

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2010 SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Peter Border
Jeff Hegedus
Ron Kleinknecht
Paul Lavelle
Tim Mumford
Joe Orem
Brian Pemberton
Jim Splaine
Doug Sterrett
Jerry Writer
Jim Young

Committee Members Absent

Cliff Cultee
Gene Knutson

Port Representatives Present:

Dan Stahl
Mike Endsley
Pam Taft

Committee Members Excused

Ryan Kapp

Visitors/ Guests:

Commissioner Jim Jorgensen
Vicko Fiamengo
Milan Slipcevic

Roll Call

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

February 9, 2010 Minutes

Jeff Hegedus called for approval of the February 9, 2010 minutes. The motion to approve was made by Jim Splaine and seconded by Jerry Writer. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Dockside Feedback

- **Pump – Outs:** Jim Young raised a question about pump-out services in the Port’s harbors. Jim had recently visited the Port of Friday Harbor and was pleased with the services that were provided there. A lively discussion ensued touching on the Port’s liveaboard policies and the pump-out services that are available at the Port of Bellingham and at other harbors. Several MAC members voiced concern as to whether liveaboards vessels are being pumped out or not. This was countered by the comments that we don’t want to micro manage the day to day requirements for moorage tenants. There was consensus however, on the need for the port to take necessary measures to ensure compliance with procedures that are intended to insure that basic water quality issues are met in the harbors. It was agreed that this would be an appropriate topic for future discussion. Staff will coordinate with the chair on this.
- **Fish Pens:** Doug Sterrett asked about the status of the fish pens that are moored at several gates at Squalicum Harbor. Mike Endsley reviewed the history of the net pens which are owned by Bellingham Technical College (BTC). The floats have not been used for a number of years. Several MAC members took a specific interest in this in that it appears that the fish pens are not being used and if they were gone that area could be used to moor vessels that are currently on the wait list. After additional discussion it was moved by Jeff Hegedus and seconded by Doug to ask Port staff to communicate directly with BTC and ask them to remove fish pens if they not going to be used and to further state that if they are going to stay that the MAC would recommend that there should be charges levied for the lineal footage that is taken up by the fish pens. Mike Endsley will follow up with BTC and report back to the MAC at a future date.

Review of Cost Inputs to the Moorage Model

In this item, Pam Taft reviewed a short PowerPoint presentation titled: “Review of Cost Inputs to the Moorage Model”. As background, this item was on the agenda as follow up from our February meeting, where the MAC had a lengthy discussion regarding the operating expenses for the harbors, and the contribution they make to the moorage rate. Most of the time on this presentation was spent on the section that listed all of the variable expense line items in the marina’s annual operating budget. The intent of this exercise was to display all of the line items in the operating budget, and then to identify specific items that warranted further review for potential cost savings. To further this discussion, Pam Taft compiled a new spreadsheet that included not only the adopted numbers for 2010, but also the actual numbers from the past four years. While the ability to look back over the past 4 years was appreciated, the new spreadsheet unfortunately did not also include additional detail that the MAC was interested in discussing. The spreadsheet displayed an aggregate number of both Blaine and Squalicum budgets. Staff will add each marina’s information to the spreadsheet and bring it back to the next meeting. In an exchange with Brian Pemberton, Dan Stahl mentioned that it appeared that there were several items that could be targeted for cost reductions below the adopted budget.

There was also a lengthy discussion regarding the Port's replacement program for dock boxes. Multiple scenarios were discussed about how to implement and fund alternative programs.

Sawtooth Update in Blaine

Pam and Mike reviewed the current staff thinking regarding the budgeted capital repairs to the sawtooth docks at both Blaine and Squalicum Harbors. Based on the recently completed structural review, staff is currently recommending that the dollars that are currently budgeted for Blaine be spent at Squalicum sawtooth during 2010. This is in part due to large repairs potentially being needed to the bulkhead in Blaine that also have an impact on the upland redevelopment of the adjacent area. It was felt at this time that it would be a better use of funds to focus on the Squalicum sawtooth as the majority of the commercial fishing fleet is located in Squalicum as well as the majority of the marine trades that use the sawtooth dock. Staff has discussed this with most of the commercial fishermen that moor their vessels in Blaine. After discussing the item, the MAC felt that this was an appropriate adjustment for the 2010 capital budgeted items.

Staff Updates

Dan had one small update to end the meeting on a happy note. About a week ago, a woman contacted the Port reception desk to report that she had lost a sum of money in the Gate 9 parking lot. Since no one had turned in any found money, there wasn't a lot of hope until a couple of days later when one of our moorage tenants called the Harbormaster's Office to say he had found some money in the Gate 9 parking lot. He was directed to the Harbor Center Reception counter where his honesty was gratefully acknowledged. The woman showed up to collect her once lost cash totaling more than **three-hundred dollars!**

With no further items on the agenda the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM