

# HBHWG

## Responses to questions re: Cruise Ships Lunch Forum: April 2014

### 1. Is Bringing cruise ships to Humboldt Bay harbor a good idea?

YES: 89%

OTHER: 11%

#### Why?

- Of course it is (a good idea) for anyone who wants to see our community and our people prosper economically. Unfortunately, there are some who are actively opposed. While viewing the slide aerial view of Dock B. I couldn't help but recognize the adjoining Balloon Tract property, and be reminded of the deplorably successful effort to prevent its development.
- It will bring economy
- Economic value to community
- Economic stimulus primarily and development of infrastructure around the bay
- Good jobs-advance economy
- Economy
- Economic activity; must deal with infrastructure that can be utilized for other purposes
- More use of harbor
- More outside money coming in instead of out
- All about jobs and the economy
- Expands tourism, brings \$ in area, allows local tour operators to create mini businesses
- It's another opportunity at economic development as well as exposure to our assets.
- People seem to be wanting to travel more. Creation of jobs.
- \$ JOBS \$ Community involvement
- Up to a point. An all-purpose dock @4X the cost of a cruise dock will return 100 times the cost.

#### Why not?

Tourism **alone** will not create sustainable living-wage jobs.

### 2. What are the assets in our area that make cruise ships a viable enterprise here?

- Leaving out the obvious ones, the greatest asset is identifying and collecting interested parties-- political, business, utilities, property owners, investors, not limited to locals, but including out-of-area stakeholders. This Working Group is the kernel of that effort, and I congratulate you for your success to date. As a retired marketing and sales guy, I regard this as a marketing project (and apparently so do you). My inclination would be to brainstorm and identify everyone who would benefit and do a *push-pull*. Your meetings, and advertising, *pull* people in, but there ought to also be a *push* effort, outreach, evangelizing, quantifying the benefits to individuals--in a word, selling.
- Old Town, Samoa Cookhouse, the Redwoods- north and south, Ferndale, Timber Heritage, water sports, etc.
- Great tour opportunities, Great old town area. Potential train excursions.
- Redwoods, quaint intact communities like Old Town, Ferndale, rafting, fishing, etc.
- Natural beauty, history, Victorian buildings
- Our big trees, zoo, Madaket, Samoa Cookhouse, lots of things to do!
- Hiking, forest trails, kayaking and canoeing, river trips, fishing, historical and biological displays
- The bay, old town, redwoods, Ferndale, Trinidad, etc.
- Great physical attractions
- Redwoods, Bay, National wildlife refuge
- Support services for the ships and tourists

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- Redwoods, historical places, natural surroundings, culture and entertainment, breweries
- 4 Victorian area museums
- Redwoods--history in logging--arts--music--water activities--beaches
- Railroad excursions from a few hundred feet from dock
- The rich history and natural beauty
- All those presented, plus “special events”--running club events, ball games, music, fishing
- Our artists, musicians, actors, chefs.

### 3. What do we need to have and do to make cruise ships a real possibility?

- Get a simple organization behind it--after consulting the rest.
- Have an organization, to include quick-response vendors, volunteers, public safety, shuttle transit, etc., who can react swiftly and efficiently to service a ship's arrival, and then pack up and tidy up and go dormant, without incurring community resentment. Build an all-weather dock and an inviting, attractive terminal area that efficiently ushers a crowd toward Old Town, or to waiting shuttles to other destinations.
- We need a lot of energy--a solid business plan--fund-raising grants.
- Permits, community involvement, private money, less government
- Business (retail) owners being willing to be open longer and weekend hours; community buy-in.
- Big dock and bus tours, advertising on travel websites, info booths at arrival points, shuttle buses
- A viable dock on the Eureka side or a rail link to a multi-purpose dock on the west side.
- Get money for the dock.
- Improve docks, boardwalk
- Get everyone pulling together and fund/develop infrastructure
- Need a proper dock and personnel
- Dock facilities, rail
- Get permits
- Improve infrastructure; address homeless issue
- Rebuild dock B
- Construct a multi-purpose dock and dock B. Contract with cruise ship operators to bring ships here.
- Transportation and other infrastructure
- Money

Organize/Plan/Sell: 6

Infrastructure/Dock: 10

Other: 3

### 4. What are the greatest obstacles to making cruise ships viable?

- Formidable ecology-obsessed, anti-business population and a university that encourages it; a substantial rural population, ranchers and dairy farmers, who derive no direct benefit; the oyster industry, if it regards any expanded use of the harbor as a threat; the political effects of the above; the Army Corps of Engineers may have higher priorities; the competition, in the form of other west coast cruise ship ports, unless our entry into the market can somehow fit into their plans, or resolve their problems.
- Money-infrastructure setup.
- Lack of infrastructure. objection from environmental groups? Transient activities.
- Infrastructure

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- Regulatory agencies will make any work to build/restore a new dock cost prohibitive/lengthy. Homelessness is scary to outsiders.
- Failure to get \$ to rebuild the dock; permitting w/Coastal Commission; getting old town businesses “on board” (no pun intended).
- Lack of infrastructure and political will
- Infrastructure, homeless issue
- Permits for terminal
- Infrastructure
- Local politics. Local mind-set against growth.
- Getting everyone to pull together and environmental regulations
- Homeless problem--A strong committee-- a business plan-- I heard a lot of “I don’t know” today-- we need to know.
- Money--100% community support; 100% local, state and federal govt. support. More expensive studies that go nowhere.
- The cost of 7-10 ship arrivals per year.

Infrastructure: 6      Homeless issue: 4      Buy-in/Support: 4      Permitting: 3  
Funding: 3      Politics: 2      Environmentalists: 2

### **5. What can you do to bring cruise ships to Humboldt County?**

- Work toward an all-purpose dock for year-round, 360 day use.
- I’m retired, and I’m spread pretty thin between my Kiwanis club and the Taxpayer League. Nevertheless, I’m sure I could find time to help...if you have a core committee that meets more frequently to plan, I would try to participate.
- support Chet, get “Unnamed Group” on board, synergy
- Become a committee member; study other small cities that have been successful
- As an engineer, bring technical expertise and assist with permitting/environmental regulatory compliance.
- Grants
- Help create subcommittees for different research and recommending purposes: infrastructure costs, permits, funding, cruise company requirements, retail needs/opinions, etc.
- Provide an excursion train and museum
- Support the cause
- Public/private venture, hands on ?? and design
- Talk it up
- Be a cheer-leader
- Talk supportively about it. this is a project that AHHA “Ass’n of Humboldt Harbor Agencies” needs to work on and put together a TIGER Grant.
- What ever Chet tells me