

HARBOR COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
July 16, 2008

I. Roll Call

Jim Bartlett	Present
Yvonne DeWindt	Present
Al Dika	Absent
Tom Graham, Jr.	Present
Bill McCullough	Present
Keith McGlaughlin	Present
Jim Offield	Present
Fred Rachwitz	Present
Jane Ramer	Present
Dick Schiller	Present

Also present: Harbormaster Mike Johnson and City Manager Fred Geuder.

Chairman Jim Bartlett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Minutes

Motion by Offield, seconded by DeWindt, to approve the minutes of June 18, 2008, noting that the third paragraph on Page 3 should read "Jim Offield asked...". Motion carried.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence

None.

IV. New and Old Business

A. DSC Radio System

Bartlett reviewed idea for the Harbormaster to have a radio to monitor the digital distress signal. He noted that such a radio was not expensive, but was it something we wanted to do.

Fred Rachwitz, who had asked the question at the prior meeting, noted that the Coast Guard was NOT monitoring the "70" frequency, even though that had been the original intent of the program.

Bartlett asked if the Harbormaster did have the monitoring capability, would they simply notify the Coast Guard by land line?

Bill McCullough asked if the Police Boat has the radio capability currently. Bartlett thought that they did not have the radio, but may have a GPS unit.

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Dick Schiller, who is on the Technical Advisory Committee of the CCE Dispatch Authority, asked whether it might make sense to ask the CCE to purchase a radio and monitor the frequency. The CCE has 24/7 coverage. He suggested that maybe the City could purchase the radio for them.

Bartlett suggested the City Manager find out what the Police Boat currently has. Schiller said he would bring up the issue to the CCE at their next meeting.

Enter Mike Johnson.

B. Harbormaster Report

Harbormaster Mike Johnson reported that the season has been fair at best. We did basically fill up for July 4<sup>th</sup>, but it took until about the 2<sup>nd</sup> to do so, which is the latest that has occurred in anyone's memory. Boaters were able to stay on if they wished, but there was a number of empty space on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mike reported that the transient revenues to date were about \$60,000, and while boat days seem to be up, he may not have good comparison numbers.

Mike felt that the end of July would be good because of the Regatta and the Tiara rendezvous.

Johnson was asked about other marinas.

Mike reported that he had talked to Charlevoix, who had a number of open slips the previous weekend; Elk Rapids was about even; Northport, Leland and Mackinac Island were all down. He also noted it was worse on the Lake Huron side.

In response to a question, Mike said that the State's reservation system remains problematic for those using it.

Bartlett said he had talked to a marina using the system, and the payments were generally late from the State, and the numbers never seemed to match the marina's numbers.

The City Manager noted that the City has not been pressured to use the reservation system, but we have not asked for project funding either.

Tom Graham asked if Charlevoix had added slips. Johnson that they had not, but that the marina was configured better.

Keith McGlaughlin asked if Johnson kept track of the number of extensions. Mike said "no", but that he would begin doing so.

Johnson also reported on several maintenance issues. Pilings at the courtesy dock were being fixed; the transition to the floating dock will be fixed in late July; the new dock at Ford Park is on schedule for the last week of July. Some work was done on specific moorings, and the annual inspection is scheduled soon.

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Johnson also reported that a boater had damaged the mooring (and boat) of Fred Ball, which is why the catamaran sail boat was docked on Walstrom's outer dock for a short time.

C. Other Items

It was noted that a boat had anchored near Zoll Street, and the question was whether this was a designated swim area. Bartlett noted that there is not a roped off swim area, but an issue 10-12 years ago was boats beaching at the Zoll Street Beach.

Bartlett asked why the Harbor Patrol was not out on Saturday during the Outfitter Kayak Demo. He also suggested that perhaps the Outfitter needs to have a 'chase' boat to help out people trying out the kayaks.

Bartlett suggested because of the incident on the Fred Ball mooring, which was essentially an issue of a boater not going into the correct channel, that channel marking buoys be set at the outer edge.

Exit Schiller.

The City Manager was asked to look into the cost and to see what if any Coast Guard approvals are needed.

Johnson noted that the Regatta is at its maximum of 88 boats, which is up substantially from recent years.

V. Meeting Schedule

Bartlett noted that the next meeting is August 13<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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Frederick W. Geuder, City Manager