

**PORT OF BELLINGHAM
MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017
HARBOR CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Brian Pemberton
Paul Burrill
Ian Puchlik
Jim Kyle

Committee Members Absent:

Jerry Writer

Port Representatives Present:

Kyle Randolph
Andy Peterson
Tamara Sobjack
Alan Birdsall
Pam Taft

Committee Members Excused:

Byron Richards
Dave King
Bill Douglas
Gene Knutson
Peter Border

Visitors/Guests:

Dan Robbins
Lilly Robbins

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

Minutes

Jim Kyle made a motion to accept the May 9, 2017 minutes as written, which was seconded by Paul Burrill. No vote could be made to approve the minutes due to a lack of a quorum.

Public Comment

No public comment was provided

Dockside Feedback

Brian Pemberton commented that he noticed considerable effort had been made on the part of Squalicum Harbor staff during the summer months to keep the harbor clean and thanked them for their efforts. He also stated that the recent power upgrades to gate 3 were well received by his customers and felt that the addition of ground fault protection increased safety at the harbor.

Ian Puchlik was concerned about a derelict vessel at Blaine Harbor and felt the vessel was unsightly and should be removed. Andy Peterson said that the owner had contacted him recently and stated he would be removing the vessel from the harbor this year. A brief discussion ensued regarding the challenges the harbor faced when attempting to remove an unsightly vessel if that

owner was not breaking any harbor rules. Ian also commented that he felt Blaine Harbor should provide free Wi-Fi as a courtesy to boaters.

Summer Cruising Feedback

Jim Kyle commented that most Alaskan ports have interpretive signage about commercial fishing boats and felt that similar signage would benefit visitors to the Port of Bellingham.

Ian Puchlik mentioned several amenities offered by other harbors including free Wi-Fi, colorful flower displays, visitor reservations, and social floats/gathering areas for visitors.

MAC Membership Drive

Alan mentioned the process for replacing MAC members who are leaving at the end of the year. Brian Pemberton and Jerry Writer have both indicated their plans to leave in December. Harbor staff has advertised MAC openings in the newsletter and hoped that MAC members would promote the open seats as well. Effort will be made to ensure that representation at the MAC covers a wide variety of user groups to ensure that all marine interests are being served.

Harbor Rules & Regulations (HOPR) Update

Kyle mentioned that harbor staff will be reviewing the HOPR (Harbor Operations, Policies, and Rates) Handbook to eliminate redundancies and to ensure that the rules and regulations reflect current practices. Staff will present to the MAC their recommended changes in October to gain MAC input and approval. Kyle suggested that MAC members contact him with any suggestions they may have prior to the October meeting.

2018 Budget Process

Alan gave a quick update to the MAC on the Port of Bellingham Budget process, explaining that it is still under review and would be finalized in the next couple of months. While on the topic of budgets, Brian commented that it was important to keep harbor facilities in good condition and to look long-term to ensure the facilities remain properly maintained even if this requires rate increases in the future to pay for planned repairs. Ian commented that the city of White Rock, Canada, was doing a feasibility study to expand their moorage options and wondered what that would do occupancy rates in Blaine.

Staff Updates

Kyle reminded MAC members that the MAC will be participating in a tour of the Bellingham Cold Storage in October and he would send out details of the tour as soon as they were available. Kyle also informed the MAC that the 2017 summer season was one of the busiest in recent memory in terms of visitor moorage, boat launch usage, and waitlists.

Andy discussed the facility upgrades performed in Blaine Harbor during the summer, including pier, weblocker, and parking lot repairs. In the next few weeks phase 2 of the Blaine dock box replacement project will also begin.

Commissioner Robbins offered support for diverse MAC representation.

With no further business the September 12, 2017 MAC meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.