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2019 Annual Report

Joseph Kahklen
President

First Things First Alaska Foundation has been active during 2019 in Juneau and Southeast Alaska to encourage economic and resource development.

Rosemary Hagevig
Vice President

Wants and Needs Campaign

Corey Baxter
Secretary

FTFAF initiated a campaign focused on the topic of “Wants and Needs” Radio time was purchased for several ads calling attention to the difference between wants and needs as our CBJ Assembly considered many requests for funding. It continued into the summer and was changed in the Fall to focus on the Finance Committee as it looked at addressing funding short falls as a result of reduced state funding and increased expenditures. One mark of success was the voters turning down a ballot initiative requesting city funding for a private facility. This campaign included a letter to the Mayor encouraging funding for maintenance rather than new projects.

Frank Bergstrom
Treasurer

Directors
Richard Burns
Wayne Coogan
Naomi Hobbs
Neil MacKinnon
Scott Spickler

Juneau Economic Development Plan

John Sandor
Director Emeritus

FTFAF Reviewed the book *When the Boomers Bail* by Mark Lautman that discusses the need for communities to deal with the worker shortage and the need to create a community inviting to younger workers. The Board made a \$10,000 commitment in 2018 to begin funding process to be led by Mr. Lautman. Unfortunately, little progress has been made on this project thus far. Discussions have been initiated with new members of the CBJ Assembly.

Denny DeWitt
Executive Director

Juneau Access and Southeast Transportation Plan

FTFAF continues its work to see the Juneau Access Project move forward. While Governor Walker chose the no action option, activities continue to finish the Supplemental EIS and resolve open litigation issues. That process concluded on December 27, 2018. We continued to educate all parties on the increasing cost of living associated with transportation limitations (monopoly) in the region. Multi-mode access via water, air, and land are critical factors communicated to public and private parties in enhancing the quality of life and job opportunities in the region.

First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) is dedicated to preserving the economic viability and future of Alaska through education. There is a clear need to educate the public on the benefits of responsible economic development and natural resource management.

FTFAF worked to regain funding for Juneau Access and was successful in getting the funding stolen from the project in 2017 restored in 2018. Governor Mike Dunleavy took a strong stand supporting Juneau Access and assisted in protecting the state funding in the 2019 budget discussions.

FTFAF supported proposals to use the funding to move the highway to Cascade Point and establish an Alaska Marine Highway dock.

Roadless Rule

The U.S. Forest Service continued discussions of removing or limiting the scope of the roadless rule in Alaska. FTFAF provided two letters directly to the Forest Service requesting the Tongass and Chugiak National Forests be exempt from the Roadless Rule. FTFAF also joined with several other organizations in a joint letter to the Forest Service requesting exemption from the Roadless Rule.

The forest Service released a draft EIS with a total exemption as the preferred option. FTFAF submitted a letter supporting the preferred option. We expect the process to continue until mid 2020.

Mining Activity

The Board contributed funding to the Alaska Miners Association survey on impact of mining on Alaska and communities where mines are located. The report **The Economic Benefits of Southeast Alaska's Mining Industry** was mailed to all of Southeast Alaska in the spring of 2019.

FTFAF produced a campaign in theaters running from October through November reporting on the value of mining in Southeast Alaska. The multi-media campaign was conducted in Juneau.

FTFAF filed a letter with the US Forest Service suggesting important items that should be addresses in the EIS for the Kensington Mine Plan of Operation Amendment 1.

Meetings with Political Candidates

At the request of the Mayor and several candidates, the FTFAF Board met with all candidates requesting meetings and discussed economic development and resource development with them.

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Juneau Local Guide

FTFAF was requested and provided a summary of First Things First Alaska Foundation purpose and activities for the “Juneau Local Guide.”

Gold Rush Days

FTFAF continued its annual participation in Juneau’s Gold Rush Days sponsoring a booth, shared with CPR, displaying many position papers supporting economic development.

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