

**PORT OF BELLINGHAM  
MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021  
MEETING VIA ZOOM  
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

## **Minutes**

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### **Committee Members Present:**

Dick Cathell  
Jon Alexander  
Loren Kapp  
Ross Tennant  
Jim Kyle  
Peter Border

Julie Winkler  
Linda Thomson  
Robert Brooks  
Faith Worthley  
Charlie Hawkins  
Paul Burrill

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Stan Campbell

### **Committee Members Excused:**

Peter Border  
Lisa Anderson

### **Visitors/Guests:**

### **Port Representatives present**

Andy Peterson  
Pam Taft  
Aaron Bisson  
Tiffany DeSimone

### **Roll Call**

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

Paul Burrill announced that Brian Pemberton passed away recently. The group was saddened by his passing and commented on all work he had done on waterfront related issues. Jim Kyle mentioned that there is some work taking place to continue Brian's vision for the waterfront.

### **Minutes**

Ross Tennant made a motion to approve the May 2021 minutes, seconded by Linda Thomson, and unanimously approved by the group.

### **Public Comment**

Dick Cathell received feedback from Gate 5 boaters who are frustrated with the lack of parking at Gate 5. Aaron Bisson explained that the lack of parking situation is temporary and is likely due to the Pavilion construction and the fishermen coming back.

### **Moorage Rate Discussion**

Tiffany DeSimone updated the group on the work being done to gather the costs of upcoming capital replacement projects. She's been working with the Port engineers discussing different options for cost-savings as well as permitting issues.

She hopes to bring back to the MAC a better comprehensive look at the capital numbers that will be included in the moorage model. Once those numbers are dialed in, the model review can resume.

Jim Kyle asked if there was a summary of the work the MAC sub-committee did and Linda Thomas added that it was unclear if the group finished what they were supposed to accomplish. Pam Taft replied that the group did come up with a list of recommendations to be included in the model and although the model review has been put on hold, their recommendations are captured and will be used as a starting point when the model review resumes. Pam said she will send the group the summary capturing the committee's recommendations.

### **SeaFeast 2021**

Tiffany announced the date change of this year's Seafeast to October 30, from 11am-4pm. The event will be smaller than in previous years and is planned to be held in the new Pavilion.

### **Boat Launch User Outreach**

This summer the boat launch at both Blaine and Squalicum Harbors was very busy. On a few occasions, the line to launch was very long. Although this happens infrequently, Staff wanted to develop an outreach program to try and mitigate the bottleneck that occurs during special events (i.e. crabbing opener, AAM launch, special sailing regattas, etc). Other than using the Port's social media accounts to blast out information regarding upcoming events, staff is looking into purchasing an LED-type reader board that can be programmed with different messages to alert the public of the upcoming event. Additionally, staff will correspond with the annual boat launch holders notifying them of possible delays at the boat launch.

### **Staff Updates**

Andy provided a snapshot of Blaine Harbor's occupancy; as of May 2021 harbor was 100% occupied and now has a waiting list. He also mentioned that due to COVID, approximately 100 Canadians removed their boats from Blaine Harbor but he has since been able to refill all those slips and then some. Loren Kapp posed the question about the moorage model since there were some assumptions made that were related to Blaine's occupancy. Staff responded that it will be addressed when the model review resumes.

Andy also mentioned that as activity slows down, they will begin doing harbor housekeeping (i.e. derelict dinghies, stuff on dock, etc).

Aaron mentioned that Squalicum Harbor had an extremely busy summer. One of the Harbor Ops Specialists left to go work for another Port leaving Squalicum short-handed for a brief time until a replacement could be hired.

Tiffany gave a shout-out to the Blaine and Squalicum Harbor Office staff for the work they did this summer and over COVID stay-at-home order. They were working in the office and keeping the harbor operations going with reduced resources.

Paul mentioned how nice the Blaine Sawtooth looks and how nice it is to have it operational again. He commended staff on a good job.

Staff announced a change in the newsletter distribution that will begin with the October billing. The newsletter will no longer be included with the bills. Rather, a QR code will be printed on the billing statements that when scanned with a smart phone, will take you directly to the Marina's newsletters webpage. The intent was to become more 'green' and reduce the amount of paper generated for the newsletters. There will still be some newsletters available at each Harbor Office.

Andy mentioned an upcoming virtual Open House to talk about the cleanup of the ASB lagoon and Marine Trades area. He will send out a link so that anyone interested can RSVP. The event is scheduled for October 6, from 6-8pm.

There were questions about the new Pavilion so Tiffany responded: The Pavilion is set to open around October 1 this year and will be a split use venue. Special Events use will occur May-Sep and Oct-Apr will be used by the Active Commercial Fishermen for net-mending. She said all the details are still being worked out but the intent is to have a reservation system in place for use so unnecessary extended stays can be controlled.

Jim Kyle asked Andy about the parking at Gate 1 in Blaine. Andy explained that Gate 1 is the biggest slip area in the harbor with the least amount of parking. He also said that the parking lot is shared with the privately-owned office building so it can be challenging to find parking during peak summer demand.

Ross Tennant asked about clearing customs in the Blaine/Squalicum Harbors. Jim Kyle explained how a small group was working with the city of Bellingham on the issue and it was left in the city's court to follow up with the legislatures.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:14pm.