

Harbor Commission

Rescheduled Regular Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 26, 2012
7:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers



City of South Haven

1. Call to Order by Arnold at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Pyle, Strong, Sullivan, Arnold
Absent: Jeffers, Silverman, Stephens

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Pyle, second by Sullivan to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes: February 21, 2012 Regular Meeting

Motion by Strong, second by Pyle to approve the February 21, 2012 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. Financial Report

VandenBosch gave an overview of the financial report, noting Marina revenue, Black River Park revenue, (pay terminal to be installed April 15), River Maintenance Fund, (VandenBosch did soundings last week and did not find many areas of concern).

VandenBosch said the Army Corps will be coming in and doing better soundings, but VandenBosch does not think there will not be a need for dredging to be done this spring.

6. Floating Dock Request, South Side Marina

Ray VanderZee gave an overview of their jet ski excursion proposal, and stated that at their business, they have a huge amount of demand for personal watercraft rental. According to

their research, up and down the lake and elsewhere, sending people out with a guide is the prudent way to go. VanderZee stated that once the guides have led the people out of the channel and straight west for quite some distance, primarily the excursions will head down to Van Buren State Park or past the pier heads north to get a view from the water. VanderZee noted that they plan to begin with two rental watercraft plus two staff watercraft. VanderZee also noted that he will continue to make their watercraft available in case of emergency, for watercraft rescue, concluding that he wants to do the rentals professionally and safely.

Sullivan asked for clarification of the use of their equipment in other areas. VanderZee noted that he loans personal watercraft to law enforcement for search and rescue operations. Sullivan asked if the craft will be left at the dock overnight. VanderZee said they would be pulling the watercraft out of the water and storing them back at their store. In response to further questioning regarding others using the dock when it is empty, VanderZee stated that they can put a restrictor in place after their haul out so unauthorized people cannot put inflatable or other personal craft there.

Sullivan asked how the City feels about the proposal. Arnold said the City is very interested in the project and noted that one of City Council's goals is economic development and VanderZee projects that his proposal will provide about ten more jobs to the community. Sullivan is concerned about the location, noting that Black River Park is available as a prime location for commercial water sports. Sullivan also pointed out that this is running a private enterprise from a public property.

Strong explained that this rental business is kind of like the concession stand on the beaches. VandenBosch said this proposal is for a floating dock and it is not like using the City slips for commercial business. Pyle asked if VanderZee provides the dock and VanderZee noted that he will provide the dock.

VandenBosch said there are two considerations before the Commission tonight:

- 1.) Approving the location of the dock; and
- 2.) Approving the business.

Pyle questioned the availability of parking spots, particularly for the handicapped. VanderZee noted that people with handicaps will be shuttled from the Motorplex. Walkup traffic will be no problem. Strong noted that it is not that far from the City lots.

Motion by Strong, second by Pyle to approve the location of the dock.

Yeas: Strong, Pyle, Arnold
Nays: Sullivan

Motion carried.

Motion by Pyle, second by Strong to recommend the Vanderzee's proposal to City Council.

Yeas: Strong, Pyle, Arnold
Nays: Sullivan.

Motion carried.

7. Strategic Plan

VandenBosch reviewed the changes he made in the Strategic Plan after the informal discussion on March 20.

Discussion began on page 8 with *Marketing and Communications*:

- Update contact lists.
- Keep up with the South Haven Harbor Facebook page
- E-mail list for easier contact with boaters

Bulletin boards at municipal marinas.

Have at North side, not sure on South side, need on Black River launch site. Provide bulletin boards at all locations.

Pyle suggested we need to inform boaters that they can come to the Harbor Commission meetings. After discussion, Strong suggested that the Harbor annual meeting calendar of dates be posted. Sullivan suggested including e-mail addresses for some Harbor Commissioners with the list. Arnold offered the use of his City e-mail for that purpose.

Strong suggested combining the bottom two items. VandenBosch suggested removing the second one as it is duplication.

3. River Stakeholders

The items can be left as is.

VandenBosch said he will make the suggested changes and bring the draft plan to the next meeting. At the next meeting, the Commission can prioritize them and also review the Harbor budget.

Member and Staff Comments

VandenBosch noted that he has made coyotes cut out of plastic similar to what is used for real estate signs at Black River Park and has donated the current ones to the City. Strong asked if they are working. VandenBosch thinks they may be working; there do not seem to be large numbers of geese there.

VandenBosch said the deepest water he found doing soundings was 21' and the lowest depth was 5' so that was good. There may be some shallow water on the inside of bends but most people know not to take their boats into those areas. VandenBosch noted that his transducer was on a small angle so he will spot-check to be sure the soundings were

accurate. VandenBosch said he only went from the launch to the lake and still has to go upstream.

Adjourn

Motion by Strong, second by Pyle to adjourn at 7:39 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary