

HARBOR COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 19, 2006

I. Roll Call

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

Also present: Harbormaster Bob Bokram and City Manager Fred Geuder.

Vice-Chairman Bill McCullough called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Minutes

Motion by Dika, seconded by DeWindt, to approve the minutes of June 21, 2006, as presented. Motion carried.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence

None.

IV. New and Old Business

A. Master Plan Objectives

McCullough noted that his primary concerns were that the Harbor Plan not be ignored in the long-term.

The City Manager noted that the City Master Plan is required by law; a Harbor Plan is not. The objectives proposed for inclusion in the Master Plan were taken directly from the Harbor Plan, with a couple of minor wording changes. The Manager also noted the suggestion that the Master Plan could perhaps reference the Harbor Plan, and felt that this might be a good suggestion.

There were no objections to the wording of the objectives from the Harbor Plan.

Motion by Dika, seconded by Graham, to suggest to the Planning Commission that the Harbor Plan objectives be incorporated in the Master Plan objectives, and that the Harbor Plan be incorporated into the Master Plan by reference. Motion carried.

B. Update on Capital Projects

The City Manager noted that Floatation Docking Systems had been contacted about ideas for the Ford Park Launch ramp. Floatation has also suggested a number of repairs for the west floating dock that will be brought to the Commission at the August meeting. Floatation might also be able to look at the finger piers on the west dock when they have a site visit.

In response to a question from Jane Ramer, the City Manager suggested that the City wait until after Floatation has made repairs to the floating dock before considering repairs to the east dock asphalt approach, because Floatation will need to use a large crane to do the work.

The City Manager said he had also heard a suggestion that the Police Boat be looked at. Should the hull be replaced.

Dika commented that the Pursuit hull seemed to work, and major work had been done to it several years earlier. He volunteered to take a look at the boat.

The City Manager also noted that the Tennis Courts need to be resurfaced—not new asphalt, but the color coating. Since the Council decided not to remove either court, maintenance may be due so that the asphalt does not deteriorate. It was suggested that prices for the repair be obtained.

C. Harbormaster Report

Harbormaster Bob Bokram reported that the waiting list on July 5th was not long enough to fill all the slips, so the new rule was used for the first time. Generally speaking space has been available, and Bokram noted that the length of boats filling the slips seems to be shorter.

Bokram reviewed how the 7-day rule procedure was followed when open slips were available. The one that has been in the longest usually has to go first per the rule, but the length of slips available may mean that a larger boat has to move because no space is available, and that space would be filled by a smaller boat.

Bokram promised a revenue update at the August meeting.

It was also noted that the 7-day rule applies to boats coming for the Regatta.

Bokram noted that he had heard of a near-miss between a power boat violating the no-wake zone and one of the sailing class vessels. Quick action by the instructor helped avert a disaster; unfortunately the instructor did not have the name of the larger boat.

Bokram suggested that more hours of Marine Patrol are needed. It was suggested that the City Manager review the issue with the Chief of Police.

D. Zoll Street Beach

The City Manager noted that the Health Department had closed the Zoll Street Beach due to a bad water test (presumably a high level of fecal coliform). At the same time, the test for the Zorn Park were perfectly acceptable.

The City Manager felt that all the conditions may have been right at the time of testing to lead to a bad result—hot weather, wind conditions, a recent rain which may have washed the rocks off and even overflowed the nearby pond. In any case, when a good test comes in, the beach will be reopened.

In response to a question, the City Manager said that the problem was unlikely to have been caused by Zoll Street being a dog-friendly beach.

Fred Rachwitz did point out that he felt that more people were not picking up after their dogs, which might be because of greater use. While many people do cooperate, not all do, and the “mutt mitts” are available on site.

It was suggested that the City Manager asked the newspaper to use the opportunity for some public education. If people want a dog-friendly beach, they need to do their share.

E. Other Comments

Jane Ramer commented that the flowers on the dock look nice.

V. Meeting Schedule

The next meetings of the Harbor Commission are scheduled for Wednesday, August 9, 2006, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Frederick W. Geuder, City Manager