

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014
SQUALICUM HARBOR OFFICE
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Bill Douglass
Elizabeth Kilanowski
Ian Puchlik
Jerry Writer
Doug Sterrett

Committee Members Absent:

Terry Borneman
Brian Pemberton

Port Representatives Present:

Andy Peterson
Chris Tibbe
Pam Taft
Dan Stahl

Committee Members Excused:

Ron Kleinknecht
Jim Young
Peter Border
Jim Kyle

Visitors/Guests:

Burt Rubash
Jim Jorgensen
Dan Robbins

Roll Call

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

May 13 Minutes

The May 13, 2014 Minutes were approved unanimously. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Jerry Writer and seconded by Bill Douglass.

Public Comment

No Public Comment was offered.

Dockside Feedback

MAC member, Elizabeth Kilanowski expressed a concern about her observations in Squalicum Harbor of people riding bikes and push scooters on the dock. Jerry Writer concurred that he had

also witnessed riders on GW heading toward the dock. A brief discussion about signage followed these concerns. Chris Tibbe appreciated the feedback and welcomed ideas about the best way to proactively remind people of this important safety risk.

Jim Jorgensen asked for an explanation of how the Blaine Boat Launch fee is paid. Andy Peterson explained the “Honor System” process and commented that it is remarkably effective.

Brian Pemberton offered an update to the MAC that 6 of the 7 boathouses in both Blaine and Squalicum Harbors have completed the requirement to form as a legal entity and carry insurance for the boat house as that legal entity. Brian gave a brief background of the often difficult process to get the boathouses in compliance and recognized the integral contribution in time and as volunteers, that boathouse owners Mr. Bob Tull and Mr. Ken Culver, gave to the MAC and staff to assist with the implementation of these requirements. A motion to have the Port of Bellingham Commission formally recognize these two gentlemen was made by Jerry Writer and seconded by Doug Sterret with unanimous approval. It is noted that Brian Pemberton asked that the recognition also be presented and read at a public Port of Bellingham Commission meeting. Again, Jerry Writer made the motion in agreement, motion seconded by Doug Sterret.

Ian Puchlick stated that he took the time this summer to walk the docks and introduce himself as a MAC member to the Blaine Harbor tenants and to survey how they felt about their marina experience in Blaine. He commented that overall Blaine customers were pleased and the comments were mostly positive. He did offer some expressed concerns regarding; the safety risk of dogs, excessive disregard of rules by some tenants and, while the showers were remarkably clean, the bathrooms have off-putting smells and appearance. Ian also raised some questions as to why tenants cannot have BBQ's on the dock, how often the docks are power washed, and an approximate date when WI-FI will be installed and how much will it cost to utilize the service. Brian Pemberton asked staff to have answers to these questions for the October MAC meeting. An informative discussion then ensued regarding the new collaboration of data sharing between Canada and the United States, which tracks when the country is entered and departed potentially having tax implications for foreign visitors.

Membership

Brian Pemberton offered a background on the makeup of the MAC and its current diversity of members. Brian noted that each MAC member represented a specific constituency when they were appointed to the MAC by the Port Commissioners – i.e. Small Boater, Tenant, Commercial Fishermen, etc. And that over time people's interests often change. And since several of our MAC members have been aboard for longer than their initial 3 year term, all were asked to review their own personal situation and to make sure they were comfortable representing an identified constituency. Given that we've had some turnover already, Brian next asked for guidance on recommendations for new members. Jerry Writer commented that there were no Tribal members present and encouraged the MAC to reach out to the Tribes and inquire if anyone would be interested in volunteering. Anyone interested in becoming a MAC member is encouraged to fill out an application online or stop by either Blaine or Squalicum Harbor offices and pick one up. Interested parties are welcome to drop off their completed applications at either harbor office as well. Staff will place an article in the next newsletter as well. Brian reviewed

the process by which the MAC would evaluate applications and make recommendations to the Port Commission, which ultimately makes the appointments to the MAC.

Staff Updates

Chris Tibbe updated the MAC on some of the new staff changes in Squalicum Harbor. A brief update on the progress of gate 5 C and D dock whaler replacement was given as well as a thank you to all marina tenants for their patience while this important maintenance is performed. Chris also pointed out the painting that is underway throughout the harbor, and explained the solution to the failing hose bibs on GE and GW and FW at gate 3. Chris also and asked for future comments and suggestions for the newsletter as staff hopes to offer a more engaging and positive outreach to marina tenants. Jim Jorgensen agreed that the newsletter would better serve with a positive tone and content. Dan Robbins concurred and suggested that if perhaps signage was also positive more people would respond favorably to the request of the sign. Andy Peterson then explained that Blaine Harbor had its water tested by a certified lab recommended by the City of Blaine, and test results concluded the water out on the docks is safe. Dan Stahl mentioned that the MAC may move to the newly renovated commission chambers in the Port of Bellingham Harbor Center. Dan also offered an update on the anchorage restrictions on DNR property that is currently in progress in Bellingham Bay.

Intro to 2HSB2457

Chris Tibbe gave an introduction to the new and now in effect State law, 2SHB2457, regarding derelict vessels. Chris noted that this new law will impact all boaters in Washington and looks forward to working with the MAC to minimize the impact by developing a process that will facilitate the legal responsibility of compliance of boaters and the Marinas. The MAC will discuss the impacts of the new requirements at the next meeting.

Looking ahead-Priority Setting for 2015

Brian Pemberton asked for suggestion on what the MAC committee would like to have as topics of focus for the coming year. Several good suggestions were made. Some of which are;

- Re-use of the space currently occupied by Harbor Mall
- Increasing Public Participation
- Focus on the long range scope and size of future capital requirements and the ability of Marina revenue to keep pace with the needed demand.
- Support and help for the Commercial Fisherman.
- Review the Merchant Lease Holders. Over time several concerns have been expressed that the program as it is currently, may not be fulfilling it's intended purpose. It was suggested that Commission input would be helpful.
- Reviewing the Power available at both harbors, and the need to increase this if at all possible.
- Beautification of the Weblockers at both Squalicum and Blaine.

These suggestions prompted good dialogue and it was decided that the priority setting discussion would continue in a subsequent meeting. It was also proposed that the MAC make a trip to Blaine Harbor to discuss what development opportunities may exist there and the challenges facing the area.

Brian noted that both he and Jim Young, Vice Chair would be absent at the next meeting. Staff volunteered to run the agenda in their absence.

With no further business the September 9, 2014 MAC meeting adjourned at 20:05.