

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
Monday January 9, 2017, 7:00 P.M.
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

Jerry Baganz, Jerry Gruen, Sue Knauer, Dan Herlache, and Jordan Schwanz

Others Present

City Administrator Mark Grams

Harbormaster Dennis Cherny

Assistant Harbormaster Lisa Rathke (Secretary)

Marina Tenant Jay Lundberg

Kris Halbig Ziehm (Press)

1. Roll Call: (Absent: Dave Larson and Bill Driscoll)

2. Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting

Jerry Baganz made a motion to approve the minutes as written and Sue Knauer seconded. Motion Carried.

3. Monthly Financial Report

City Administrator Grams said that he has nothing to report as he is waiting for everything to close out for 2016.

4. Discuss Future Marina Operations

Member Gruen said that we have an opportunity to deal with a number of issues. The council has given the Harbor Commission a chance to look into these issues and make recommendations. The council had mentioned the possibility of getting a consultant to look into the Marina operations, but Member Gruen disagrees and thinks that the Harbor Commission can take this on. The commission will have to work aggressively. Research and possibly set up some committees to look into the finances and where we can save money.

Member Baganz mentioned that he would like to offer to the Commission that he volunteers to put together a study of Marina operations as they currently exist. The purpose and background of the study first and foremost would be to review the finances and the financial history going back at least five years and do an analysis of those financial statements and look for trends and opportunities that have been impacted by weather and circumstances beyond our control. At the same time, take a serious look at the reserve fund and how that is distributed. Look at the Marina's marketing plan, exploring new ideas and seek the cooperation of other sources within the city that could help us effectively market the Marina. Do a staffing analysis of other marinas. We need current or revised job descriptions that the formal descriptions match the functions of the Harbormaster and the Assistant Harbormaster. He would like to go over the Charter of the Harbor Commission to formally and officially see what the authority and responsibilities of the Harbor Commission are. Look at having something in place for 2017 operating actions, things that the Marina plans to change or modify to help move towards profitability this year. Finally, look at 2018 and beyond. What will this operation look like next year and the year after, and so on, and how we (the City, Marina, and Harbor Commission) prepare a strategy for the future of the Marina. He would like to provide the Commission with the framework for moving forward. He will have a draft prepared by next month's meeting for review by the Harbor Commission, seeking the Commission's input and corrections, and then, in cooperation with the Commission, put together a final draft for presentation.

Member Gruen would also make sure that the Commission looks at how other marinas are organized. Are they private, run by the state or city, owned by the city and have a management contract with an outside company like Seagull Gallagher.

Members Herlache and Schwanz both said that they will wait to provide their input until Member Baganz is done with his marina study and feed off of what he has put together.

Member Gruen mentioned that the Harbor Commission is made up of a lot of skilled people with different experiences and knowledge that can put to good use and come up with some good recommendations. We all want to see the Marina succeed and be profitable.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Cherny said that slip payments have started coming in. He mentioned that he ran the ice-eaters on Pier 5 for three hours and in the North Slip for 4 hours to prevent any damage to the pilings. The water is down another 6 inches.

6. Marina Tenants' Comments

No comments.

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

No comments.

10. Adjournment

Jerry Baganz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm and Sue Knauer seconded. Motion Carried.

Approved Minutes