

Mayor's Report

February 2025

**On January 21, the Local Boundary Commission met to review the four Requests for Reconsideration that were filed on or before January 15th (City of Gustavus and Elfin Cove, City of Pelican, City of Tenakee Springs and Gustavus Visitor's Association). The LBC voted to reconsider two of the required standards necessary to approve a new borough: the Boundaries standard and the Best Interests of the State. Subsequently, both Hoonah and Elfin Cove filed Response Briefs on January 31. Now the LBC has up to 90 days to set a decisional meeting to reconsider the two standards. At this point we are in a holding pattern, waiting for that meeting to be scheduled.

**Chuck Schroth, of Gustavus Landscaping, has completed the walkway at the Salmon River Park. Chuck went above and beyond to produce a beautiful walkway to the playground area, as well as an area for a bench for parents to sit and visit while watching children play. The addition of the walkway makes our park more attractive and more accessible to and from the parking area. The original project was envisioned by Gustavus School students and funding was generously provided by the Reuben E. Crossett Fund. On behalf of Gustavus families, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Chuck!

**We had our first staff meeting on January 15th. Staff were appreciative of the opportunity and shared thoughts and ideas about their respective departments. We discussed a format for future meetings which will include policy review, airing of concerns or sharing highlights, general housekeeping details and keeping meetings to under an hour. I appreciate the opportunity to have this valuable time with our wonderful staff.

**I would like to thank Council Member Brian Taylor for his contributions to the Council over the past few years. His presence at the table will be missed. We will be looking for a community member to fill his seat beginning as soon as the March 10th meeting and ending in October. Brian will be given a Certificate of Appreciation for his service.

**I have spent time attending LBC meetings, corresponding by/responding to emails, reviewing applications for the Policy Committee, meeting with residents both formally and informally, meeting with individual council members, daily communications with administrative staff, writing letters of support and generally trying to stay on top of the issues.

I would like to extend an open invitation to all community members to join me at the Fireweed any Friday afternoon at 3:00 for conversation on any topic. If this time doesn't work for you, I am happy to set up a meeting for a time and location that does.