

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON  
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING  
Monday July 8, 2013, 7:00 P.M.  
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

Sue Knauer, David Larson, Tony Matera, Jerry Gruen, Dan Herlache, Jerry Baganz, and Bill Driscoll

Others Present

Harbor Master Dennis Cherny

1. **Roll Call:** (Absent: Mark Grams; All Members Present)

2. **Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting**

Dave Larson made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Dan Herlache seconded. Motion Carried.

3. **Monthly Financial Report**

Harbormaster Cherny said that business has been good. We had 30-35 transients in this past weekend and sold a lot of fuel. The Misc. Account that Member Driscoll had questioned at last meeting is all dock box money. Ladders and steps used to be included in that number before we went to floating piers.

He is hoping the weather and fishing will continue to improve and that the marina has a good July!

4. **Update On Slip Rentals**

Harbormaster Cherny said that as of right now we have 14 slips open in the main marina. There are 4 to 5 boaters looking to rent slips for the season in August when the rates drop.

5. **Discuss An Ordinance To Prohibit Feeding Ducks And Geese**

Member Driscoll said that one of the things we had to do to be a *Clean Marina* was to post a sign not to feed the ducks, yet everyday there are people feeding them. They stand right beside the sign and feed the ducks. So the question is should it become an ordinance, especially with the new Coal Dock Park opening. It's not good for the birds to become dependents. He believes that it is something worth looking into.

Member Baganz asked who would be responsible for enforcing the ordinance. Harbormaster Cherny said that either the police or the DNR.

Member Larson said that we will need the City Attorney to research it. Member Matera said that we are not looking for this to be a revenue source, but for the betterment of the area. To keep the areas cleaner and more manageable and it is better for the birds. Member Herlache said that honestly, it is a public health issue and something needs to be done.

**Bill Driscoll made a motion to recommend to the Council the prohibiting of feeding of ducks and geese and Tony Matera seconded. Motion carried.**

6. **Proposed Life Vest Station**

Harbormaster Cherny said that the Waterfront Safety Committee has learned that the DNR has a program where they will provide the money to put up a stand or a kiosk for life vests and they will donate the life vests to put in it. It is a program that if someone has forgotten a life vest and needs one to go boating, or what have you, they are able to take one and return it on the honor system.

Member Larson mentioned that he has heard that over time the number of life vests actually grows. It is a very successful program he says.

Harbormaster Cherny said that he believes the reason it is being brought up at the meeting is that the marina will be responsible for supervising this. He said that an Eagle Scout is looking to build this for his project. He also believes that some sort of lease agreement will need to be signed, but is unsure who will be signing it.

The station would be located by the launch ramps on the south side of the dumpster enclosure. They are intended for those going boating that may have forgotten a life jacket. They are not intended for swimming.

Member Matera mentioned that his only concern would be where the liability lands if one of the life vests that some puts on doesn't function or wasn't put on properly and something happens. Member Larson said that it falls on the DNR.

Member Gruen asked who signs the contract. Harbormaster Cherny said that he spoke with City Administrator Grams about it earlier in the day assuming that it would be the Waterfront Safety Committee who signed it and City

Administrator Grams said that someone in the city has to take this responsibility. The DNR turns the station over to us and we accept the official activities to support the loaner board station. It would be our responsibility for stocking and maintaining the floatation devices of the loaner board station and notifying the DNR if some are missing and presumed

lost or stolen. There is a lot of liability here per Harbormaster Cherny. Member Gruen mentioned that he sees some problems with this. Member Larson believes that this should be brought back up to City Administrator Grams. When they approved this through the Council they were under the assumption that the DNR would be responsible for this station not the marina.

To summarize per member Baganz, yes we think that it is a good idea and would like to be supportive, however, we do not fully understand the responsibilities of the harbormaster and before the commission can support it fully, we need to fully understand our responsibilities and that this should maybe go back to the Council.

Member Driscoll said that it can't be that hard to find another marina that has implemented this program already. He asked if Harbormaster Cherny knew of any other marinas that have life vest stations. He said no, but that he was having a Wisconsin Marina Association conference call later in the week and would ask the other marinas at that time. Harbormaster Cherny thinks that we should do it. Member Matera said that he isn't trying to be a liability road block as we all feel that this is a good idea. He just wants to make sure that the marina isn't holding themselves out there. Member Baganz wanted to know what the plan was going forward from today. Member Gruen said that Harbormaster Cherny was going to talk with other marina operators to see what these stations all entail what if any concerns there are. If there are any concerns that come up that they are brought up to City Administrator Grams. Member Larson said that he would talk to the other aldermen and City Administrator Grams about everyone's concerns and possibly have it put on the next Common Council agenda as a discussion item.

7. **Harbor Master's Report**

Harbormaster Cherny said that the marina has been busy. We had 30 transients in this past weekend. Great Lakes Sport Fishermen had their derby, not as many participants, but a decent number of fish were caught.

He mentioned that City Administrator Grams plan for the Waterfront Safety Committee is to put out the life rings and ladders along the beach and break wall. The marina will be responsible for checking on the life rings and ladders on the break wall daily for their presence from shore. Park and Rec will be responsible for checking those on the North and South beaches as well as the coal dock. Police Auxiliary will physically check them once a week for their condition to see if any repairs are necessary.

8. **Marina Tenants' Comments**

Tenant Paul Markworth had a few concerns and these may very well have to do with city ordinances he said. His first concern was about transient boaters and their dogs not being on leashes while they are walking down the dock. He wants to know who enforces this stuff. Jet skis that are throwing a wake and boats are out on the lake and coming in without running lights at night. He would just like to know what can be done about these things.

Member Larson said that as far as the dog issue is concerned, that does fall under a city ordinance and is enforced by the police, but it does have to be brought to their attention.

Harbormaster Cherny added that he will mention to our DNR warden that his presence is being requested on evenings and weekends when most of these boating issues regarding running lights and wakes are occurring.

Tenant Markworth suggested possibly handing out the Marina Rules and Regulations to visiting boaters. He said that he isn't trying to be the marina cop, but is just hoping that these concerns can be looked into. He also wanted to add that the pump out system has been working great this summer! Tenant Mike Wilkens mentioned his concerns about the friendliness of the elderly employees at the marina.

9. **Any Other Business That May Come Properly Before The Commission**

Member Knauer asked Harbormaster Cherny if there was any word on when the yacht may be arriving. He said that it could be here by next Saturday.

10. **Adjournment**

**Sue Kanuer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. and Tony Matera seconded. Motion carried.**