and transient fishermen still have space in the harbor. If not, maybe the industry can build themselves another dock to accommodate their growing needs for space.
-At least once a season I am almost knocked into the water when launching or retrieving my boat at the ramp by a whale boat coming in at speed to dock. We need to enforce the existing no-wake rules.
-Although the whale fleet is the bulk of the problem, the ever-growing charter fishing fleet adds to the strains placed on the waters and harbors around Juneau and likely deserves some attention as well.

27-It would be very interesting to know how much money is being made on tourism to Juneau and to be able to compare that to the money that stays in town in the pockets of the City or permanent residents.

33-While emergency services are the most visible and urgent additional load on local infrastructure, we also need to be recouping costs of wear and load on publicly owned street and utility (water/wastewater) infrastructure.

Thanks,

Collin