

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 8, 2012 SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Lummi Representative
Joe Orem

Port Representatives Present:

Dan Stahl
Andy Peterson
Mike Endsley
Pam Taft

Committee Members Excused:

Visitors/Guests:

Elizabeth Kilanowski
Bert Rubash
George Mundell
Commissioner Jim Jorgensen

Roll Call

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

April 18, 2012 Minutes

The April 18, 2012 minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Brian Pemberton to approve the minutes as written. This was seconded by Doug Sterrett and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Dockside Feedback

- Peter Border congratulated the staff on getting the Quickie Lifts removed from the harbor before they sank and asked about when that area might be refilled with moorage. Mike Endsley reviewed the current staff analysis on refilling that area with permanent moorage. One precaution that Mike will take is to have a diver go down and confirm that there are no obstacles in the area before moorage is assigned.
- Jim Young had some comments about the pump-out on Gate 8. Mike said that he was aware of the issue and will insure that the maintenance department follows through on their work order.
- Doug Sterrett commented that he thought Opening Day went very well this year and was pleased by the activity and good cooperation down at Squalicum Harbor.

Gate 3 Update

Mike Endsley gave an update to the MAC on the Gate 3 project. Mike started by reviewing the damage assessment that is currently being done by Reid Middleton on behalf of the Port. The Port commission authorized a new contract for Reid Middleton on May 1 for \$68,061 to review the damage caused by the recent fire. The Port intends to do this in a very thorough fashion to insure that the new docks that are being purchased and the repairs to the existing facilities are done in such a way to maximize the life expectancy of these assets. This includes coring of the floats to inspect both the concrete and the internal floatation. It also calls for taking a close look at all adjacent utility lines. Mike thinks it will be done in about three weeks. It should be noted that the damage in the fire area is to both the new floats that Dutra is providing to the Port as well as some the existing floats in the adjacent area.

Mike reviewed the construction schedule with Dutra. They are back and working in areas not affected by the fire. Mike is hopeful that F West may be able to be assigned for permanent moorage sometime in June. G East and West will likely be out significantly farther, hopefully by Labor Day. This is on account of the damage due to the main lateral which houses all of the required utilities. A number of questions and answers were given back and forth between staff and the MAC.

Brian Pemberton asked about ladders. Mike reported that these are on schedule to be installed later this year. The current focus is on the damage assessment and working with Dutra in finishing their capital project. Port staff will install the ladders at a subsequent date. We are currently on schedule to finish the installation this year.

Harbor Safety

This item is on the agenda as a follow up to the last MAC meeting on April 18 in which Dan told the MAC that he would initiate additional dialogue with Bellingham Fire Chief Bill Boyd after the recent fire at Squalicum Harbor. Dan reported that he has had several productive discussions with the Fire Chief, along with other city staff. Dan recounted that the results of their brain storming session was a list of items that warranted further review. These were then sorted into three phases. It was noted that some of this work could go on concurrently.

Phase 1:

- In the short term category the Port would review its own electrical systems along Gate 3. Mike Endsley reported that that has already been completed with the

assistance of the electricians in our maintenance department. The inspection revealed no issues on the Port's infrastructure. Some chafing was noted on several boat house owned components. That information was given to the boat house owners and Port staff will follow up to insure those items are taken of.

- The Port will work with boat house owners to have their structures inspected by the City of Bellingham's Fire Department looking for safety improvements in those areas. There was discussion about having a meeting with the boathouse owners at some future date.

Phase 2:

- The Bellingham Fire Department will research other jurisdictions' fire codes for language that cover boat houses. Several regional communities have experienced boat house fires in years past. This includes both Seattle and Gig Harbor. The City of Bellingham will undertake some feasibility analyses to see what engineered solutions are applicable to these structures. This could possibly include draft curtains, heat vents, alarm systems and fire sprinklers.

Phase 3:

- Long term is really a focus on a fire boat. The City would do a needs assessment to determine the vessel capacity that is needed to supplement land based fire responses. There would need to be an estimate of both capital and operating costs, the development and approval of interlocal agreement between the City, the Port and perhaps Whatcom County. During this time, the BFD would continue to seek appropriate grant opportunities.

Update on Waterfront Redevelopment

Jeff Hegedus gave an update on the Waterfront redevelopment. Jeff reminded the MAC that via his position as chair on the MAC he also represents the Port on the WAG (Waterfront Advisory Group). Jeff recounted the recent joint meeting between the Bellingham City Council and the Port Commission. The City and Port are looking to have the current plan adopted some time later this fall. Jeff described the process whereby the Port and City staff have scaled back the development to reflect the current economic reality. There was also a discussion of the granary building.

Staff Updates

The question was asked about the Port's executive director search. Dan described the commission's discussion at their last Port commission meeting, whereby the Port communicated with Waldron that they would like the option to renew the search that they had done previously. This 'warranty' clause was part of the contract between the port and Waldron. The Port commission could also choose to do this with Port staff or to start with a fresh RFP to headhunting consultants. Commissioner Jorgensen, in attendance at the meeting, further described the commission's deliberations.

From there the discussion went on to the current topic of whether the Port of Bellingham should have three versus five commissioners. Commissioner Jorgensen talked about the pros and cons. There was additional discussion back and forth.

Lastly, the MAC talked about their upcoming schedule. The MAC typically has a barbeque for its members at their June meeting. The MAC would then take July and August off for boating season. Doug Sterrett and Brian Pemberton both said that they would be absent from next month's meeting and wished the rest of the MAC a good summer.

There being no further business the MAC was adjourned at 7:45 pm.