

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
Monday June 12, 2017, 7:00 P.M.
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

Jerry Baganz, Jerry Gruen, Sue Knauer, Bill Driscoll, Dave Larson, and Jordan Schwanz

Others Present

City Administrator Mark Grams

Harbormaster Dennis Cherny

Assistant Harbormaster Lisa Rathke (Secretary)

Mayor Tom Mlada

Kris Halbig Ziehm (Press)

Paul Markworth and Jay Lundberg (Marina Tenants)

1. Roll Call: (Absent: Dan Herlache)

2. Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting

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

3. Monthly Financial Report

City Administrator Grams said that our fund balance through May is at \$389,806. He also informed the members that the City Treasurer will be off for about 6 weeks which means that there will not be any financial reports until she returns.

Harbormaster Cherny added that we have had a couple of good weekends, launching 300-400 boats in just a couple of days. The fishing has been fantastic.

4. Review Port Washington Marina Study

City Administrator Grams said that nothing formally is being recommended at this time. Right now we just need to focus on monthly expenditures so that we can break even this year. The marina has been working on adjusting the seasonal employees to save money. Harbormaster Cherny added that we do have five new employees that are doubling up right now to be trained for the next several weeks, so you are all aware, that will be an added cost. Harbormaster Cherny said that we have cut staff early in the mornings, and in the evenings during the week. Instead of having two people on, we have one.

Member Baganz added that the city did post the Marina Study on the city's website under the "News and Info Archive" tab for those that have not seen it. He said that he extracted the recommendations page from the Marina Study and has since updated the recommendations. He will get the updated version to the city to post on the website. Member Baganz also inquired if the city had set a date for the marina to present at council. City Administrator thought that a date had been set for later in the year. He will look into it and let the commission know. Member Larson found the list for presenters at council, and said that the Marina is not on the list.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Cherny informed the commission that we are down to (4) 36' slips, (4) 40' slips, (2) 45' slips and (1) 50' slip available yet for the season in the main marina. That leaves 11 slips open, but if you look at the ruling that we should have 10 slips open for transients which leaves us with one slip available. Last year at this time, we had ten plus the ten. That puts us to almost 100% occupancy.

Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that all the flowers have been planted as well as new bushes along the parking lot by Pier 5. The water level is up 6 inches as of right now. He also informed the commission that the marina installed all the life rings purchased by the Waterfront Safety Committee on the breakwall.

Harbormaster Cherny said that our Wi-Fi system is still mediocre and as mentioned previously, it will be very expensive (\$20-\$30,000) to upgrade to a system that can handle all the traffic. City Administrator Grams said that it is hard to justify spending that kind of money on something that is used four months out of the year.

Pirate Festival went well and drew a large crowd again this year. The marina had 40 transients come in to enjoy Pirate Festival. Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that the Double-Handed Sailboat Race comes in this Thursday June 15th and "National Marina Days" will be held on July 8th this year as it is now a celebration from Memorial Day to Labor Day so you can pick any day during the summer to celebrate.

6. Marina Tenants' Comments

Marina Tenant Paul Markworth mentioned that the “no wake” issue in the marina is becoming a problem again. Last year it got better once the police department cited someone for causing a wake it. Harbormaster Cherny said that if someone can get the boat numbers off the vessels that are causing a wake, the police department will issue a ticket to those individuals.

Tenant Jay Lunberg asked if the marina could let the tenants know that the Marina Study was on the city website for viewing.

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

Mayor Mlada wanted to give the commission a heads up and get their input regarding the Red Witch possibly calling Port Washington home. The city was approached two years ago on this. At that time we were a little leery as we were in negotiations with the Denis Sullivan as well and our resources (customers) can only go so far. The Red Witch use to operate out of Chicago and moved to Kenosha last year. He said that he followed their progress last year and they did very well and the feedback was positive so he assumed the door was closed on them wanting to come to Port Washington. However, two months ago, the captain of the Red Witch reached out to the city again saying that the space in Kenosha wasn't really working out for him. Long term he would like to move to Michigan, but wants to stay in Wisconsin for one more year and asked if Port Washington would be open to having the Red Witch here.

There would be no financial commitment between the Red Witch and the city. He would like to explore this further as having another ship in addition to the Denis Sullivan would have a greater economic impact increasing the possibility of procuring more money when applying for grants in the future. The captain wants to park the Red Witch by Dockside Deli, which would cut into the transient docking space the marina has available. Harbormaster Cherny added that he would have to be willing to move for Fish Day as the space has been reserved already as well as the sailboat races that boats may be rafted. Member Baganz said that the marina should have a written agreement with them spelling out the marina's concerns and contingencies.

Member Larson said that it is a no brainer, if we can possibly get an additional \$500,000 for the breakwater project; we need to make this happen.

8. Adjournment

Dave Larson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm and Sue Knauer seconded. Motion Carried.