

**PORT OF BELLINGHAM
MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019
HARBOR CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Peter Border
Loren Kapp
Byron Richards
Ross Tenant

Jim Kyle
Linda Thomson
Jon Alexander

Committee Members Absent:

Dick Cathell

Committee Members Excused:

Robert Brooks
Dave King
Julie Winkler
Pinky Vargas
Paul Burrill

Visitors/Guests:

Rob Fix
Commissioner Bell
Commission Shepard

Port Representatives present:

Alan Birdsall
Pam Taft
Kyle Randolph
Andy Peterson

Roll Call

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

Minutes

Ross Tenant made a motion to accept the November 13th minutes as written. Loren Kapp seconded the motion, and approved unanimously by the MAC.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Dockside Feedback

Jim asked if there was any non-weblocker related dockside feedback (which will be discussed later in the meeting). Peter Border informed the group that the Coast Guard has issued a request for help by ensuring vessels are securely tied to their mooring so as not to break free during storms and end up creating a hazard. Kyle responded saying that he and his staff walk the docks before every storm and look to ensure boats are safely tied up and also to make sure any loose, unsecured items are not on the floats which could cause a hazard during a wind storm. He also added that he has his staff practice their splicing skills by pre-splicing eyes into new dock lines that they keep on hand should vessels break loose in storms.

Ross Tenant brought up that he had a couple come into his office asking about vehicle charging stations. He asked if the Port was going to put any charging stations in. Rob Fix responded by saying the airport and the Bellingham Cruise Terminal already have charging stations and the Port does have it on their radar to try and get some in Squalicum Harbor in 2020.

Harbor Weblocker Update

Vice-Chair Jim Kyle opened the discussion on weblockers by telling the group that there has been a lot that has happened since the last meeting and then turned it over to Alan Birdsall to update the group.

Alan started by recapping the original direction that was given by the Commission: terminate all non-ACF weblocker tenants. He said staff proceeded with that direction by first going through the current waiting list to see who is still wanting a locker. After weeding out the waiting list of those no longer interested, staff then proceeded with sending out the 1st round of letters to all locker tenants who are not identified as ACF, non-marine tenants, and those who haven't had a boat in the harbor for the last two years. The letter asked that if they were indeed ACF then they need to bring in proof consisting of fish tickets within the last two years. The 2nd round of letters went to the tenants identified as ACF but have not provided current fish tickets within the last two years.

After the letters were sent staff started receiving feedback from tenants that raised several issues that staff should consider before evicting any tenants. Alan told the group that staff is compiling those issues and will present those potential exemptions to the Port Commission for direction at a later date.

Alan emphasized that the only people whose agreements are being terminated right now are those tenants who do not meet any of the criteria and do not fall under any of the potential exemption categories. He also stated that we are not forcing anyone out who has made a legitimate claim of exemption. There are a few locker tenants that staff has not heard from so staff will try again to make contact with these folks before taking the next step.

Jim Kyle brought up the Rules & Regulations on the weblocker classifications and how it should be updated to reflect the categories that are being phased out. He also asked staff if locker tenants will be kicked out if they are using their locker for storage other than what their intended use is. Alan said yes.

Loren Kapp asked how many different sized lockers there are and how lockers are assigned. Kyle explained that when a customer gets on the waiting list, harbor staff goes through each size/category of locker and the customer chooses which size/category they want to be on the waiting list for.

Jim Kyle pointed out to the group that this direction the Commission has provided is an opportunity to take advantage and be aggressive by making sure that the lockers are available for ACF customers and being used appropriately by ACF and marine tenants. Commissioner Ken Bell added that the Port has been very patient and accommodating with this process; more

so than any private business would be in this type of situation. Lauren Kapp agreed and commented that the rules need to be followed.

Alan concluded the discussion by saying that staff will be building a process that staff will follow to actively manage the assignment and use of the lockers and to respond more quickly when becoming aware of an unauthorized use. Commissioner Michael Shepard also added that anytime there is a subsidized rate, there is an accountability that needs to accompany it; a process that shows we are following through and taking care of issues as they arise. Loren gave staff an 'atta-boy' for the hard work being put toward this project.

Gear Exchange Hut

At a previous meeting, it was brought up that it would be a good idea to have a gear exchange hut similar to what the Port of Friday Harbor has where people can exchange marine-related items. Kyle informed the group that there were two issues at hand; where do you put it without taking up more much-needed parking spaces, and how much it costs. He said that the lowest cost shed he found at Home Depot was approximately \$2000. Linda Thomson added that people should deal with their unwanted items like any other homeowner would; donate or throw it away. She added that the stuff people would leave out eventually would end up in our garbage dumpsters forcing staff to deal with it. Kyle presented the group with the question: proceed or not to proceed. The group said thanks for researching, but don't proceed.

Staff Updates

Kyle provided the following updates:

- All the directional signs have been installed by the Port's maintenance department.
- All American Marine has some scheduled launches and one retrieval. The dates are tentative but the signs are up in the boat launch parking lot notifying the upcoming lot closures. The signs have been designed to be removed when there is not an upcoming launch so it makes it a more effective way to inform the public.
- The new storage yard location has been paved and the Port is now waiting for the city to approve a variance before proceeding with the lighting installation.
- The last wind storm resulted in two boats being washed ashore. One boat ended up on city property and the other washed up on private property. Both boats came from anchor on Fairhaven DNR property.
- February 13 is the annual Wild Seafood Exchange again hosted by the Port of Bellingham. It will be held again at the Holiday Inn located at the Bellingham International Airport.

Andy then explained the harbors' cold-weather policy. He stated that when the forecast is for freezing temps, staff turns off the water to avoid the costly repair of broken pipes. He also said that when there is frost, ice, or snow in the forecast staff provides sand buckets and shovels at the bottom of each ramp for customers to use and staff plows the parking lots.

With no further business the January 15, 2019 MAC meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.