

PORT OF BELLINGHAM

**MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014
HARBOR CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Bill Douglas
Elizabeth Kilanowski
Ian Puchlik
Doug Sterrett
Brian Pemberton
Ron Kleinknecht

Committee Members Absent:

Jim Kyle

Port Representatives Present:

Andy Peterson
Chris Tibbe
Pam Taft
Dan Stahl

Committee Members Excused:

Jerry Writer
Jim Young

Visitors/Guests:

Burt Rubash

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order in our new location at 6:00 pm.

May 13 Minutes

The September 9, 2014 Minutes were approved unanimously. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Elizabeth Kilanowski and seconded by Doug Sterrett.

Public Comment

No Public Comment was offered.

Dockside Feedback

Elizabeth Kilanowski once again raised the issue of bikes down on the docks, especially on

Gate 3. Elizabeth suggested some additional signage - perhaps stenciling "No Biking" on the concrete float at the foot of the ramp, similar to how the City of Bellingham stencils sidewalks in the downtown core.

Peter Border shared that he had been made aware of a contentious situation with several boat owners in the harbor who had moored their boats in slips that were controlled by a Merchant Leaseholder, Blue Herron Yachts. Apparently these boat owners had paid Blue Herron for their moorage, but Blue Herron is not current in their moorage with the Port. These boat owners were very concerned that the Port had chained their boats for lack of payment. Chris Tibbe described the situation with Blue Herron and was sympathetic with the owner's plight but was unable to cure the situation that Blue Herron had gotten its self into by not keeping current with their rent. A general discussion of Merchant Leaseholder policies ensued. Staff commented that this is not the first time that this issue has come up and that the Port Commission has requested a review of the Merchant Leaseholder program in 2015. This was widely appreciated by the MAC who looks forward to the discussion to make sure that the harbor is being operated consistently.

Elizabeth Kilanowski offered her thanks to Tony for adjusting the timer on the light by the comfort station: much appreciated. Ian also commented that Andy Peterson had been able to take care of all of the issues that have come up with boaters in Blaine. Kudos to Andy from Ian.

Second Substitute House Bill 2457

Andy discussed the new requirements for boaters and moorage operators contained in SSHB 2457. The House Bill was approved in response to difficult funding issues resulting from derelict vessels appearing in Washington State waters. The House Bill requires boaters to provide additional contact and vessel information. The House Bill also requires the boaters to provide moorage operators with proof of vessel insurance in the minimum amount of \$300k which includes three components: general, legal and pollution liability. The harbors' will be implementing a new moorage agreement which will capture the additional State required information as well as requesting customers provide updated vessel insurance to meet the State Requirements. There was significant discussion about the background to this legislation, and how it will be implemented by marinas around Puget Sound. The Port will continue helping boaters by providing current information and answering questions as to how to ensure compliance with the new State requirements.

Staff will provide an update at the next MAC meeting and work to bring this issue to the Port Commission at their January 6th meeting.

Attached is the PowerPoint presented at the meeting to illustrate the new requirements. Brian Pemberton requested that Andy emailed the PowerPoint to the MAC as well.

Staff Updates

1. Wi-Fi in the harbor: Andy is meeting with Echo Wireless in Blaine and hope to have their system up and running by the end of the year.
2. Barbeques on the dock: Andy reported back on an earlier question about barbeques and crab cookers on the floats. Andy checked with the fire department in both Blaine and Bellingham and both of them sited NFPA 303 prohibiting cooking accessories on the docks. The MAC generally agreed that this was not a safe situation. There was also comment that adjacent parks are wonderful places for people to have their barbeques and crab cookers, if they decide to have them off of their vessels.
3. Mr. Zed Blue, who had made an appearance at the MAC last year, now has a web locker in Blaine.
4. G East Infill on Gate 3 at Squaticum Harbor: Andy gave some history that the MAC approved the lay-out for this capital project back in September 2013. Staff is looking to actually install the floats in this coming month. The crane barge was due next week. Andy commented that 27 creosoted piles will be taken out. Five larger concrete piles will be put back in its place. The slip mix for this area is three 42' slips and nine 48' slips. The MAC was very thankful for this area being put back into productive use.
5. The next MAC meeting falls on a holiday (Veterans Day). The MAC decided to move the meeting to the following day. So the MAC Meeting for November 2014 will be Wednesday the 12th of November at our now usual spot at the Harbor Center Conference Room.

Membership Update

General discussion about MAC members talking to other folks that they thought might be interested in joining. Applications are available on the web site under the MAC heading. Completed applications should be turned in to any staff member.

With no further business the October 14, 2014 MAC meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.