



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: February 19, 2021
Re: Info Update

LODGING UPDATE:

As you will recall, at Monday's Town Council meeting the Council held an impromptu (at least not an agenda item) discussion regarding the Traveler Affidavit. The Aspen Times covered and reported on this. At yesterday's Tourism Board meeting, there was a (non-agenda) discussion about the affidavit topic as well. The Board discussed the adverse impacts the affidavit was having on their respective business and further discussed a letter that ACRA had developed supporting the elimination of the affidavit (the letter is attached). The ACRA letter was written on behalf of both the Aspen and Snowmass Village Lodging communities; as such, several of our lodges have signed on to it. The Tourism Board was made aware of the informal 2/16 Council conversation. After further discussion, the Tourism Board made a motion to:

Recommend that Town Council petition the Public Health Board to eliminate the Traveler Affidavit. The motion passed unanimously.

It is my understanding that the Board of Health will be discussing this topic at their meeting next week.

AS LONG AS WE ARE ON THE TOPIC

In 2020 (oh, so long ago), Snowmass was #1 in occupancy among our competitive set in January, February, March and April. Obviously 2021 shows a much different picture... we finished 16th out of 17 in occupancy during the month of January. Overall, 23,201 lodging rooms were booked in Dec 2020, compared to 30,490 rooms booked in Dec 2019. This represents a 31% decrease Year over year. For the entire year in 2020, lodging rooms were down 26% or about 78,600 rooms. About 55,000 of those rooms were lost in the months of March, April, May and June when the lodging was closed/restricted. A summary of this and a lot of other very good information can be found in the Tourism 2020 Wrap Book. It is a great recap of all the hard work the Tourism Department undertook last year. The book is attached.

FEDERAL COVID RESPONSE

Recently, we received a quick update on the status of local funding in the proposed federal COVID package moving through Congress now. There was a long effort last year by many in Congress to secure more direct funding for both state and local governments that was ultimately not included in the final legislative COVID package that passed in December 2020. But with the new legislative package under consideration, it now looks likely that additional local government funding, including direct distribution to TOSV, will be included. Although everything is still very drafty, it appears the distribution is likely going to be based on population counts (see, the Census really matters).

Based on the current version, which is subject to change a thousand more times, the Town would receive somewhere in the neighborhood of \$500,000 in federal support. Definitely not chump change.

TID BITS

- One of the casualties of the Westin remodel this summer is the Colorado Municipal League. Unfortunately, we won't be hosting CML's 99th Annual summer conference as we had hoped and planned for.
- County sales tax revenue was down 11% in December; but the good news is that it was only down 0.5% for the year. In comparison, TOSV sales tax was down 11% for the year.
- Here is some good news, our staff in Transit and Public Works is scheduled to receive their COVID vaccines next week.
- We are applying for a grant to install more electric charging stations
- This cold weather has kept the snow light and the ice at the Rec Center rink in good condition; so good that we were able to finish our hockey league. March or Bust!
- Occupancy numbers were good over Presidents Day, some of the highest numbers of the season.
- We have a Tourism Talk scheduled for next Wednesday.
- Coffey Place continues to make good progress. We plan to get the homes under contract in the next several weeks so they can be sold to the lottery winners as their TCOs are given. So far, everyone is really liking the units.
- After a successful demonstration project last year, we are working through the final details to have a permanent traffic calming speedhump placed on Country Club Circle before summer starts.
- Following up to the e-mail the Council received from Auden Shendler about updating electrification requirements in the Building Code; this isn't the first time this concept has been considered. While there are still a lot of unknowns, the topic is likely worth investigating further and possibly pursuing. It could be part of the ICC Code update conversation, which we were tentatively planning to look at later this year. Also, don't forget, the EAB recommended adopting a Climate Action Plan this year along with adopting a new carbon emission reduction goal. This initiative could be tied to that planning effort and the larger goal.
- We learned today that Laura Rice needs to resign from the Planning Commission. We received her resignation letter today. She was a great asset; she will be missed.

CC: Department Directors