

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, June 9, 2009
SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Jeff Hegedus
Ryan Kapp
Ron Kleinknecht
Tim Mumford
Jim Splaine
Jim Young

Committee Members Absent:

Mark Gumley
Gene Knutson
Roger Van Dyken

Port Representatives Present:

Mike Endsley
Pam Taft
Andy Peterson

Committee Members Excused

Peter Border
Paul Lavelle
Joe Orem
Doug Sterrett
Jerry Writer

Visitors/ Guests:

Hamilton Hayes

Roll Call

Jeff Hegedus called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

May 12, 2009 Minutes

There was not a quorum so there was no motion to approve May minutes.

Public Comment

Ham Hayes spoke regarding the upcoming Port Commission primary election and announced the candidates in each district.

Visitor Moorage Rates

Mike Endsley reported that the proposed increase to visitor moorage rates was unanimously approved by the Port Commission at their June meeting. The new rates were now in effect and updated visitor envelopes had been ordered. Jim Splaine asked if our occupancy is or will be affected by the increase and staff explained that it was too early to determine, but felt that it would not negatively affect occupancy. Mike thanked the committee for all the feedback that was provided and for the endorsing staff's recommendation.

Legislative Report

Mike Endsley briefed the committee on the most recent WPPA report concerning funding for the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) Boating Facilities Program. It was explained that funding for the grant program has been eliminated for 2010 but does not impact the Blaine Boat Launch project which is already under construction.

Bellwether Project & Gate 12 parking

Mike reported the status of the Bellwether project and how it is impacting the boaters at Gate 12. To date things are running as smooth as can be expected. Some complaints have surfaced regarding parking constraints. Mike noted that allowing boater access to the underground parking garage has helped mitigate some of the potential parking constraints. There was a minor power interruption to Gate 12 moorage but staff was able to post notifications of the outage. Mike mentioned that the project was on schedule.

ASB Update-Berms and Benches

At the last meeting, Port staff presented to the MAC the schematic of the proposed berms and benches of the ASB. The Port Commission was appreciative of the work and input that the MAC provides.

Ham Hayes asked if an analysis has been done to consider the current demand for the marinas. Jim Jorgenson responded that the port is paying attention to the economy and how it might impact future projects. This led in to a discussion on the structure of moorage rates with Jim Young sharing concerns that he has heard regarding the smaller boats subsidizing the larger boats. Jeff assured Jim that the moorage rate subcommittee would be looking at the current structure and possibly moving to a square foot model for billing moorage.

Other Business

Ryan Kapp brought up signage on the Sawtooth that would make pedestrians more aware of work being done on the dock. He posed this as a way to mitigate any liability given that the Sawtooth is active with vehicles and heavy equipment and that the public is often interested in watching this work. Jeff mentioned that this would be an important item for

staff to follow thru with. Mike stated signage could be added that better delineated the hazardous environment associated with heavy work areas.

Staff Updates

1. Pam Taft updated the committee with the new Blaine boat launch closure dates of July 25-31.
2. Mike reported that ~50% of commercial fishermen have brought in their paperwork relating to the new weblocker assignment criteria. Inspections have been done and Port staff is now working through the process preparing the final round of letters being sent this fall.
3. Ron Kleinknecht asked how the security transition was going. Mike stated that there is an obvious learning curve involved but overall well and as we expected. Jeff asked what our crime statistics were and Mike said that he believes they are similar to that of other marinas.
4. Jim Young asked if we have gotten any updates on the power cord language and Mike reported that he was still working it through with legal counsel.

Jeff adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm