

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2013
SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Peter Border
Bill Douglas
Elizabeth Kilanowski
Jim Kyle
Brian Pemberton
Ian Puchlik
Doug Sterrett
Jerry Writer
Jim Young

Committee Members Absent:

Port Representatives Present:

Dan Stahl
Chris Tibbe
Pam Taft
Andy Peterson

Committee Members Excused:

Ron Kleinknecht
Gene Knutson

Visitors/Guests:

Bert Rubash

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

April 9, 2013 Minutes

The April 9, 2013 minutes were approved unanimously. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Ian Puchlik and seconded by Jim Young.

Public Comment

None.

Dockside Feedback

Peter Border reminded the MAC that June 8 is National Marina Day.

Elizabeth Kilanowski had three items. First was a question about an electrical incident at the ramp at Gate 3. Chris Tibbe recounted the situation from last week where Port staff responded to an issue with the electrical line at the base of the ramp on Gate 3. Port maintenance staff came to troubleshoot and fix the problem. Apparently an electrical line

was chaffed and a styrofoam cup caught on fire, but did not cause any additional damage. Elizabeth again brought up the issue of restroom cleanliness on Gate 3. This has been an ongoing issue. There has been some progress but the restrooms are routinely not in a state of cleanliness that is acceptable. Much discussion ensued. Chris and Andy explained how Port staff manages the janitorial contractor. It was decided to give this another month to show significant improvement. If this is not the case, the MAC would write a letter to the Commission asking for their attention to the matter. Elizabeth then asked if there are any live-aboards in the boathouses. Staff reviewed for the MAC their earlier recommendation to bar live-aboards from the boathouses. This recommendation was subsequently approved by the Port Commission and is now part of the Port's Rules and Regulations.

Peter Border asked about garbage expenses. Chris responded that this is still watched closely with some significant reduction of past levels.

Review of Opening Day

The weather was fantastic this year and both harbors experienced good turn-outs and very favorable activities in both harbors. Doug Sterrett responded that Squalicum Yacht Club was able to raise over \$1,100 for the local food bank. Andy mentioned that in Blaine the International Yacht Club had their flag ceremony and the McGregor Club had their annual outing. Both Harbormasters then described the ceremonies for the Blessing of the Fleet which went off equally well.

Border Fee

Ian Puchlik, our Canadian MAC member, brought up this item. As background, the Washington Legislature, in their attempt to balance the budget this year, has contemplated putting a head tax on land traffic across the border. This would negatively impact Whatcom County businesses that rely, in part, on Canadian customers. The Legislature is still in session but it appears that this item has been nixed by the Senate. It was agreed that this would be on the watch list until the Legislature balances their budget for the year.

Update on 2013 Capital Projects

Christ Tibbe responded for Squalicum Harbor.

- The Squalicum boat launch/rinse down area is now operational. Chris reviewed the operating procedures with the MAC.
- Gate 6 inner harbor work is almost done awaiting for final City of Bellingham inspections.
- We now have a permit to install ladders at both Blaine and Squalicum Harbors. This work should go out to bid and field work should begin by the end of August.
- Chris finished with a description of the electrical upgrades in Warehouses 3 and 4.

During the discussion of the inner harbor work, the MAC discussed whether additional M & R dollars should be spent on 26' to 28' slips that are currently unoccupied for most of the winter. The MAC discussed the option of removing these smaller fingers and rehabilitating the dock to allow side tie of larger vessels. This might prove to be better financially for the

harbor and also might encourage more business for the local marine trades. It was agreed that staff would look into this and bring a preliminary discussion to the MAC later this fall.

Andy then described goings on in Blaine.

- The Blaine boat launch rinse down pad is also on schedule.
- Andy also described the end pier improvements that have also been budgeted.

Update on Boathouse Issues

Pressure Line: Dan updated the MAC on progress on the investigation of a new pressure line that would eventually provide water for the multiparty boathouses to hook up their required sprinkler systems. Dan informed the MAC that the consultant is now under contract and preliminary design has begun. Dan is hopeful that the analysis will be finished by the end of the summer so he can give an update to the MAC at their regular meeting on September 10.

Multiparty Agreement: Dan and Brian Pemberton recounted for the MAC the boathouse subcommittee last meeting (meeting #4 on Friday, May 3, 2013). At this meeting, Bob Tull and Ken Culver presented a draft organizing agreement that might be used by the multiparty boathouses. Bob and Ken have agreed to finish this document by the end of May and to submit it to Port legal counsel for review in June. They then suggested that perhaps the best way to do outreach to the multiparty boathouse owners is to have some kind of an open house event toward the end of September. This would allow the document to be finished and to allow for the usual travel schedule of the multiparty boathouse owners. The MAC discussed the merits of having the meeting earlier in July or August, but agreed to do this with the time line that Ken had suggested. Dates were discussed and reviewed. September 24th was selected as the best date. The following motion was made by Doug Sterrett: Motion for the Port to sponsor an Open House with the attendance of the MAC to facilitate discussion with multiparty boathouse owners. Significant discussion ensued about the MAC's role in this event. At the end of the discussion it was agreed that this role was in keeping with the MAC's purpose of facilitating discussion of harbor users especially as it relates to improving safety in the harbor. The motion was seconded by Ian Puchlik and approved unanimously.

Staff Updates

Chris Tibbe informed the MAC that Whatcom County Sheriff Marine Patrol will be walking the docks to inspect for registration stickers. Chad Heinrich from the county is the lead person there.

There was a discussion about the MAC meeting schedule. It was agreed that the MAC would take July and August off and have their usual barbeque in June. Jim Young asked that the staff send out a request for RSVP notices prior to the meeting to make sure that staff has an accurate headcount. (Last year's attendance was light.)

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.