

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2009
SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Hamilton Hayes
Jeff Hegedus
Ryan Kapp
Ron Kleinknecht
Gene Knutson
Paul Lavelle
Tim Mumford
Joe Orem
Jim Splaine
Jerry Writer

Committee Members Absent:

Mark Gumley
Roger Van Dyken

Port Representatives Present:

Dan Stahl
Mike Endsley
Andy Peterson
Pam Taft

Committee Members Excused:

Peter Border
Doug Sterrett
Jim Young

Visitors/ Guests:

Commissioner Jim Jorgensen

Roll Call

Jeff Hegedus called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

January 13, 2009 Minutes

Ham Hayes made a motion to approve the January 13, 2009 minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Splaine. The minutes were approved as is.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Customer Survey

Mike Endsley, Squalicum Harbormaster, provided an update on the Port's most recent efforts to survey its customer base for both Blaine and Squalicum harbors. This was an item that was discussed at some length at the December MAC meeting. Part of the feedback from the MAC at the time was to try, if possible, to bundle this customer experience survey into one package instead of cutting it up into three distinct mailings. Port staff was able to accelerate the schedule to accomplish that goal. The survey was published in the February newsletter in its entirety. Thirty two surveys have already been returned at Squalicum and some in Blaine. Staff will make efforts to remind people to return the survey so that we have the largest sample size possible. Mike indicated that he may have some tentative results available for the MAC at their next meeting.

Blaine Boat Launch

Pam Taft, Blaine Harbormaster, reviewed the progress on the RCO (Recreation Conservation Office) grant and the replacement of the floats and pilings for the boat launch at Blaine Harbor. The Port Commission authorized the Executive Director to finalize the necessary documents at the last Port Commission meeting in January. The Port is currently out to bid and is scheduled to have a bid opening on February 23, 2009. The actual construction would not occur until the "fish window" opens for Blaine Harbor tentatively set for sometime after July 15. The Port thinks that the construction will go fairly quickly and be accomplished in approximately two weeks. The current project cost is estimated at \$210,000 with a grant covering 50% or \$105,000 of that. As a reminder to the new MAC members, the Port was successful in a very competitive bid process for the RCO in 2008 when there were over 40 applications and only 12 projects were awarded funding.

Junior Sailing Program

Mike provided an update on his efforts to coordinate with BYC (Bellingham Yacht Club) and execute a Use Permit for additional facilities on Port property to augment the ongoing sailing program that BYC is sponsoring. The BYC program is targeted at youth 8 to 18 years old, is U.S. Sailing Certified, and currently is run off of BYC's own float. The program uses boats in the 12 to 14 foot range. The additional facility that is being proposed at the Port's day dock at Zuanich Park would give the program additional visibility and provide them a closer exit from the marina to the open water of the bay.

Steve Kearsley from the BYC did much of the prior leg work to develop this program. Most recently, Craig Henderson has been working with Mike to take the program to the next level. Mike is coordinating the efforts of BYC in the Port's own due diligence on the grant assurances that we have with the RCO for the day dock. Mike Endsley indicated that the program may be operational for the 2009 summer season.

Web Locker Update

Pam Taft provided an update on the Port's 2009 web locker program. Mike and Pam are working to develop targeted letters to go out to all of the current user classes for the web lockers. Staff will then re-inventory all of the lockers in both Bellingham and Blaine to verify the contents of the lockers. The next step would be to initiate some clean-up efforts in April bringing in Z Recycling, the Disposal of Toxics program, fishing net recyclers and Sanitary Service dumpsters . This would be augmented perhaps with letters to all web locker users as well as the Port's newsletter. There is some interest in even developing some kind of a swap meet so that some of this gear that is currently not being used may find a home with somebody who can actually use it. Letters will go out in May as a follow-up to the inventory checks that were done in February and March. Rate increases would be effective on June 1.

New Downtown Marina

At the MAC's last meeting in January the MAC worked through a lengthy and substantive discussion on slip mix culminating in a recommendation to the Port Commission. Following that recommendation, the Port staff has continued with the next phase of the design which is working with KPFF to populate the two conceptual marina designs with the recommended slip mix. Dan provided visuals of both concepts A and B for MAC discussion and comment. A lengthy discussion ensued with good input and contribution from MAC committee members on making the marina layout work for the boaters.

Concept A incorporates a central spine with laterals that branch out both north and south.

Concept B has a spine that runs parallel to the northern breakwater (i.e. - the I & J waterway side of the ASB).

Both concept A and B currently have a boat launch included. This boat launch would most likely be for commercial access to the marine trades area upland of the marina.

Dan then discussed the ASB opening onto the Whatcom Waterway which could be done in one of two locations on the south side the Whatcom Waterway side of the marina. Port staff received numerous comments about both designs. Dan will take those comments back to the Port's design team led by Don Oates of KPFF and will return those diagrams to the MAC at their March 10 meeting. Dan described the time line where the Port Commission is scheduled to review the same material in their March 17 work study.

The discussion closed with Dan asking the MAC to continue to think about the concepts and be ready for a healthy discussion at the next meeting where we will have Don Oates of KPFF and can work through the details in the hopes of making a recommendation to the Port Commission for further consideration.

NOAA

Dan provided an update on the Port's efforts in recruiting NOAA's Marine Operations Center – Pacific (MOC-P) to relocate from Lake Union in Seattle to the Bellingham Shipping Terminal. NOAA's current schedule calls for them making a decision by the summer of 2009. Dan promised to keep the MAC apprised as the situation continues to evolve.

Staff Updates

- MAC minutes on the Port website. Dan is working with IT to get approved MAC minutes online as well as a small general information piece about the MAC, its purpose and a list of its current members. This should be able to go live sometime in March.
- Ham and Mike discussed a recent meeting they had on PFC's (Passenger Facility Charges) for the small charter and passenger carrying vessels working at Port facilities.
- Dan distributed a handout from a recent study on the Port's Economic Impact Statement. The study is available on the website but several members of the MAC had requested copies of handouts which were distributed and discussed.

With no further business, Jeff adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.