

Harbor Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 19, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, South Haven City Hall



City of South Haven

1. Call to Order

Present: Sullivan, Pyle, Stephens, Arnold
Absent: Reineck, Silverman, Stegeman

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Stephens, second by Pyle to approve the May 19, 2015 regular meeting agenda as presented.

All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes: April 21, 2015 Regular Meeting April 21, 2015 Workshop Meeting

Motion by Stephens, second by Pyle to approve the April 21, 2015 regular meeting minutes and the April 21, 2015 workshop meeting minutes as written.

All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Interested Citizens in the Audience Will be Heard on Items Not on the Agenda

None at this time.

5. Black River Park Accessible Launch

VandenBosch noted that we are close to the deadline for permitting by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and wanted the board to have a chance to review the plan and suggest any modifications.

VandenBosch explained that the launch area needs to be usable by dinghies as well as kayaks; there is plenty of free space and we are working on getting cleats and tie-offs that will work on this. The dock is a floating dock and there is a pivoting mechanism so it will move

with the surface of the river. The parking nearest is paid parking and there is also free parking a little further away.

A brief discussion ensued regarding sidewalks and preventing vehicles from driving on sidewalks.

VandenBosch noted that the water trail sign is going to be relocated as the existing sign is in the middle of what will be new sidewalk. The existing drainage, including catch basins, will be utilized via some sloping of the soil to allow this water to continue to move.

VandenBosch explained the kayak launch is a \$100,000 project with a \$50,000 match. The launch will be pulled out in winter.

The schedule indicates October construction; the submittal will be sent to the DEQ soon; they will finish the design in June or July; bid it out in July, and begin construction in August to October.

6. South Haven Municipal Marina Website

VandenBosch explained staff has been working hard on designing the website; volunteers and staff have been doing photography. It is a work in process but getting better. Open to comments tonight or at any time by email.

There are pages that describe the marinas; then we have the “call to action” pages with step-by-step instructions to get a reservation which can be done via telephone call or email. The seasonal page has some promotional language, links to the marinas and phone or email contact information.

The activities section of the website promotes our marinas by showing what boaters can do within walking distance with interactive map. VandenBosch clicked through the various areas of the website.

Suggestions and comments:

- Information on safety and safe fueling
- Budget Travel, a global site, named Packard Park one of nine “secret” beaches
- Information on local tournaments.
- Links to Visitor’s Bureau website.

VandenBosch stated that the focus of this website is to attract boaters to the marinas and show how attractive our downtown and activities are.

7. Marina Reports

VandenBosch reviewed the Marina reports.

Member and Staff Comments

Sullivan: Commented on the bridge warning lights and noted that he didn't hear the bells. VandenBosch stated everything was operational yesterday.

Arnold: At the ribbon cutting when the tender brought the bridge down the stop light remained green. VandenBosch will make sure they check that.

Stephens: Asked if they have video. VandenBosch said there is one in the tender's cabin; they can see upriver and downriver. We are looking to connect to the security system but have to run internet to the bridge tender's station.

Sullivan: Asked if there is any thought to having rafts for kayaks and renting space. VandenBosch said it has been talked about but the constraint is budget. This is something that could easily be added later.

VandenBosch: Distributed maps for boaters, noting maps will be available at the marinas and have been brought to lodging facilities where staff were happy to receive them. Regarding any errors, VandenBosch noted we are making changes as they are brought to our attention.

Adjourn

Motion by Sullivan, second by Stephens to adjourn at 6:07 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary