

MINUTES FOR HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, April 22th, 2014 DRAFT

Present: Commissioners David Kircher, Tom Hudson, Elise Wright, Sandra Davis, Bob Wise. Stewards Thom Hamilton, Fred Grimm, Rick Robertson, Rich Seubert. Bainbridge Rowers Dee McComb.

Absent: Tina Ingalls.

I. **Approval of minutes:** The minutes were approved for March 25th meeting.

II. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest-** none

III. Public Comment

Fred Grimm introduced himself to the Commission. He has served as a Harbor Steward in Manzanita Bay since the formation of a Harbor Commission and is currently an applicant as Harbor Commissioner. He presented some thoughts on Manzanita Bay. Inserted below.

Good evening commissioners: Please accept this late response to recent requests from other Stewards to take action on "No Wake, 5 Knots"

My name is Fred Grimm, I am a Steward in Manzanita Bay. Tonight you are being asked to act on a recommendation by several stewards to impose a No Wake 5 Knot Speed Limit in all sheltered waters of Bainbridge. This recommendation has come before you with no opportunity for consideration by residents of Manzanita Bay. Stewards from other shore lines and bays have reached a conclusion, and it may be appropriate for their areas, but they never contacted me for my opinion.

Gene Pace and I are the two original stewards for Manzanita Bay, and we are still the only ones serving. Gene has pushed for this speed limit since our appointment 15 years ago. He does not represent my point of view and others who have not been so vocal. Manzanita has always been a great spot for water sports due to the warmer sheltered flat waters during our short summer. I have made my home on Manzanita Bay since 1970. My wife and I and our four children, and 9 grandchildren and their friends have been able to enjoy water sports towed behind our power boat without incident during these 44 years. I am not aware of an injury accident or property damage as a result of these activities by my family and friends or other visitors or neighbors living along the shoreline of Manzanita Bay.

Property damage from wakes, loud shouts, bad language, and engine noise has been the mantra of my fellow steward, Gene Pace. He claims in his report to you, that skiers would rather go for long rides than swing in out of the bay. He feels that we can all ski in the channel. I do not know anyone he has talked with about this. He does not participate in this activity. I have and still do at age 74. We like to stay in what little of the bay we can now use for some protection from rough water. Some folks do ski out in the channel, when conditions are right, and to respect the noise issue in the early morning.

I am very aware of property damage in Manzanita caused to bulkheads due to land slides. Docks have been broken and boats sunk or pulling loose from moorage during storms. I helped secure at least two sailboats that have pulled loose during high wind and endangered other property. Docks have proliferated and even been extended without any regard to these healthy activities that some of us moved here for. Boats and docks can easily be protected from boat wakes. Check out Lake Chelan, Lake Washington and many other popular water sport areas. I have a boat lift system on the neighbors dock I use that is bomb

proof. He is glad to have me on his dock, rather than watching me build another long dock right next door. There is no where else on Bainbridge to match with the unique shelter and water temperature of Manzanita for these sports. We moved to this location to enjoy these activities, as well as the natural beauty. Several families in the bay still enjoy these sports. The sport has changed. More Wake boards and towed tubes now than skis., but it makes little difference. It is still a healthy outlet for youthful energy and those youthful at heart. Keeping the bay open for fast sport activities does not hurt the environment. More docks do.

I have worked for years with our Harbor Master to support the buoys that mark a towed sport area. The buoys work well, and protect the inner bay and conservation zone. The buoys could be bigger or carry a larger notice. I have gone out in the bay to talk to folks towing skiers and boarders and tubes. I have even worked to see that all buoys are registered.

Complaints of bad behavior and speeding have been exaggerated by those that are annoyed by exuberant behavior. I have conceded that we could move the markers a little further toward the mouth of the bay but I have yet to hear any dock or buoy owner say he or she would shorten their dock or move their moorage buoy to give us some space to make a better run.. The bay is becoming a yacht basin. We water sport folks only have a short season. Docks lined with big power and sail boats, are there all year. Some of our neighbors who are annoyed by our activities, tell us we have an obligation to be a cruise destination friendly place. Does that come from the Chamber? The REAL PROBLEM is just that the sport and it's noise just ANNOY some folks.

I contend that we have a system that works. We in the towed boat activity group have educated and have a safety record. There will be boat wakes in spite of a change of rules. THE BOATS , SKI TOW BOATS OR CRUISE BOATS WILL BE LONG GONE BEFORE ENFORCEMENT ARRIVES. We do not need a uniform speed law for the Island. Let's keep Bainbridge a little different. Do not include Manzanita Bay in your speed change action. You are devaluing my property and others like me. Property value and resale do not decrease because folks ski in the bay. An Island wide speed rule is unnecessary. We still have room to ski safely. We have been kicked out of two other harbors because of marinas, boat traffic and long docks. We are not part of a crime wave here. Public safety is not at stake. What is so complicated that we can't continue to educate and post rules and still enjoy a sport that has been a tradition since long before all the big homes and docks began to dominate one of our most beautiful bay. I would be glad to answer questions. Thanks for your service and attention,

Fred Grimm, Manzanita Harbor Steward

Jim Lewellyn, resident sent his public comment via email. Inserted below:

To;

The Harbor Commission

Bainbridge Island

Re: Activity restrictions on Manzanita Bay

Addressing, in part comments in Gene Pace's Harbor Steward Report

I am Jim Llewellyn. Some may remember my service on the City Council for 8 years. I have also been waterskiing on Manzanita for about a dozen years now. Together with other athletes like Scott Norrie, Greg Schorr, Todd Hansen, and Jeff Maron (all of whom grew up on Bainbridge) as well as Ranny Montgomery and Paul Parker (former harbor steward) we ski 12 months of the year between 1 and 5 times every week.

I was on the Council when we passed the existing policies controlling water sports on Manzanita Bay and the speed restrictions therein.

These policies were the result of much community input by all the stakeholders who participate in the many forms of marine recreation in the Manzanita Bay area. And were considered a well crafted compromise at the time.

These policies have worked as expected and adhered to by most, if not all residents. The small amount of conflict with the policies is no greater than anywhere else around the Island.

Manzanita Bay is the only bay with both adequate space and a sheltered orientation for water.

I'm getting too old to be diplomatic. For Gene Pace to call waterskiing an "incident" is like referring to sex as an "incident." It is obvious that Pace has probably never been on a water ski.

He doesn't have a clue what wind or water conditions we serious water skiers prefer. Further "weaving in and out of anchored boats to show off" does NOT make us better water skiers.

We would prefer no boats and no wakes.....and some protection from the wind. The wakes on our tournament ski boats are about 6" high so it is NOT ski boats that cause "damage to property suffered by residents" of any sort and I seriously doubt that Gene Pace can document any damage from any source.

It was obvious at the time of the original policy compromise that Gene Pace had an agenda of his own and it is apparent that he still does.

I was on the Council when the helmet law was passed and when the leash law was passed. Both these are routinely ignored and seldom, if ever, enforced.

If all of Manzanita Bay were to be subject to a 5mph limit it would probably be ignored as onerous and unnecessary. And, thanks to the limited resources probably couldn't be enforced any more than the helmet or leash laws. Frankly, I, myself, would, in all likelihood, be one of the transgressors.

It ain't broke.

Don't fix it.

Thank you,

Jim Llewellyn

11600 Olympic View (Battle Point)

IV. Harbor Stewards , Liaison and Harbormaster Reports

Rich Seubert reported on Eagle Harbor activities. He rescued the BIR support boat during a recent regatta.

Rick Robertson introduced himself as the pending Harbor Steward for Fletcher Bay. He is an avid boater, mooring owner, and member of PMYC.

Harbormaster/Harbor Steward Report for period: March 25, 2014 – April 22nd, 2014

Safety and Navigation:

- Boaters 59 and younger operating a vessel with 15 Horsepower or greater, need to carry a boater education card. Next class June 21, 2014

Water Quality:

- No reports.

Anchoring and Mooring:

- Fielded visitor calls, boat reservations, and boat check.

Moorage Received:	MARCH 2014 (\$)
Stays less than 3 hours	143
Overnight	290
Car top boater parking	0
No information	0
Offshore overnight	8
Reservation	200
Trailer Day Parking	24
Trailer Annual Parking	480
M-T-D 2014	\$1,145
YTD 2014	\$2,769
YTD PREV (2013)	\$1,878

Public Access/Information:

- No update to Waterfront Park Dock project. See www.waterfront-park.org
- Ongoing updates to boating websites to advertise Waterfront Park Dock and Linear Moorage System for visiting boaters. Requesting boaters to access “active captain” on line review site.
- 2014 Reservations received for Corinthian Yacht Club, Sequim Boating club, Senior cruise, Virginia V.
- Present at Citizen’s Academy

Maritime Events: Save the Date: June 14th, 2014 for 2014 Waterfront Park (National Marina Day & Boater Fair)

Derelict Vessel Prevention Program: Completed training April 1 – 2. The City (Harbormaster) has been awarded a partnership grant with Kitsap County for Derelict Vessel Prevention June, 2014 through June 2015. This is a new program that complements our current derelict vessel removal program.

Code Enforcement: Ongoing. 04/21/14 citation written for vessel at City Dock.

Anchoring Time Limits: Ongoing. Tracking 1 anchored boat in PM (past 60 days).

Buoy Permits: Ongoing.

Vessel Registration: Ongoing.

Boat-Trailer Parking and Moorage: Ongoing. 2014 passes available now. 15 sold in 2014.

Coming up:

- May 27th, 2014 Harbor Commission Meeting

- **Boater Fair, Waterfront Park, 11 am to 4 pm June 14th, 2014**
- June 24th, 2014 Harbor Commission Meeting.
- For Harbor Notices, register for “notify me” on the City’s new website. Sign up for notices and calendar. Explore the new website for past minutes and agendas.

V. Acknowledgment of Harbor Steward’s Report (03/03/14)

The Electronic copy of the Harbor Steward report was emailed to Commissioners April 18th, 2014. There was a motion to acknowledge the Harbor Steward Report as a resource. The motion was seconded and passed. The report will be posted on the City’s website. The Commission will address elements of the recommendations in the coming work plan. The Commission acknowledged that two of the original Harbor Stewards, Bob Campbell and Bob Selzler had both stepped down. David will send them a letter of appreciation.

VI. City Dock

Dave Kircher updated the commission on the most recent Council discussion on the dock at the April 7th, 2014 Public Works presentation to Council. In that meeting, Steve Bonkowski had confirmed that they City was pursuing the “hockey stick” layout for the dock as the most that the City could afford now, but it could change later on. The design team was given the go-ahead to do 30% drawings to include the dock and submit RCO grant applications for both the park and the dock. David confirmed that Sean Conrad is the planner on the project and Ryan Ericson is now employed at Futurewise.

VII. Annual Report to Council

The group agreed to have David send the 2013 Annual Report to Council with minor edits over the coming week.

VIII. Work Plan 2014

The April 17th Work Plan had two edits:

1. Remove #3 regarding implementation of the 2012 recommendations. These will be looked at individually.
2. Change #10 to reflect Derelict Vessel Prevention and Removal as there are now two concurrent programs.

Adjourn 7:00 PM.