

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2013
SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Ron Kleinknecht

Port Representatives Present:

Dan Stahl
Chris Tibbe
Andy Peterson
Pam Taft

Committee Members Excused:

Visitors/Guests:

John Plummer
Commissioner Jim Jorgenson
Bert Rubash

Roll Call

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

June 11, 2013 Minutes

The June 11, 2013 minutes were approved unanimously. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Doug Sterrett and seconded by Gene Knutson.

Public Comment

John Plummer raised an issue with some of the differences he perceived between Blaine and Squalicum Harbors with how the Harbors' Rules and Regulations were administered.

John spent the last 8 years as a recreational boater in Blaine and recently moved down to Squalicum on gate 3 and engaged discussion with the MAC members and staff regarding dock carts, gate closures and the general attitude of the staff for the two facilities. Other MAC members that had transferred from Blaine to Squalicum echoed many of the same comments. Staff is aware of the perceptions and is working to address the issue. The goal of port staff is that both facilities have a high level of customer service.

Dockside Feedback

Jim Young commented about “sneak-boards” that he sees out on gate 8. A broad discussion ensued about balancing the harbors needs for safety, security and required use of pump-out facilities with the privacy of boaters. Jim and Chris agreed to further discussion after the meeting.

Elizabeth Kilanowski raised an issue on the light sequencing for the comfort station at Gate 3. Elizabeth commented that several of the lights come on too late and some come on too early. It was noted that there was recently some work to the power systems in that area and perhaps this upset the timers that feed the lights. Chris Tibbe will investigate with the maintenance department and check into this.

Ian Puchlik raised the question about potable water in Blaine. Ian recounted a situation this past summer where he took potable water from the spigot at Gate 2. The water in Ian’s bottle was later observed to be discolored (green). It was decided that Andy would see what it would take to have a few samples of the water taken and analyzed and report back to the MAC at a later meeting.

Brian Pemberton raised a question about the cameras at Squalicum Harbor and whether they record or not. Chris Tibbe commented that the cameras do not record. Camera upgrades are currently a topic for capital budget discussions which are underway. Chris pointed out that the cameras are not just for “security” that they are often used by staff to help guide boaters into the transient docks which are covered by the cameras visible to office staff.

Ian Puchlik asked questions regarding Wi Fi access in the marina. Ian complained that BBX in Blaine is horrible and is interested in what other options might be available. Elizabeth Kilanowski reported that ‘Clear’ in Squalicum operates very well but is probably not available in Blaine. Staff said they would try to investigate some other options and report back to the MAC at a future meeting.

Fall Capital Projects

Chris Tibbe gave an update on the 2013 Marina Capital Improvement Project. This is a contract for \$977,268 that includes the last of the inner-harbor float extension work in Squalicum Harbor as well as the installation of dock boxes in Squalicum Harbor and safety ladders in both Squalicum and Blaine Harbors. This is work that has been anticipated for some time and was greatly appreciated by MAC members. Chris commented that the notice to proceed was given to the contractor today. The contract has a 120 day life, so we should see the work completed by February of 2014.

G East Infill (Squalicum – Gate 3)

Andy gave an update on the G East infill at Squalicum Gate 3. Andy recounted the design process used to optimize the design for the G East area on Gate 3. The MAC discussed the slip lengths as they relate to the port's BCR and wait list. Permits will be submitted next month construction would begin in the fall next year. A total of 12 pilings will need to be installed and it's hoped that this facility is operational and generating revenue by spring of 2015.

Waterfront District (GP)

Dan gave an update on the Waterfront District (the GP redevelopment). Dan handed out copies of the Port's summer 2013 "Port News". Dan highlighted the progress that the Port and City have made toward the rezoning of this large industrial property. The MAC was appreciative of the progress and looks forward to the legislative process being completed by the end of the year. Several MAC members discussed how they have been advocating for marine trades issues during this process and encouraged other members to stay engaged and be supportive of marine trades to make sure their interests are heard as this very important planning process reaches a crescendo in the coming months.

Jim Young commented that the joint City Port meetings that were held this summer - specifically the walking tours around the ASB and the old GP campus - were extremely helpful and that both Port and City staff were organized, concise and very professional in their representation of the complexities of this project. Jim commented on a job very well done.

Update on Multiparty Boathouse – Safety Improvements

Several staff members contributed to this dialogue. Dan reminded the MAC of their earlier decision to have an informational meeting on this coming Tuesday, September 24th at the request of Ken Culver. The intent of the meeting is to provide Multiparty Boathouse owners with information to help them get into compliance with changes to the City's fire ordinance and the Commission adopted Rules and Regulations for the harbors.

- The new fire ordinance requires the Port to enlarge the stand pipe for Gate 3. The Port has currently finished with this design and is in the permitting process and expects to have this required upgrade completely finished by the end of the year.
- The pressure line is a requirement of the fire ordinance for the Multiparty Boathouse owners which need to have their structures sprinkled within five years. At the request of the Multiparty Boathouse owners, the Port has fronted the design of the pressure line to feed those systems. That design is almost completed and staff discussed routing options for bringing that pressure line from the uplands to down on the docks.
- Multiparty Boathouse organization: Bob Tull and Ken Culver have made significant progress over the summer to submit a draft agreement to the Port for review. Frank Chemlik, Port legal counsel, has reviewed these documents and with some minor tweaks,

thinks they meet the Port's interests and they meet the intent of the Rules and Regulations that were recently adopted by the Port Commission.

Staff – General Updates

- The Pacific Marine Expo is November 20-22 this year. MAC members are welcome to attend this event and/or spend some time in the Port booth. Please see Dan if you are interested.
- Dan gave an update on the new lease for Northwest Explorations in the harbor. This is a significant private investment in the harbor that will raise our level of service and visibility to many boaters.
- Dan mentioned that Barbara Pierson, who has previously provided admin. support for the MAC has recently been promoted. The illustrious Susan Baker has bravely volunteered to fulfill those duties.

With there being no more further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.