

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
Monday May 13, 2013, 7:00 P.M.
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

Sue Knauer, David Larson, Jerry Baganz, Jerry Gruen, and Bill Driscoll

Others Present

Harbor Master Dennis Cherny
City Administrator Mark Grams

1. **Roll Call: (Absent: Tony Matera and Dan Herlache)**

2. **Election Of Chairman And Vice Chairman**

Member Gruen opened nominations for Chairman. **Jerry Baganz nominated Jerry Gruen and Sue Knauer seconded the nomination. Dave Larson made a motion to close the nominations for Chairman and Jerry Baganz seconded. Motion Carried.** Member Gruen opened nominations for Vice Chairman. **Sue Knauer nominated Dan Herlache and Bill Driscoll seconded the nomination. Jerry Baganz made a motion to close the nominations of Vice Chairman and Bill Driscoll seconded. Motion Carried.**

3. **Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting**

It was noted that the minutes had the wrong meeting date. The date needs to be changed from September 24th, 2012 to March 11th, 2013. **Sue Knauer made a motion to approve the minutes with the date change and Jerry Baganz seconded. Motion Carried.**

4. **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 and some daily and season launch money. On the expenditure side it is mainly utilities and Dennis & Lisa's wages.

City Administrator Grams mentioned that on the 2012 year end report, we are showing a \$54,000 deficit. Slip rentals were down. There was also a big difference with the fuel revenue and expenditures how that correlates has yet to be figured out. Harbormaster Cherny added that the marina had to take fuel over the winter to maintain the 50% that is required to be in the tanks by state regulations and took a hit on the high cost of fuel.

Then when spring came, to match the street price we had to drop the price of fuel and eat some of the loss. He had hoped that the marina would make it up through out the year, but that wasn't the case. That accounted for almost \$10,000 in the deficit. Also, he said that Mary, the City Treasurer always did something to account for the fuel that was purchased, but not sold, in the previous year and put it into the following year. He is unsure if that is being done or not now. City Administrator Grams and Harbormaster Cherny said that they will look into it and have an answer for the commission at the next meeting.

Harbormaster Cherny added that there were unexpected repairs that needed to be taken care of. The sewage lift pump at the lift station by the Control Building quit and needed to be replaced. That \$5,000 repair wasn't anticipated. He said that we are also paying almost double for our dumpsters as we now have regular and recycling dumpsters. Employee costs were higher as the marina was busier. Supply costs were also way up because of how busy the marina was. He said that we just spent more than we earned and may have to look into cutting some spending, such as not supplying all the festivals with restroom supplies. Maybe that is something that should be looked into now City Administrator Grams agreed.

5. **Update On Slip Rentals**

Harbormaster Cherny said that as of right now we have 18 slips open. Member Baganz inquired if there is still a waiting list, and Harbormaster Cherny informed him that there is not. Member Knauer inquired what size slips are mainly available. Harbormaster Cherny said that they are all mainly 36' slips with a few 40' slips available.

6. **Form A "Break Wall Repairs" Sub Committee**

City Administrator Grams said that it all has to do with the federal budget. The local office here knows the condition that the break wall is in. There just isn't funding available for non commercial ports. He said that Senator Kohl's office was willing to listen and now, Senator Petri is willing to listen to our concerns about the break wall situation.

Member Driscoll said that he met with Mayor Mlada and Harbormaster Cherny to discuss the break wall. He said that Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that there is money that actually has been set aside for this stuff. The government has the money they have just spent it on other things. It would cost a lot less money to repair it than it would to fix it if it fails. It is just a matter of getting in front of the right people. A committee will be formed to deal with the this issue, whether it is formed through the Harbor Commission or through the Common Council, the more people that get involved, the better.

Harbormaster Cherny added that the gentlemen from the Corps said that you should go along the lines of life and safety and the fact that we could lose people's lives and it would stop all recreational activity in the Port Washington area if the break wall would fail.

City Administrator Grams said that there is a Coalition in Michigan that has been working hard to get this money spent on what it is suppose to be spent on. They have made a little bit of headway as it seems there are more congressmen listening.

Member Larson said that this money is our best shot. Member Driscoll agreed and said that now we just need them to free it up. He said that the whole idea behind forming this committee is to become the squeaky wheel. And keep squeaking until something is done.

Member Baganz added that people from the Harbor Commission should step forward to be a part of this committee, but that it's not a direct offshoot of the Harbor Commission.

Member Gruen said that the commission is going to wait for direction from the mayor before going any further. The mayor can choose volunteers from the Harbor Commission when they form this committee.

7. Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Cherny informed the commission that the launch ramp docks that they looked into repairing are getting patched up by the city crew for \$2,500.00 per dock. One has already been repaired. He is looking to repair the remaining ramps in fall or next spring. This fix is far cheaper than the \$80,000 bid he received for replacing the ramps. He believes that once the ramps have all been repaired that they should last another 25 years.

Harbormaster Cherny updated the commission on the *Rock the Harbor* gathering for Harley's 110th Anniversary the Friday of Labor Day weekend. They are planning on putting the main stage down by the launch ramps which would mean the marina would be closed for launching from early afternoon on Friday and would reopen early Saturday morning. He said that they meet again at the end of the month so he should have more information about it at the next meeting.

8. Marina Tenants' Comments

Paul Markworth spoke on behalf of the Marina Tenants. He mentioned that a survey was distributed to the Marina Tenants last fall and handed out copies of the results to the Harbor Commission members. He stated that they had 54 responses with he estimates is a 20 to 25% return based on the number of tenants in the marina. He said the number one issue that the marina tenants have is parking, especially during the festivals and fishing tournaments. He inquired about the red guest parking passes that transient boaters and marina guests use. He said that it was noticed that these passes are being used in spaces that are labeled as marina tenant parking only. He was wondering if these individuals get ticketed in those designated spots as the passes say for metered parking only. Harbormaster Cherny said that he will look into it.

Mr. Markworth inquired about the parking lot on the north side of the North Slip. He said that it was changed to 2hr parking. City Administrator Grams and Harbormaster Cherny informed him that the marina tenant passes are still good in those 2hr locations.

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

No Comments.

10. Adjournment

Dave Larson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. and Sue Knauer seconded. Motion carried.