

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
Monday March 11, 2013, 7:00 P.M.
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

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

Others Present

Harbor Master Dennis Cherny
City Administrator Mark Grams
Mayor Tom Mlada

1. **Roll Call:** (Absent: All members present)
2. **Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting**
Dan Herlache made a motion to approve the minutes and Jerry Baganz seconded. Motion carried.
3. **Monthly Financial Report**
City Administrator Grams said that there's not much to report as the only monies that have come in so far are for slip fees. He did mention that the 2012 end of year final numbers should be ready for the next meeting.
4. **Update On Slip Rentals**
Harbormaster Cherny said that as of right now we have 25 slips open, about the same as last year at this time. Of those we have five that are tentative. They are waiting on sea trials or purchase of boats. He said that the marina is facing the same problems as any other marina. There just aren't new people coming into boating at this time. For example, he said, the brand new Pier 32 marina in Chicago has 1000 slips and of those only approximately 250 have been rented for the season. So compared to them, we are looking pretty good. Member Knauer wondered if the marina was going to lose any sailboat tenants due to the low water. Harbormaster Cherny said that we are okay as of right now and have not lost anyone due to the water level. Member Baganz added that according to the Harbormaster's annual report the marina has only had a net reduction of 8 slips over the last three years. That is pretty good considering what Chicago is dealing with.
5. **Approve Hiring Seasonal Employees**
Harbormaster Cherny said that all the employees listed are those that have worked at the marina in the past and were good employees. **Jerry Baganz made a motion to approve the hiring of seasonal employees and Tony Matera seconded. Motion carried.**
6. **Approve Raising Daily And Seasonal Boat Launch Fees**
Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that he spoke with the DNR and we are able to raise our launch rates. He was looking at going from \$9.00 to \$10.00 for a daily launch and from \$90.00 to \$100.00 on a season launch. He said that we are in the middle as far as rates are concerned. Launching in Sheboygan and Manitowoc is a few dollars cheaper and south of Port Washington it is the same or few dollars more expensive. He wanted to get the commission's input before he went ahead and increased the rates.
Member Herlache wondered if the marina has ever considered going to a resident and non resident fee. Also, he wanted to know why we are even considering raising the rates if we had a surplus last year. City Administrator Grams said that it doesn't look like the marina is going to end up in the black for 2012. Member Matera asked if it is necessary to raise the rates for an additional \$2700.00 in revenue. And is it factored into the 2013 budget? City Administrator Grams said that it is not included in this year's budget. Member Herlache said that he is not in favor of raising the rates. Member Driscoll also mentioned that he would rather keep the rates low.
Dan Herlache made a motion not to raise the daily and season boat launch fees and Sue Knauer seconded. Motion carried.
7. **Harbormaster's Report**
Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that he met with the Charter Captain's Association the night before. They raised concerns about the low water and were wondering if the marina would consider putting in floating docks. Harbormaster Cherny informed them that the debt service for the Main Marina has several years to go

before it is paid off. Installation of floating piers in the North Slip would probably have to wait until the current debt service is paid off he said. He did give the Charters a few options for the loading and unloading of their customers who are unable to climb ladders to get into their boats. He said they could use launch ramps 1 and 6 or the floating docks by the blue bridge.

Harbormaster Cherny said that there is about 7 to 8 feet of water at the end of the finger piers and the fuel dock. He had passed around a picture of Pier 5 showing that it was sitting on dry land back in January, but with all the moisture we have had lately he said the water is up 2 to 3 inches and Pier 5 is now floating again. He did mention that he may have Ralph Ripple from Diver's Delight blow out some areas along pier 3 and the launch ramps that may be too shallow for sailboats and make it more accessible.

Harbormaster Cherny also mentioned that he was looking into the current condition of the launch ramp docking piers. He said that they are in rough condition and should within the next couple of years be repaired or replaced. He said that he got a proposal from Port-A-Pier, who did the Main Marina installation, on floating docking piers for the launch ramps. They installed several of these in Milwaukee at McKinley Marina. The cost would be approximately \$84,000 for the construction of three docking piers. He said that the state also has grants available for launch ramp repair. He said that a grant could possible cover up to half the cost. But, he would like to wait a year or two and see how the ones at McKinley Marina hold up. Member Herlache was wondering if they could be repaired by the local DPW.

Harbormaster Cherny said that he was going to have the city crew come and take a look at them as well as Voeller from town and get a couple estimates on repairs or reconstruction of what we have. Member Driscoll agrees that we should look into repairing what we have.

8. Marina Tenants' Comments

No Comments

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

Member Herlache inquired about the cameras at the marina. He wasn't sure if the marina was still looking into it or not, but he had wanted to share what he learned about Sturgeon Bay. He said that they just installed cameras for harbor security that they received through a Homeland Security Grant. He was wondering if the marina could get cameras through a Homeland Security grant as well because of the power plant. He has some information to share with Harbormaster Cherny and City Administrator Mark Grams if they would like to look into it.

Member Driscoll raised the concern of the break wall and the deteriorated condition that it is in. He was wondering what could be done to repair it. Both Harbormaster Cherny and City Administrator Grams said that they have met with the Army Corps and spoken to state representatives. It all comes down to the fact that Port Washington is no longer a commercial port. If we were still a commercial port, the money may have been more readily available. Now, Harbormaster Cherny said, the break wall literally needs to fall apart before someone will come here to repair it. Mayor Mlada added that he had sat down with Congressman Petri a short while back. He said that he would be very receptive if we'd like to make the case, Congressman Petri would be more than happy to share it on our behalf or at least invite us into the process. This may be as good a chance as we got.

Member Baganz mentioned that maybe 2, 3, or 4 interested people would like to work on this along with Dennis and Mark. He said that this is more a community item than a Harbor Commission item. Member Larson agreed that maybe we should put it on the next agenda and put together a subcommittee.

10. Adjournment

Dave Larson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. and Tony Matera seconded. Motion carried.