

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

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

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Peter Border
Mark Gumley
Ron Kleinknecht
Joe Orem
Jim Splaine
Doug Sterrett
Jerry Writer
Jim Young

Committee Members Absent

Cliff Cultee
Gene Knutson

Port Representatives Present:

Dan Stahl
Mike Endsley
Pam Taft
Andy Peterson

Committee Members Excused

Jeff Hegedus
Ryan Kapp
Paul Lavelle
Tim Mumford
Roger Van Dyken

Visitors/ Guests:

Jim Jorgensen
Al Kapp

Roll Call

Jim Splaine, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Jeff Hegedus, Chair, was excused from tonight's meeting.

October 13 Minutes

Peter Border made a motion to approve the October 13 minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Young and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Al Kapp expressed a concern that the Port had made a change in how it was managing waterfront property. He stated that he heard a rumor that Redden Net was being asked to leave the Port of Bellingham. He also noticed that the Port had recently approved a lease with Ebenal for an office building on waterfront property. Al was wondering whether

this combination of facts indicated a significant shift in Port management. Dan Stahl reviewed with the MAC that the parcel that was leased to Ebenal and will be sublet to the engineering firm CH2M Hill, has long been planned as an office use within the Bellwether development. Dan also stated that he understood that the Port was negotiating with Redden Net for a new facility and Redden Net was considered a very strong tenant in the Port's mix of marine trades tenants and that it was important that they be retained.

Dockside Feedback

- A. Jim Splaine made a comment regarding the electrolysis problems that can be encountered in the harbors at times. Jim is familiar with a company called Maringo that has developed a new product – a pigtail that can be used between the power pedestal and an individual's boat to give a real time assessment of the electrolytic current at a particular berth.
- B. Peter Border commented about the new power cord notifications that are out, that these had been zip tied to the vessels that have compliance issues. Mike Endsley commented that approximately twelve of them have been put out in the harbor recently.
- C. Al Kapp had some further questions regarding what changes were in store for the sawtooth. Port staff reviewed that we have recently finished a structural inspection of the sawtooth docks in both Blaine and Squalicum. We are working to prioritize those repairs to best serve the commercial fishing fleet and other users. We have spent some time looking at a change in the geometry of the sawtooth side of the dock. In talking with users of the facility, staff understands that vessels have changed size over the years, and that perhaps we can change the geometry of the dock to better suit the vessels that are in use today. General discussion followed.

Updates to Mooring Structure and Billing

Mike reviewed with the MAC the last discussion that we had on this topic back in April and May. As background - the Port has daily, weekly and monthly rates that we charge for moorage. There is a perceived inequity for some customers based on what time of month they arrange for starting and stopping their moorage. Staff is investigating a change to our harbor rules and regs and moorage tariff that would allow for a more streamlined billing process. To this end, Port staff has surveyed other similar facilities in Puget Sound to understand their billing practices and see what we might learn. Staff is working the proposed changes back through past transactions and current inventories. Staff is also coordinating with accounting staff which is required for marina billing. Although this pricing structure impacts both recreational and commercial users it has a higher impact on the commercial users as they come and go more often due to fish openings and this is one of the reasons we are looking to update our procedures. Mike Endsley stated that he was hoping to arrive at a consensus at the December meeting so that this could be forwarded on to the Port commission for a January commission meeting.

Joe Orem asked about allocation of slips within the harbor and how it impacts a large boat in the 50 foot plus range. Joe's question was about customer service. Joe explained that for several years he has been unable to get the boat relocated from Blaine to Squalicum. A general discussion ensued regarding how the Port allocates moorage to different types of users at Squalicum Harbor. It was agreed that staff at a future meeting

would schedule a review of the Port's Marina Use Plan or MUP and how it impacts moorage assignments.

Concern was also expressed about some the Port's merchant leaseholders (yacht charters) advertising for permanent moorage at Squalicum Harbor. Staff indicated that this is not an allowable practice and would look into that matter further.

Harbor Rules and Regs

Pam Taft reviewed a four page handout with largely housekeeping revisions to the Port's Rules, Regulations and Procedures. Most of these suggested edits reflected refinements in language suggested by both Port staff and customers during the past year. After these items were reviewed with further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Young for recommendation to the Port commission at their January meeting; Ron Kleinknecht seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Gate 3 Update

Mike and Dan updated the MAC on the Gate 3 project. This is the replacement for laterals F east and west and G east and west. Mike reviewed the past schedule for this project which had temporarily been put on hold pending resolution of dredging issues associated with the float replacements. The Port of Bellingham's draft budget for 2010, which was scheduled for commission adoption later in the month, included this project getting back on line with the sediments looking to be placed at an upland facility associated with the GP redevelopment. There was general appreciation by the MAC for getting this project moving again both because of boater demand for the slips but also to stop the lost revenue opportunity for the Port. As the MAC has several new members since the Gate 3 project was looked at in any detail several members asked for the project to be brought back with a more specific review at a later date. Staff agreed to schedule this.

Staff Updates

Dan Stahl mentioned that BP Cherry Point and NOAA had coordinated for the dedication of a new PORTS facility. PORTS is an acronym that stands for Physical Oceanographic Real Time System. This system, although designed specifically for BP's commercial uses, is available for free to all boaters. It allows users to get very accurate, real time data for current, wind, tides in northern Puget Sound. An open house for dedication of the facility is scheduled on Friday, November 20, 2009.

Mike Endsley, at Dan's request, reviewed some of the insurance work that the Port has recently done with moorage customers in the harbor. Staff routinely goes through a process of confirming that boater's have the necessary insurance requirement on their boat to protect the harbor in case of fire. (The MAC had previously asked to be kept apprised as to how the program was functioning.)

With no further agenda items, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.