

**PORT OF BELLINGHAM
MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019
HARBOR CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Pinky Vargas
Paul Burrill
Jim Kyle
Julie Winkler

Linda Thomson
Peter Border
Ross Tennant
Dick Cathell

Committee Members Absent:

Committee Members Excused:

Byron Richards
Robert Brooks
Charlie Hawkins
Jon Alexander
Loren Kapp

Visitors/Guests:

Michael Patterson

Port Representatives present

Andy Peterson
Alan Birdsall
Kyle Randolph

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Group Photo

The meeting began with the MAC and Port staff taking a photo wearing their life jackets in support of "Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day" on May 17th.

Minutes

Paul Burrill motioned to approve the March minutes, which was seconded by Pinky and approved unanimously by the MAC.

Public Comment

Michael Patterson made two comments during the public comment period. The first was to thank harbor staff for the hard work they do to keep the harbor safe and clean. He provided pictures as examples of those efforts. Secondly, he mentioned the recent fire that significantly damaged the fishing vessel *Challenger* at Squalicum Harbor. He expressed concern over individuals living aboard commercial fishing vessels as he felt there was a correlation between liveaboards and vessel fires. He stated that commercial vessels often they have diesel stoves running throughout the winter that are a fire hazard. He felt that changes to the regulations giving harbor staff a stronger ability to enforce heat sources on vessels and prohibiting liveaboards on fishing vessels would minimize fire dangers. Michael provided regulation examples from Fishermen's Terminal at the Port of Seattle.

A discussion ensued among MAC members on the challenges of fire safety, the role of the Port managing heating devices, and what language might be helpful in the Rules and Regulations to support enforcement. Alan Birdsall suggested that the MAC allow staff to dig into the current regulations to determine if sufficient language already exists and then report back to the MAC at the May meeting.

Dockside Feedback

Julie Winkler reminded staff to keep doggie bag dispensers stocked. She felt that the comfort station dispenser was often empty. Julie also mentioned that the recycling totes near Gate 3 are starting to fill up and asked about the seasonal trash schedule. Kyle Randolph indicated that additional pickups are scheduled for the summer to handle the influx of charter customers. He also stated that seasonal help had been hired to better manage the trash enclosures.

Dick Cathell mentioned an article in the Bellingham Herald about the proposed bicycle “pump track” at the former GP site. He said he appreciated the Port’s efforts on the redevelopment and liked the idea of the track which would encourage people down to the area.

Peter Border asked about recent vessel burglaries. Kyle stated that several vessels had been burglarized. The activity was occurring throughout the harbor and mostly small items like spare change and tools had been taken. Kyle asked that MAC keep their eyes open for suspicious activity and report everything they see.

Ross Tenant mentioned that Bellhaven Yacht Sales had sold, and let the MAC know that former MAC Chair Brian Pemberton’s health had greatly improved lately and he was now working at Northwest explorations again.

Weblocker Recap

Alan Birdsall thanked the MAC’s efforts with the weblocker regulation changes this spring and stated that the Port Commission approved the recommended changes unanimously. Staff is now implementing the regulations. Alan expects 6-8 lockers to open up over the next year due to these changes, which will be leased to current active commercial fishermen.

Future Discussion Topics

Paul Burrill asked the MAC if there were any topics that MAC members would like discussed in 2019. Topics discussed as a result of this were vehicle charging stations and providing more information on improvements to the ASB lagoon

Staff Updates

Kyle Randolph asked the MAC to remind boaters to turn in sublease forms if they plan on taking their boat from the harbor during the summer. Kyle also informed the MAC of a recent fuel spill and explained the process the Port goes through to report and clean up a petroleum spill at the harbor.

Andy Peterson gave an update on the 2019 Blaine bulkhead project as well as the relocation of Webhouse #1. Both projects will improve the Blaine Industrial area and promote opportunities for growth of the Marine Trades.

With no further business the April 16, 2019 MAC meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.