

Harbor Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 19, 2011
5:30 p.m., City Hall
Council Chambers



City of South Haven

1. The Meeting was called to Order by Jeffers at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Brunvand, Jeffers, Silverman, Stephens, Strong, Sullivan
Absent: None

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Silverman, second by Brunvand to approve the Agenda All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes: March 15, 2011 Regular Meeting

Motion by Brunvand, second by Arnold to approve the March 15, 2011 regular meeting minutes. 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. Monthly Marina Report

VandenBosch updated the Commission on revenues noting that the current year has been a slow year; deposits are coming in later than previous years.

The Commission discussed marketing efforts and that launching by trailerable boats has

performed better revenue-wise than slip rentals.

The Commission discussed marketing and incentives are being offered to entice boaters into the harbor. Robin Abshire, Marina Manager, noted that staff is working on materials for staff to set up a booth at boat shows within driving distance.

VandenBosch noted that lake levels went up during March.

6. Budget Recommendation to City Council

VandenBosch noted that City Council is working on the budget so the Harbor Commission should know soon whether anything has been cut from the River Maintenance Budget. VandenBosch gave an overview of the proposed River Maintenance Budget, explaining that the dredging being done by Pero right now will cost around \$7,000 dollars. Brunvand noted that there is a possibility that the Downtown Development Authority would agree to share \$10,000 with the Harbor Commission on an annual basis but asked that the Harbor Commission come before their board on an annual basis to make the request.

VandenBosch noted that on Black River Park's Budget there are no major capital expenses; and compared the fund balance to the profit from a business viewpoint. VandenBosch described the fund balance as healthy.

The Marina Fund Budget, the City's largest area, is down some from the 2010/2011 budget. Some of this budget will be used to replace pedestals at the South Marina. VandenBosch noted that he separated out the Northside Marina Project from this budget so the Commission could see how the Marina works as a business. VandenBosch noted that the reason for the reduction in the fund balance is due to the Northside Marina Project.

Motion by Silverman, second by Arnold to approve the budget with the corrections identified. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Commercial Use of Black River Park

VandenBosch enumerated the types of Commercial Uses identified on the Black River. Arnold noted that the Mayor stated a concern about insurance. VandenBosch stated that the users would first have to indemnify (hold harmless) the City and also provide insurance as noted in the Resolution and license agreement. VandenBosch pointed out that a variety of requirements could be added to subsequent license agreements.

Motion by Silverman, second Arnold by that the City Council adopt the resolution setting the 2011 Boating Season Commercial Hauling and Rental Launch rates at Black River Park. All in favor. Motion carried.

8. Emergency Services Meeting

The Commission agreed on May 17, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. as a Workshop with Emergency Services.

The Commission suggested asking why the South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) local police and fire personnel do not monitor VHF 16 and how emergency calls get to them.

9. 2011 Spot Dredging Update

VandenBosch noted that the City initially authorized Pero to take care of the shallow spot behind the Elsie J. The Maritime Museum is cost-sharing with the City for the expense of dredging in the Museum Marina area; \$2,000 came from the Museum and \$2,000 from the River Maintenance Fund. The total cost of dredging will be about \$9,000 plus the hauling being used for removing the dredge spoils. VandenBosch noted that the main channel looks pretty good upstream. The Commission discussed the soundings that have been taken and the possibility that the Army Corps of Engineers will still be coming to dredge the pier head area, with VandenBosch expressing hope that the Corps may yet arrive to do the soundings. Brunvand noted that Senator Fred Upton's office has been helping with trying to get the Corps to do that dredging.

10. General Discussion

Silverman gave the Commission an update on the Queen's Cup event to be held in South Haven in 2012. Silverman will provide more information before the next meeting. Silverman is hoping to turn this into more than a one-day event; he hopes to grow the event significantly. The date for the Queen's Cup in 2012 is the last Friday of the month. Jeffers wondered about advertising; Silverman said we have professionals who have stepped up and will be marketing the 2012 race after the 2011 event is over.

Silverman said that several years ago Harbor Commission suggested having staff given the ability to take care of routine maintenance items. Silverman suggested staff prepare a list of maintenance issues with a one-sentence explanation and whether it has been approved, is pending or what; a, b, c. Silverman requested comments from VandenBosch. VandenBosch said he will try to begin to bring those "staff-approved" items to the agenda for the Commission to review as is done on other boards.

Silverman thanked the Commission for their patience with his absence. Silverman also said he read the Attorney Opinion, and felt it was conservative but agreed with that.

Brunvand asked the Marina Manager about whether things were ready for the upcoming season. Abshire noted that the copper piping at the Maritime Museum was stolen from under the dock and is being replaced with galvanized. Abshire also noted she has hired a

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designated maintenance person with the skills to take care of maintenance issues in the marinas immediately.

Brunvand updated the Commission on the new display at the Maritime Museum and upcoming events, including the launch of the Lindy Lou.

Member and Staff Comments

None at this time.

Adjourn

Motion by Arnold, second by Brunvand to adjourn at 6:36 p.m. All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary