

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011
SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Peter Border
Jeff Hegedus
Ron Kleinknecht
Gene Knutson
Paul Lavelle
Tim Mumford
Brian Pemberton
Doug Sterrett
Jerry Writer
Jim Young

Committee Members Absent:

Lummi Representative

Port Representatives Present:

Dan Stahl
Mike Endsley
Pam Taft
Andy Peterson

Committee Members Excused:

Joe Orem

Visitors/ Guests:

Elizabeth Kilanowski and Bert Rubash
Jim Splaine
Jim Jorgensen

Roll Call

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

February 8, 2011 Minutes

The February 8, 2011 minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Peter Border to approve the minutes as written. This was seconded by Paul Lavelle and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None given.

Dockside Feedback

- Jim Young asked for an update on the disposition of the Quickie Lifts located at the foot of the ramp at Gate 8. Mike Endsley talked about the process through which the Port came into possession of the Quickie Lifts and outlined the tentative plans for their removal (later this summer in all likelihood).
- Doug Sterrett asked questions about nets around Gate 5 asking about the policy that administers the storage of the carts. Mike Endsley replied by stating the carts are typically stored on the east side of Webhouse 4. Staff will be working to relocate the carts to their appropriate area. Doug asked if the commercial fishermen pay for net cart storage. Mike stated that they do not.
- Ron Kleinknecht talked about several recent thefts in and around the Gate 8 area. It was discussed that a recent arrest by the Bellingham Police Department may have resolved this issue.
- Jeff Hegedus mentioned that there is now an official “OC6” Club which are traditional Hawaiian outriggers active on Bellingham Bay. The 24 foot boats are stored upland at the Community Boating Center in Fairhaven.

Presentation: PoB Park Plan Update

Greg McHenry, Port Planner, provided a lengthy update on the Port of Bellingham’s Public Access and Park Plan. Greg reviewed many of the specifics of the current plan that the Port is updating. He also reviewed the main purposes of the plan which were to facilitate coordination between various government agencies that develop and maintain parks and also (importantly) to keep the Port eligible for state grants.

It was discussed that the Port of Bellingham is in the process of applying for a grant from the Washington State Office Recreation and Conservation Office to refurbish the heavily used Squalicum boat launch. Brian Pemberton raised discussion about potential future access for charter boats in the Fairhaven area. It was noted that this might be a business opportunity for a water taxi or some other service provider in the area.

USCG Appreciation Event

Brian Pemberton led this discussion based on his earlier work with the U. S. Coast Guard Foundation which is focused on the health and well being of the enlisted members of the USCG - which are an important part of our waterfront culture in Bellingham. There was a wide ranging discussion about the pros and cons of taking on such an event, various groups that might assist and the benefits that might accrue for both the Coast Guard personnel and the harbor in general. Members were asked to give this idea some additional thought, and a follow up discussion will be scheduled as soon as possible.

Moorage Model Implementation

This was the first MAC meeting since the Commission made two important decisions regarding moorage rates at Port of Bellingham facilities. As such, Dan Stahl gave an overview of both of those decisions.

The first decision was on February 15th, the week after the last MAC meeting, where the Port Commission adopted Resolution 1293 implementing the new moorage model. The second decision came on March 1st, where the Commission adopted an action item to support the local Fishing Industry and Marine Trades. This action reduced the moorage for commercial fishermen (for active commercial fishing vessels less than 80 feet) from \$6.92 to \$5.90 and allocated funds to promote these industries. Dan reviewed both these actions and how they overlapped. Dan said that he would bring an additional update at the next MAC meeting, as by then the new moorage rates will have been implemented and Dan would update the MAC on how that process has worked.

Oil Spill Update

Mike Endsley gave background on several recent oil spills at Squalicum Harbor. As general background, Mike described that most of our small oil spills in the harbor are what we would call a “mystery sheen”. If it’s a rainbow sheen it is a relatively recent spill. If it is more of a silver sheen it is typically an older spill. The spills that we had recently were larger in volume and different in character than those just described. Mike noted that Port staff has sufficient training to be first responders to these spills. The recent spills were coordinated with the Coast Guard and the Department of Ecology which implemented their incident command structure. An after action review was scheduled with the agencies. The MAC thanked Mike and harbor staff for their responsiveness and asked them to stay vigilant on these issues.

There being no further business the MAC was adjourned at 8:00 PM.