

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON  
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING  
Monday March 14, 2016, 7:00 P.M.  
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

Jerry Baganz, Jerry Gruen, Sue Knauer, Bill Driscoll, Dave Larson, and Tony Matera

Others Present

City Administrator Mark Grams

Harbor Master Dennis Cherny

Assistant Harbormaster Lisa Rathke (Secretary)

1. **Roll Call:** (Absent: Dan Herlache)

2. **Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting**

**Jerry Baganz made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Tony Matera seconded. Motion Carried.**

3. **Monthly Financial Report**

City Administrator Grams mentioned that we still do not have an updated financial report. He hopes to have one for next month's meeting.

4. **Update On Slip Rentals**

Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that as of today we have 49 total slips open. 9-36' slips on Pier 3, 14-36' slips on Pier 2, 3-30' slips, and on Pier 4 we have 1-50' slip, 3-45' slips and 8-40' slips. There are also 11 slips open in the North Slip. We will hopefully have four boats back next year on Pier 4, as two will be returning from the Great Loop this fall, and the other two sold their boats quicker than expected and are still in search of new boats. I expect the 30' slips to sell this spring as we have had many inquiries as several people are in the process of purchasing boats.

We did have a guy asking about slips in the North Slip area. He apparently is going in Gertjen's new development. He wants to start one of those boat clubs where you buy into the club and you are able to use the club's boats whenever you want to. This guy's company would own and maintain the boats and the members of the club can use them at their leisure, kind of like a time share. He was talking about renting 4 or 5 slips. He would be similar to a charter and would pay the charter slip fee. It is becoming very popular all over the country. Member Driscoll said that it will call upon everyone on the commission to do some outside the box thinking of what we are going to have to do differently.

Harbormaster Cherny said that we are still roughly 90% full and other marinas are struggling to be at least 50% full. This is a nationwide trend. Older people are getting out of boating and the younger generation isn't getting into boating.

Member Driscoll said that it isn't just the boating industry that is projected to go down, but we don't know what fishing is going to do either. If we have another bad year this year, we need to figure out how we are going to restructure some things. To number one be profitable, and number two be desirable. If the younger generation doesn't want to buy a boat, put a boat in a slip and rent it out like a cabin on the water. Is this something that the city wants to get into, or put it out there for someone else to do?

Harbormaster Cherny said that we are open to suggestions.

5. **Harbormaster's Report**

Harbormaster Cherny said that he approached the Holiday Inn and asked them if our marina tenants could use the pool and their fitness room. They talked it over and said that our tenants would be allowed to use the pool and the fitness room Monday thru Thursday at a five dollar fee per guest. Let's try it for a year and see how much it costs us.

Member Larson asked if we have a list of all our guests and send them stuff. Secretary Rathke mentioned that we do not get their email addresses when they check in, but we can make that a new policy this year.

Member Baganz mentioned that maybe the marina needs to designate someone to a marketing specialist. Have one of the employees who maybe has an interest in marketing take that on this summer.

Member Matera said that he will put something together for the “Refer a Friend” program that we discussed last summer and get that to the marina.

Harbormaster Cherny said that the DNR planted 16,000 Browns and 12, 000 Coho, and another 5,000 Browns over the last couple of weeks. City Administrator Grams asked if they are putting the fish in the GLSF net pens. Harbormaster Cherny said that they were not. The pens were made for the Chinook as they needed a little more time to grow and get acclimated for a better survival rate. The GLSF are working with the DNR to utilize the pens for the remainder of the spring stockings.

Harbormaster Cherny mentioned the fuel situation. We have roughly 7,000 gallons of gas and diesel in our tanks that we have the opportunity to pay for it now at a cheaper rate and possibly make back some of our loss from last year. When we get the prices tomorrow and if you all think this will be a good deal, he thinks we should go ahead and buy it. City Administrator Grams said that he thinks that is what we should do. Commission Members agree that if the price is down tomorrow, that we should go for it.

Secretary Rathke updated the commission on Pirate Festival. It will be the first weekend in June. There will be Pirate actors and demonstrations, music, food, Pirate Breakfast sponsored by Newport Shores, a Card Board Boat Land Regatta as it will be too cold to be in the water, and the Denis Sullivan will be here for the weekend.

**6. Marina Tenants’ Comments**

No Comments.

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

No Comments.

**8. Adjournment**

**Tony Matera made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm and Dave Larson seconded. Motion Carried.**