

# **PORT OF BELLINGHAM**

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012  
SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE  
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

## **Minutes**

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### **Committee Members Present:**

Peter Border  
Ron Kleinknecht  
Joe Orem  
Brian Pemberton  
Doug Sterrett  
Jerry Writer  
Jim Young

### **Committee Members Absent:**

Lummi Representative

### **Port Representatives Present:**

Dan Stahl  
Andy Peterson  
Mike Endsley

### **Committee Members Excused:**

Jeff Hegedus  
Gene Knutson  
Paul Lavelle

### **Visitors/Guests:**

Elizabeth Kilanowski

## **Roll Call**

Brian Pemberton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

## **January 10, 2012 Minutes**

The January 10, 2012 minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Jim Young to approve the minutes as written. This was seconded by Joe Orem and passed unanimously.

## **Public Comment**

Elizabeth Kilanowski asked for an update on the Firebelle. This item was listed later on the agenda but Brian Pemberton asked that this issue be addressed during the public comment period.

Dan updated the MAC on actions taken by the City of Bellingham since the MAC meeting in January. The City had put out a notice to sell the Firebelle. The City conducted a walk-through at Squalicum Harbor on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. The City then followed through with a bid opening to sell that vessel on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Apparently there were no bidders. The status is that the City of Bellingham continues to own both the Firebelle and the

boathouse. A lengthy discussion ensued. Several of the MAC members expressed concern about the loss of the fire boat: That we are a maritime community and we should have some type of fire boat to address potential fires inside the marina. It was decided that MAC members would do two things. First, as individuals, they could contact any number of elected officials to express their concerns. Second, as a group, they formulated a motion directing their concerns to the Port Commission. Jim Young made the following motion: That the Port Commission be advised that the Port's Marina Advisory Committee is concerned about the loss of the Firebelle and asks that the Port Commissioners contact both Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to see if there is any way to re-evaluate the future operation of a fireboat for our community. It is noted that both the County and the City receive a portion of leasehold tax revenue that is generated by both in-water and near-shore tenants. The motion was seconded by Peter Border and passed unanimously.

### **Dockside Feedback**

Peter Border mentioned that he was working hard to attract new members for the HAT (Harbor Awareness Team). Mr. Border also brought to the attention of the MAC that he is hearing concerns from his fellow boaters that the Port is not paying enough attention to the needs of the recreational boater, particularly in regard to moorage rates.

Jim Young offered thanks for Ebenal's clean-up of the construction site over in the Gate 12 area.

### **Wild Seafood Exchange**

Mike Endsley gave an update to the MAC on the Wild Seafood Exchange which is currently scheduled for Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mike reviewed the intended market for this being local smaller operations commercial fishermen. He reviewed the agenda which includes local restaurants and buyers of fresh seafood. There was discussion and appreciation from the MAC for the Port in hosting this. As requested, Mike said that he would send an email the following day to MAC members with the agenda and the date in case any of them decided that they wanted to attend.

### **Gate 3, including ladders**

Mike reviewed the progress on this capital project. The in-water window formally closes on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The Port has petitioned the permitting agencies and has received an extension past the normal closure to finish the pile driving work. The dredging should be done in the next day or two. It will take the contractor a day to swap out equipment and then approximately ten days to drive all of the pilings. Several of the boaters have commented that they have seen the electrical work being prepped upland in anticipation of the new floats. Mr. Endsley advised that the project should be done sometime toward the end of April or early May and would allow the Port to begin assigning moorage at that time. Mike then reviewed the situation with the dock ladders. There is further investigation ongoing about the "up and out" product and that it may not be the best fit for the inner basin at Squalicum. Mike plans on briefing the Port commission at their work study session on February 21 followed by an action item recommending authority to purchase the ladders at the March business meeting.

## Quickie Lifts

Mike advised that the Port staff is in the process of getting official quotes for the haul-out and demolition/recycling of the quick lifts. He hopes to have that work accomplished within the next week or two depending on how the bidding process goes. The company that responds with the low bid will be able at some level to dictate the schedule. Several members of the MAC encouraged the removal of the asset as soon as possible.

## Staff Updates

- Brian Pemberton asked staff to forward on condolences to Pam Taft who injured her left arm playing soccer recently. Several members of the MAC wished to express their condolences and wishes for her quick healing and speedy return to work.
- Dan reviewed that the marinas are tracking in line with the adopted blueline (moorage model) so that rate increases scheduled for April 1 should be consistent with the blueline model that was adopted over a year ago. This is good news that our cost control measures are working and we look forward to closing out the Gate 3 project which will be our largest capital expenditure in a long time. We are hoping to come in under budget.
- Dan then reviewed the activity down at the shipping terminal with Greenberry Industrial and Superior Energy. Several of the MAC members had seen activity down there and Dan gave an overview of that project.
- Andy talked about some recent break-ins to the web lockers in Blaine. The thefts were targeted toward shipyard work. Port staff took additional security measures following the reported incidents and coordinated with local law enforcement. No such incidents have been reported since.
- Several people talked about the recent boat shows – both in Seattle and Vancouver BC. The general consensus was that both of these shows are showing positive interest in boating and that bodes well for the industry that has had some severe setbacks due to the downturn in the economy.
- Mike talked about Sea Grant safety outreach to the commercial fishermen. This is the third session in the past year. The Port supports this by providing the Squalicum Boathouse free of charge. There was discussion about including charter operators in future events. Mike will check this out with Sea Grant and see if it's possible for that group to attend these functions as well.

There being no further business the MAC was adjourned at 7:30 pm.