

MINUTES FOR REGULAR HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2014

Present: Commissioners David Kircher, Tom Hudson, Bob Wise, Elise Wright, Tina Ingalls, Sandra Davis. Steward- Mark Leese. Boaters Ben Tate and Dave Ullin.
Absent: George Briggs

1. **The minutes of the regular meeting** of December 10th, 2013 and the notes of the workshop on January 13th were approved.
2. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest:** There were no declarations of conflict.
3. **Public Comment :**

Dave Ullin stated that he believed the money from WSF should only be used for water dependent use and not for upland improvements. He said he didn't approve of the idea of moving the dock to the west side of the launch ramp in order to accommodate rowing shells launching from the dock. He suggested that the rocks on the beach be picked up by hand making the beach more hospitable to launching. He suggested that the Parks sailing program continue to moor off the dock as it gives them a 360 degree docking access to accommodate wind direction for beginner sailors. He asked that the kayak rental barge be allowed to tie up to the future dock as it is the spuds that cause leaks with the current barge. He explained that if the barge were attached, in deeper water without spuds, the current system would suffice. He said he is opposed to re-creating the upland terrain and that cascading ramps such as those shown to Council wouldn't fit the purpose and character of the park. It would become too humanized with the hard finish of stairs and ramps. He emphasized that the dock should be for public use, and not for private use. There were questions about what the moorage rate would be for the low lying float and the kayak barge tied to the dock. Tami explained that originally, the kayak rental was not tied to the dock in order to leave dinghy tie up, and as not to compete with moorage. While both groups of vessel are considered privately owned vessels stored in public space, the kayak barge rental had a concession permit with RCO and pays commercial rent to the State. The upland rowing shells pay a lease to the City. A low lying float would have to be available to any boater at any time on a first come first serve basis. Mark responded that the low lying float would be open for all boaters at all times.

Ben Tate said that the low lying float should not be on the west side of the dock. The west side is too busy with trailerable boats trying to get in and out. He explained that they currently launch 4 shells, then 4 more shells while the launch ramp is in full capacity. If they try to share the west side, it wouldn't work. He voiced his support for keeping the sailing program with the kids on the east side of the dock and the west side should stay as launching and short term tie up. Having the 65' shells trying to use that side would be a problem. He said he really likes the rowing club and the shells. He'd like to see something work on the east side or from the beach as a separate float.

4. **Harbormaster Report for period: December 11th, 2013 through January 28th 2014.**

Safety and Navigation:

- Regulatory buoy cleaning December 13 – 14. Installed throw rings at City dock. Removal of hazard trees at Waterfront Park.
- Responded to report of lost buoy, another buoy adrift, dinghy adrift, and 911 re: car going off bank into the water.
- Noticed a sinking in swift progress and notified owner- northwest of little Manzanita.

Water Quality:

- Sewage Spill January 23rd. Multi-agency response.

Anchoring and Mooring:

- Public Workshops including dock January 12 – 15th with Studio Cascade.
- Fielded calls seeking moorage information and permit information for buoys, boat reservations, and boat check.
- **OWM lease renewals and new applications pending.** Council report 12/11/13 for next steps.

Moorage Received:	DEC
Stays less than 3 hours	\$29
Overnight	\$257
Car top boater parking	0
No information	0
Offshore overnight	\$26
Reservation	
Trailer Day Parking	\$25
Trailer Annual Parking	0
M-T-D 2013	\$337
YTD 2013	\$20,205
YTD PREV (2012)	\$18,045

Public Access/Information:

- Website improvements for visiting boaters December 2013.
- 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.
- Shower repair complete.
- Waterfront Park footbridge repair complete.
- Inquiry from scout to re-paint and improve boat stage at WP.

Maritime Commerce: Planning for 2014 Waterfront Festival (National Marina Day and more)

Code Enforcement: Ongoing. Round island boat days 12/17/13, 1/14/14, 1/21/14.

Anchoring Time Limits: Ongoing. 2 anchored boats in PM (past 60 days).

Buoy Permits: Ongoing.

Vessel Registration: Ongoing.

Boat-Trailer Parking and Moorage: Ongoing. 2014 passes available now. Emerging issue at Fort Ward.

Coming up:

- Next Meeting February 25th, 2014. For planning ahead March 25th, April 22 and May 27th.
- 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.

5. **Harbor Steward Report.** Mark Leese reported that he had recently taken the ride along with Ben Sias and Tami Allen. He said he was very impressed by the professionalism and the amount of information Ben and Tami have on this boat. Tami reported that the next ride along would be February 9th and 18th. They should contact Ben to get in the cue of ride-along requests. Mark said they had a chance to meet a potential new Fletcher Bay harborsteward. He and Tom will be with Rick Robertson the coming week. David Kircher followed up on a question for an earlier meeting about the process for volunteering as harbor steward. It has been informal to date. The process will be included in the 2014 Harbor Steward Program report. Tami will send a copy of the Harbor Steward Report from 2011 to Mark Leese in a Word format. Tami will send Ben Tate a list of steward contacts from the City’s website.

6. **Harbor Commission Communications**

In advance of the January 13th public meeting with Jon Keiser and Bill Grimes of Studio Cascade, Commissioner Elise Wright had emailed all commissioners a list of questions and concerns regarding a possible perceived conflict of interest in the role of the Harbor Commission regarding the City Dock design for Waterfront Park (Attachment A). In response, commissioners discussed the procedure for sharing information. The group agreed the best thing to do if a member has an immediate concern instead of sending a one-way letter to which other members can’t reply, is to call for a meeting so that Tami can put out notice. Elise agreed that such a letter should go to the chair so that he/she can call a public meeting. During a heated discussion, Bob Wise asked that the group address the section in Elise’s letter regarding any conflict of interest and that if there is any description or example of a conflict, it should be brought to the public forum. Several voiced their frustration on receiving comments to which they could respond without creating a rolling meeting.

It was agreed that some of expressed concerns were addressed in an open meeting on January 13th attended by former City Council Member Debbie Lester and others who had expressed concern that the dock design funds were being allocated for the benefit of private yacht clubs on Bainbridge Island. Elise said that she had been aware for some months that there was the perception of the appearance of a conflict of interest on the part of the Harbor Commission. Bob Wise asked for an example of how additional public transient moorage would benefit a private club. David explained his belief that a conflict of interest or even an appearance of a conflict does not exist for private yachts clubs on Bainbridge Island. The benefit of a publicly owned and operated facility is quite the opposite. It serves a need to those who do not belong to a private boating organization. All agreed that these issues had been addressed in the meeting with Bill Grimes on January 13th, 2014 when members of the Commission and the community were able to

voice their opinions about the design. David reminded the group that there is a great difference between “conflict of interest” and “interest”. The group is happy to hear and respond to differing opinions about the park and it is not a conflict of interest if the boating liaison (ie Harbor Commission) has a view that is distinct from an upland liaison (ie Sustainable Bainbridge). Elise agreed, but expressed frustration at being unable to help Commissioners understand the difference between an actual and a "perceived" conflict of interest. Elise stated her belief that it is the responsibility of each Commissioner to represent the community at large, and her intention to speak out for the constituency she represents. She also stated that her concern is accuracy in representations made by the Harbor Commission, and reminded them that they did not vet or vote on the presentation shown to Bill Grimes on December 10th, 2013, in which some inaccurate information was given. Sandra Davis asked that the group, acknowledging that their existence is both advisory and advocacy, continue in the future with respect and seek each other's opinions. All agreed that they should and public meeting is the proper forum.

7. Waterfront Park and Dock project:

Now that the Studio Cascade workshops are complete and the presentation to Council is done, the Harbor Commission has been asked to stay in touch with Bill Grimes as they continue to 30% drawings. The Commission reviewed the “hockey stick” drawing from January 15th, 2014. The drawing was soon corrected to show the length of the dock out to the construction limit line (560' from shore). The drawing at the council meeting was short of the line. From that drawing, Mark Leese and Ben Tate worked on several drawings that were labeled “A” , “B” and “C”. All drawings incorporate the main dock out to the construction limit line and the existing launch ramp remaining where it is. There was a long discussion about the west side of the dock and how many activities could be combined. It was agreed that the current drawings and the results of the three days of workshops had not resolved the combined use of the west side of the dock but had put forth the desire to keep the ramp on the west side of the dock. All agreed that the City should permit the full layout regardless of phasing, so the timeline to figure out the elements of the dock is short. Commissioners asked that David Kircher make contact with Bill Grimes to explain that the Commission is still meeting on the results of the January 15th presentation and will meet again February 5th.

8. Date of next added workshop February 5, 2013.

9. Date of next Regular meeting set for February 25th. (post minute note :changed to February 24th)

Adjourn 7:00 pm

Proposed Waterfront Park City Dock

Legend:

- Public Boat Ramp
- Public Boat Ramp
- Public Boat Ramp
- Public Boat Ramp

Vicinity Map

Scale 1" = 400'

1/4 Mile

FILE COPY

SHORELINE ACCESS

VIEWPOINT TERRACE

NEW FLOATING DOCK

MAIN

