

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
Monday July 14, 2008, 7:00 P.M.
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

Jerry Gruen, David Larson, Frank Metz, Jerry Baganz, Sue Knauer, Ralph Hess

Others Present

Harbor Master Dennis Cherny

City Administrator Mark Grams

1. **Roll Call: (Absent: Traci Mead)**
2. **Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting**
Jerry Baganz made a motion to approve minutes as written and Frank Metz seconded. Motion carried.
3. **Monthly Financial Report**
City Administrator Grams said that it doesn't look real good for launches and transients. Launches are down considerably from last year. He said that fuel revenue and interest on investments are down also. The rest is as expected. Harbormaster Cherny added that the marina is down 554 daily launches compared to last year. Ice is down \$1000 and transients are down slightly as well. Gasoline sales are down by 7000 gallons and diesel is down by 3000 gallons compared to last year. It was asked if the road construction had an impact and Harbormaster Cherny didn't believe so. He said that the poor fishing and weather had a lot to do with the marina being slow. He did mention that he marina is still getting the big boats in because our diesel fuel is really competitively priced. This last weekend he said that between three 75' yachts they took over 2500 gallons of diesel fuel.
4. **Conversion Of Permanent Piers To Floating Piers**
Harbormaster Cherny said that City Engineer Rob Vanden Noven drafted the RFP (request for proposal) to send out to the engineering firms for bids on drawing up plans for the floating piers. The RFP was sent out to JJR, Baird, and STS out of Green Bay. They must submit their bids by the July 31st due date. He said by the next meeting the bids should be in and the companies may even come in to present their proposals to the commission.
5. **Update On Slip Rentals**
Harbormaster Cherny said that the marina just rented the last 36' slip today, so the marina is now full.
6. **Update On Maritime Festival And Other Festivals On Marina Grounds**
Harbormaster Cherny said that the upcoming festivals are Fish Day, Lion's Fest, and Maritime Heritage Festival. He said that Fish Day and Lion's Fest are pretty routine. For Maritime Festival he mentioned that the marina had to build two stairways to get over the old Coal crane tracks over on the coal dock. The stairways are 3' high by 6' long by 8' wide. The stairways are needed in order to get all the foot traffic over to the tall ships that will be tied along the coal dock. He said that the stairways cost the marina roughly \$1200 in materials to construct. The marina has been collaborating with the BID district for the festival.
City Administrator Grams added that instead of the parade this year, there will be a performance of High School Musical taking place on the Main Stage at 11am and at 10am there will be a short parade of marching bands going from city hall to the family stage on the Fish Day grounds where they will have standstill performances.

7. **Harbormaster's Report**

Harbormaster Cherny wanted to see what the commission felt about credit card use at the marina. He said that with the high cost of fuel, the bigger boats are charging large amounts of money on their credit cards when purchasing fuel. Because of that the marina has to pay higher fees to the bank for the credit cards. He said that the marina is charged approximately 2.39% for the use of credit cards. He wanted to know if the marina should eat the cost which by the end of the season could be more than \$12,000 or if we should pass it on to the consumer, with the marina being short on monies due to the slower season. He said that he did call around to other marinas and most are just absorbing the cost, but up in Sturgeon Bay, they charge the customers 2.5% for credit card use and always have. But, he said that if we would charge the extra 2.5% we would have to notify customers, by law, that we are doing so. To make it easier, Commissioner Metz questioned raising our fuel prices by ten cents to compensate the cost. City Administrator Grams added that maybe doing just half that would help the marina. Do a five cent increase rather than ten. **Jerry Baganz made a motion to increase the price of fuel by eight cents a gallon to compensate credit card costs. Frank Metz seconded. Motion carried.**

Harbormaster Cherny mentioned the article that was in the Journal a few weeks back regarding Lake Huron. The article said that Lake Huron's fishing industry is all but gone, due to naturally reproducing salmon and a new mussel that is eating all the bait food. He said that is something that should be thought about in the future, because it could happen to us he said. He said that the lake is in a world of hurt. Less fish means fewer boaters.

Charter Captain Nick Waranka said that the charters have been getting a lot of questions since that article came out. He said that these new Aquatic mussels are the most dangerous yet. They can survive in depths of 600 to 700 feet where the zebra mussels could only survive in the shallow waters. He said that these mussels are eating all the forage that the bait fish need to survive.

Harbormaster Cherny said that the DNR has been getting many calls as well. He has no clue what could happen here or to other marinas if the fishing industry isn't as good as it has been in the past. He estimates that about one third of the marina contains pleasure boaters, and the rest are fishermen. It will probably take a couple of years to see what direction Lake Michigan will go.

8. **Marina Tenants' Comments**

Marina tenant Franz Schubert mentioned that some tenants were wondering what kind of fuel we had and if it had chemical additives. Harbormaster Cherny informed him that the gasoline at the marina is reformulated fuel 93 octane with 10% ethanol. No other chemicals are added. City Administrator Grams said that he had some tenants complaining about bad boards on the docks. Harbomaster Cherny said that due to putting in floating piers in a couple of years he isn't doing large replacements of boards like in the past, but he does replace bad boards immediately when he is told of them. He said that there is no reason just to replace boards unless there is a hazard.

9. **Adjournment**

Ralph Hess made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. and Sue Knauer seconded. Motion carried.