

Harbor Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 5:30 p.m.
Council Chambers, South Haven City Hall



City of South Haven

1. Call to Order by Arnold at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Sullivan, Reineck (5:35 p.m.), Stegeman, Stephens, Arnold
Absent: Pyle, Silverman

Also present: Brian Dissette, City Manager

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Stegeman, second by Stephens to approve the November 17, 2015 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented.

All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes: October 20, 2015 Regular Meeting

Motion by Stephens, second by Stegeman to approve the October 20, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes as written.

All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Brian Dissette, City Manager: Noted that Paul VandenBosch, former Assistant City Manager/Harbor Master stepped down from his position after nineteen years. Dissette introduced Kate Hosier, who has been appointed Acting Harbor Master, outlining her credentials and qualifications for the position.

5. Financial Report

Hosier reviewed the Financial Report, noting seasonal inactivity and seasonal slip deposits still coming in for next year's boating season.

6. Black River Park Kayak Concession

Hosier explained that the city was approached by Chris Campbell of SoHa Surf Shop about doing a rental kayak concession at Black River Park for one year. Campbell has successfully operated a concession on the South Beach. The proposal is for a one year license agreement, renewable annually with five percent (5%) gross paid to the city. Hosier pointed out the draft license agreement in the packet, noting that the proposed concession will be located in the newly paved area by Black River Park with the new accessible launch nearby.

Chris Campbell, SoHa Surf Shop: Noted that the city has the river and wondered about having something closer making kayaks, maybe canoes, perhaps paddleboards available. Stated he is interested in seeing how things would go; does not know how much people will use it but might as well offer something to do that is not just the beach.

Tim Stegeman: Regarding the agreement, stated he understands it is in front of the Harbor Commission because the five percent (5%) is in lieu of launch fees but wondered if the concession is more in the Parks Commission arena.

Dissette explained that by code Black River Park falls under the domain of Harbor Commission. The requested area is outside of the paid admission area. Anyone who brings a kayak or canoe can launch there without paying; Campbell understands that he cannot influence them to get a canoe from him and pay. But those who would like to rent a canoe and launch there can do so. Dissette noted that this last season we had a payment of about \$5,000 credited to the Parks fund from Campbell's South Beach concession.

Stegeman sees no problems with the launch but wonders about the concession. Dissette explained there is a bit of gray area with Black River Park; portions clearly fall under the Parks Commission, but because the proposed concession is immediately adjacent to the ramp and entry point, bringing it to Harbor Commission was the right way to go.

Reineck asked what kinds of food and drink will be offered to which Campbell responded that if anything is sold, it would be sunblock or a hat, things directly related to being on the water. Campbell stated there would be no food vending.

Dissette stated that with three (3) years' experience working with Mr. Campbell, he has been fully compliant with all of our insurance requirements and there have been no reported claims.

Sullivan asked if this contract is exclusive to which Dissette responded that it will be exclusive for any other vendors and Mr. Campbell knows he may not restrict the public from launching there. Dissette said if a competitor is desirous of entering the water, they may have access through the launch access. After further questions from Sullivan, Dissette said some other vendors may show up; if they refuse to supply the city with a commercial license, we can do what we did last year: call the police and have them ticketed.

Stephens questioned the reference in paragraph 5a which states "including food and drink items" and requested language be inserted to ban alcoholic beverages. Dissette explained

that alcoholic beverages are already banned from the parks, so there is no problem adding that language.

Arnold reiterated the city has been working with Campbell for three (3) years and have had no problems, noting that he anticipates the same at Black River Park.

Stegeman reminded of the tool in the police tool box from probably six (6) years ago, noting that the public may need to know that particular law.

Dissette added that we will clarify the alcoholic provision, noting that this is a generic license agreement and it will be made clearer.

Motion by Stephens to recommend approval of the license agreement with clarification added to Paragraph 5a to include non-alcoholic beverage language. Second by Sullivan.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Member and Staff Comments

There were none.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Stegeman, second by Reineck to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary