

HARBOR COMMISSION
MINUTES
September 15, 2004

I. Roll Call

Jim Bartlett	Present
Yvonne DeWindt	Present
Al Dika	Present
John Flemming	Present
Tom Graham, Sr.	Present
George Kilborn	Present
Bill McCullough	Present
Fred Rachwitz	Present
Jane Ramer	Present
Dick Schiller	Present

Also present: Harbor Master Bob Bokram and City Manager Fred Geuder

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Bartlett at 4:05 p.m.

II. Minutes

Motion by Dika, seconded by Kilborn, to approve the minutes of August 11, 2004, as presented. Motion carried.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence

None.

IV. New and Old Business

A. Two-Hour Dock

Bartlett noted that the Commission members had been looking at the use of the Two-Hour Shoppers' Dock over the course of the summer, and asked for comments from the Board.

Rachwitz noted that during peak times, the dock is well-used and usually full. Since boats usually tie up near the end of the dock, it is often difficult for boats with keels to use the dock (water depth is too shallow).

McCullough noted that he agreed with the suggestion from Laura Kors to make available a 10-15 minute "loading zone" on the end of the dock, and he suggested the east end. He also felt that a number of boats abuse the two-hour rule. The move forward signs seem to work somewhat.

The City Manager noted that the length of time issue is similar to the parking regulations downtown. Is two hours too short? Is four hours too long? The loading zones downtown seem to help.

Dika said in his observation the dock was usually full.

Bartlett said that when the town and harbor are busy, the two-hour dock is busy. He also wondered where the boats go if the two-hour dock is full, noting that some anchor out. He did feel the two-hour dock was good for the community.

It was also noted that the Harbormaster crew was also busy at the same time the two-hour dock is busy. And it was noted that the Harbormaster crew does help out with pick-ups at the pump-out dock when possible.

Bartlett noted that the general consensus of the Commission is that some expansion/improvements to the two-hour dock would be a good thing, and that the general location of the two-hour dock is correct.

Bartlett also noted that any improvements should consider the interfacing of dinghy use, a loading/unloading zone, and the general two-hour dock use.

Bartlett suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee meet to come up with recommendations for the two-hour dock changes, and report back to the Commission.

B. Fuel Cans on the Dock/Smoking on the Dock

Bartlett noted the report on these issues that had been sent out by the City Manager. He asked Fire Chief Dick Schiller what he would recommend.

Schiller basically said there should be no fuel can stored on the docks. Period. He also recommended that there be no smoking on the docks, including finger piers—smoking should be limited to on-board boats only.

The City Manager noted that the fuel can storage issue exists at Ford Park also.

The Commission discussed whether and where boats could be fueled. The general conclusion was that fueling of boats at the docks was done infrequently, and if it were done, the boaters would be subject to any Coast Guard regulations.

The Commission also discussed grilling on the docks and boats.

Harbormaster Bob Bokram said he does not object to boaters using a gas grill on their boats, but does not approve of grilling on the docks. The City has a grilling area available on shore. Boaters do not tend to use charcoal any longer because it is messier than gas.

The general consensus was that grilling issues were under control.

Bartlett asked the City Manager to contact the City Attorney to draft language concerning “storage of fuel cans on the docks” and “smoking regulations”, and to report back to the Commission.

C. 5-Year Plan

Bartlett noted that the Commission was continuing to work on long-term issues. The West Dock project is proceeding, but he asked the City Manager whether funds would be available to do the two-hour dock project.

The City Manager felt that adequate funds would be available in 2005.

Bartlett also commented that the City Manager was working with Squire Electric to determine a plan for upgrading power for the East Dock.

D. Harbormaster Update

Bokram reported that as of August 30th, revenues were only 3% less than the 2003 TOTAL revenues. The docks were full over Labor Day weekend, so it appears that revenues should at least equal the 2003 totals. It was noted that the transient rates have been the same for three years.

Bokram noted that boats 25’ or less were now receiving the 50% discount, but suggested that the limit for boat sizes receiving the discount be increased to 30’.

E. Open Forum

No comments.

V. Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will be scheduled for Wednesday, October 13th, at 4:00 p.m. The November meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 10th

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.