

HARBOR COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
August 13, 2008

I. Roll Call

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

Also present: Harbormaster Mike Johnson, Police Chief Dan Branson 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 McCullough, to approve the minutes of July 16, 2008. Motion carried.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence

None.

IV. New and Old Business

A. Harbormaster Report

Harbormaster Mike Johnson reported that transient occupancy at the dock has remained strong since July 4<sup>th</sup>, buoyed both by the regatta and the Tiara event.

Mike credited Kevin Farrell of the Yacht Club and Mike Esposito from Irish Boat Shop for their efforts in making the regatta the biggest success in years.

Johnson also noted that the City had used a weed treatment in the dock area, the same service used by both Walstrom's and Irish, and it appears to be successful.

In response to a question, Police Chief Dan Branson said there were no significant landside problems with the regatta.

B. City Manager Update

City Manager Fred Geuder noted that the final bond payment had been processed on the floating dock, which had been built for \$425,000 just 15 years earlier

Geuder also reported that lights to mark the channel into the Walstrom basin would require Coast Guard approval, and he will proceed with an application to do so. It would have to be a 2009 installation.

Geuder did not know whether Dick Schiller had approached the CCE Dispatch board about installing the new emergency radio, and monitoring it.

Finally, the new approach and addition to the convenience dock in Ford Park has been installed.

Bartlett asked that the Commission members look at that new installation, and see if they feel that more stability is needed on the end. It is not in an unsafe condition, but if it is felt that more stability is needed, we should look at it.

Bartlett also noted that he had talked to Josh Baker of the Outfitter about having a “chase” boat available for kayak demonstrations, and Baker was receptive to the idea.

C. Capital Improvements List

The City Manager suggested that the Commission again review future capital needs, from keeping their emergency cash on hand to looking at what projects may be needed.

The City Manager noted that the dredging issue may not be as critical as the water rises again in the harbor. Bartlett said it needed to be monitored though.

The City Manager showed a picture that the Harbormaster had taken of a step-down system at Irish Boat Shop in Charlevoix; the City is still looking at ways to deal with the height of the docks relative to the water, but especially with the 30’ slips that are not floating docks.

Bartlett noted concerns with narrowing the maneuvering room in the basin if such a system were installed. Bartlett did suggest that the Commission Ad-Hoc committee take a look at the shorter finger piers.

One item that has been on the list is the idea of “dark-sky” lighting. The City Manager noted that the lights in the parking lot at Ford Park are the same as downtown, and they are really not down facing lights. He also noted a concern for brighter lights for late night arrivals to the Ford Park dock, but the consensus of the Commission members is that such lighting is unnecessary, and such a boater should have some kind of light available on board, if that is a concern.

The City Manager said he would ask the Electric Department to go to using the top light only to see what effect that has on darkening the sky.

Harbormaster Mike Johnson noted that the Trex decking product should be considered for the decks of the 60' and 45' finger piers off the State dock. It was suggested that Johnson begin making that change as a maintenance item.

Bill McCullough suggested that the Commission look at on-land storage space for some of the smaller sailing craft, at both Zoll Street and Ford Park. He noted that the dinghy storage area at Zoll Street was about half full.

Bartlett noted that the length limit for the dinghy storage area is 12' and the width is 6'; the problem is that some of those small sailboats are 14'-15' long. He suggested that if they can fit within the size constraints, we already have space available.

Dika said he was not in favor of giving up more lawn area to boat storage.

The City Manager noted a very favorable recent column on the dog beach in the Petoskey News-Review.

#### D. 2008 Fall Transient Rates

The City Manager noted that he was proposing the same set of fall rates as were approved last year for fall transient rates after Labor Day.

Motion by Dika, seconded by Rachwitz, to recommend City Council approval of the fall dock rates, as follows:

#### 2008 Fall Dock Rates

- For boats up to 25 feet in length, 50% discount off of regular transient rates
- For boats 26-40 feet in length, a 50% discount off of regular transient rates for stays of seven days or longer
- Harbormaster assigns slips
- Effective September 2, 2008 (Day after Labor Day) until closing

Motion carried.

The City Manager noted that these rates, if approved, would be used by the Star Class regatta after Labor Day.

#### E. Marine Patrol Boat Motor

Bartlett noted that he understood that the Marine Patrol boat motor may need repairs.

Police Chief Dan Branson said that the "lower unit" on the motor needed repair; the cost was estimated to be \$3,500-4,000, unless more problems are found.

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The City Manager noted that \$20,000 was budgeted for a new motor, and the discussion has long been to go to a 4-stroke engine for the boat, because of the extensive low speed running that the boat has. He was concerned about spending that amount of money on a repair, when the better thing might be to purchase a new motor.

Bartlett suggested that the City Manager obtain quotes from Walstrom and Irish for a new 4-stroke engine, but also noted that the motor would have to be sized to the hull (a Pursuit hull).

The City Manager said he would work with the Chief of Police and Harbormaster to obtain proposals on a new motor.

F. Other Business

Mike Johnson suggested one other capital project might be to look at re-modeling the boater restrooms.

Bartlett asked if any Commission members would work with Mike on a committee to look into this, and Rachwitz volunteered to be on that committee.

V. Meeting Schedule

Bartlett scheduled the next meeting for October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m.

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