

**PORT OF BELLINGHAM
MAC (MARINA ADVISORY COMMITTEE) MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018
HARBOR CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON**

Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Gene Knutson
Ross Tennant
Dick Cathell
Linda Thomson
Jon Alexander
Peter Border

Charlie Hawkins
William Douglas
Jim Kyle
Byron Richards
Dave King

Committee Members Absent:

Committee Members Excused:

Brian Pemberton
Paul Burrill
Loren Kapp
Ian Puchlik
Julie Winkler

Visitors/Guests:

Ken Bell
Jason Knott

Port Representatives present

Alan Birdsall
Pam Taft
Andy Peterson
Kyle Randolph

Roll Call

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

Minutes

Gene Knutson made a motion to accept the January 9, 2018 minutes as written. Charlie Hawkins seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously by the MAC.

Public Comment

Jason Knott, a recreational moorage customer, expressed to the MAC his concern for the increase in theft and crime he has noticed at Squalicum Harbor. He asked the MAC if this issue could be put on the agenda for the next meeting so he can share more in depth the problems he has observed and discuss some alternatives that could help thwart this type of activity. Jim Kyle suggested that Port Staff work with Paul Burrill to get this item on the agenda.

Dick Cathell asked about the cameras that are placed around Squalicum Harbor and whether or not they provide a deterrent. Kyle explained that while the cameras do provide some

deterrent, there would need to be many more cameras installed to adequately address the problem.

Discussion: Dockside Feedback

Jim tabled this discussion until the next meeting so that Paul and Ian could be part of the discussion.

Dockside Feedback

Byron Richards brought up the Open House at the Granary Building held last month and expressed how fascinating it was to see the inside of the building and the future development plans. Alan added that they estimated 400 people in attendance. –He also passed along Brian Gouran’s appreciation to the MAC for the feedback that has been provided and thanked the group for their support.

Boating Safety Week

Pam spoke to the group about the Boating Safety Week that is happening May 18-25 and explained that staff will coordinate with the tenants and MAC on the Wear Your Life Jacket to Work Day event on May 18, 2018. She mentioned that the MAC can bring their life jackets to the May meeting and staff would take a group picture and include it with the others that are taken on the 18th. Additionally, staff hope to receive bracelets from WA Parks and Recreation to hand out as an effort to raise awareness on drinking and boating. The marinas’ April newsletter will be focused on boating safety as well.

Staff Updates

Alan informed the group that the next step after Commission approves the Waterfront sub-area plan is to start looking at the ASB. To kick off that discussion there will be a presentation by Paul Sorenson from BST Associates, at the March 6, 2018 Commission meeting. Paul is a seasoned fixture in the marina industry who provides the economic trends and forecasts on boating. Alan is hoping that Brian Gouran, the Environmental Director, will be able to attend the March MAC meeting to provide another update.

The next update Alan provided was on the Wi-Fi signal that Ross Tennant asked about at a prior meeting. Ross had asked if others were having a problem with conflicting Wi-Fi signals in the harbor because NW Explorations was having problems. Alan said he’d reach out to the Port’s IT Department. The Port’s IT Department investigated the Wi-Fi signals and equipment and wasn’t able to find any problems. Ross mentioned that they replaced their antennae and made some equipment changes on their boats and was hopeful that these changes will reduce the conflicting Wi-Fi signals.

Next, Alan informed the group of the Wild Seafood Exchange, again hosted by the Port of Bellingham. This year’s event will happen on March 1, 2018 at the new Holiday Inn at the Bellingham Airport. Alan explained how the Port has been a sponsor of this event which is held annually to bring the different sectors of the Commercial Fishing Industry together. Ken Bell encouraged everyone to attend and to spread the word because of the importance to show demand for the future of the waterfront development.

Finally, Pam told the group that letters were going to be sent March 1 to all the moorage customers informing them of the moorage rate increase effective April 1, 2018. Dick Cathell and Peter Border started a brief discussion on the moorage rate review and asked if consideration will be given to adjusting the rate in Blaine based on occupancy. Staff replied that those types of issues are addressed during the review.

With no further business the February 13, 2018 MAC meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.