

# Harbor Commission

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 21, 2013  
5:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers  
South Haven City Hall



City of South Haven

### 1. Call to Order by Co-Chair Stephens at 5:30 p.m.

#### Roll Call:

Present: Jeffers, Pyle, Reineck, Stephens, Strong, Sullivan, Arnold (arrived 5:38 p.m.)  
Absent: Silverman (excused)

### 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Strong, second by Jeffers to approve the agenda as presented.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Arnold took his place as Chair.

### 3. Approval of Minutes:     April 16, 2013 Regular Meeting                                       April 16, 2013 Workshop Meeting

Motion by Stephens, second by Sullivan to approve the April 16, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes and the April 16, 2013 Workshop Meeting minutes. with the following correction noted to the Regular Meeting minutes:

- Page 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph from the bottom, replace *Maritime Museum* with *Museum Marina*

All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Tom Morey, 290 Oak Street. Black River Boat Club. Spoke about the issue boaters are having in the aftermath of the storms with logs and debris coming down the river and asked whether, "Under the Black River Friends River Maintenance charter, this being a safety issue, if we get a rope on the logs and tie them off, isn't it the city's responsibility to remove them?"

VandenBosch stated that if logs are in a private marina area, the private marina members are responsible. If logs are in the river itself, the city is responsible to remove them

VandenBosch suggested that logs be towed to the Black River boat launch and tied up below the launch in a shallow area until city crews can remove them. VandenBosch noted that if someone tows a log to the Black River launch site, let Norm Padnos or VandenBosch know.

Steve Eberhard. From the same marina as Morey. Expressed displeasure with the amount of dirt and sand blowing from the J & B dredging site across from where his boat is moored. VandenBosch will let Barney know in a letter or in person that there is a problem with sand blowing across the river.

The board discussed dredging, dredge spoils and getting dredge permits.

## **5. Marina Reports**

VandenBosch gave an overview of the Marina Reports, noting that there are two more months before the end of the fiscal year.

## **6. Nichols Landing Dock Extension Request**

VandenBosch noted that this item was adjourned to this meeting with a request for more information from staff. VandenBosch stated that he read every place he could find in minutes regarding harbor lines. The key is the Army Corps harbor line is based on a 195' channel width by the All Seasons and Yacht Club line. The city project lines require a 175' channel width. So the conclusion, according to VandenBosch, is that the city harbor lines are further out in the river than the Army Corps' lines. VandenBosch noted that the city project line which ran through the Idler on the drawing we had last month indicates that the adjacent dock could be extended out to that project line, as requested.

VandenBosch did let Brian Lewis (applicant for the dock extension) know the results of his research; that discussion of city harbor lines would be on the agenda tonight and what information was included in the agenda for this meeting. No action is really necessary at this time but VandenBosch advised the board that they could make a clarification in the form of a motion or do nothing. VandenBosch noted that the city project line decision was made in 1989.

Strong asked if boats could still be docked on the outside of that line, to which VandenBosch responded yes. VandenBosch noted that the city project line determines how far you can build out a project extension. Sullivan asked if anyone could tie up a boat anywhere. VandenBosch said the only limitation he knows is that moored boats are not permitted to block navigation on the river.

VandenBosch noted that in the past the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) used to issue a Marina Operating Permit but that requirement was dropped 4 or 5 years ago.

VandenBosch noted that some of us might remember the former harbormaster regulating mooring of boats; that was under the Marina Operating Permit.

## **7. North Side Marina Report**

VandenBosch noted that the facility is ready for boaters and is a very nice facility so we should have some happy boaters. Arnold noted that there will be a ribbon cutting Friday, May 24th at 11:00 a. m.

## **8. Bascule Bridge Improvements**

VandenBosch noted that he provided quite a bit of information in the agenda about the bridge and the work that will be done. VandenBosch stated, "This board has been concerned in the past with reliability, maintenance, and lighting of the bridge."

There is a very interesting economic impact study on page. 57 of the agenda packet, which was used to get the grant for the bridge, VandenBosch noted, and pointed out page 67 which has a lighting diagram depicting the red and green lights which were proposed to put on the bridge.

Strong thinks the lights would be an improvement; "the biggest problem with our bridge is coming from the lake, there is a corner before the bridge so the lights will have to be situated so they can be seen." Strong noted that maritime rules state the downriver boats have the right-of-way except commercial vessels, which we do not have.

Pyle asked if there is an opportunity for there to be a light near the clock so people don't hammer down to try to beat the bridge closing. VandenBosch is not sure how the yellow light is going to be used; currently there is a bell and you can hear the gates opening. VandenBosch is not sure he would recommend another light. Pyle noted that signage on that corner might be helpful. Reineck commented that out of town people may not know what the lights mean but a sign would be instructive.

Pyle asked when the bridge project is going to start to which VandenBosch responded that he thinks October and it will be a lengthy project. If work begins before that, VandenBosch noted that it will not be the lifting mechanism. Sullivan noted the Coast Guard requires the bridge to be open from May 1 to Oct. 15.

## **9. Dredging Update**

### **North Side and South Side Dredging Dunkley Spoil Site Restrictive Covenant Black River Dredging Project**

VandenBosch noted the big item was approved at City Council last night but at least we are getting the dredging done. The change order, instead of bidding out the upper river part,

was bid out as a change order. According to VandenBosch, the total amount, \$490,000, is a very good price and the city was able to get a grant so will be able to dredge without a special assessment.

VandenBosch pointed out the graphs for how deep the dredging will be, and other information included in the agenda packet. VandenBosch noted that the North Marina will be completed sometime this week; it is a huge part of the project.

VandenBosch put together a memo requesting a budget amendment. VandenBosch included a funding source (Michigan Department of Natural Resources - MDNR Waterways Fund) for our grant; \$150,000 from Municipal Marina Fund and the balance from the River Maintenance Fund. That budget amendment was approved at City Council last night. The budget pages begin on page 90; the state dredging grant is listed as a revenue source, and they took out dollars for unbudgeted dredging cost. VandenBosch reviewed the River Maintenance Fund current year projected budget. Looking at next year's budget, which starts in July, the intention is to build up that reserve.

VandenBosch pointed out that the engineering costs are not included in this budget and much of that revenue is coming from the Marina Fund; we have not tallied up the engineering costs that are associated with this. Stephens asked what the engineering costs were for. VandenBosch noted they were for permitting, putting the bid documents together, and doing the before and after soundings; the dredging contractor is paid based on those soundings.

Sullivan asked if we have an idea of the amount to be spent on engineering. VandenBosch stated we have expended some of that; it is hard to know when to start and when to stop. We have already done the Museum Marina dredging. \$40,000 to \$50,000 is a good ballpark for engineering. Sullivan asked if that gets split between various funds to which VandenBosch responded, "Yes, it does," but is not sure of the exact split or which funds it is actually taken from.

Stephens asked about the estimate we did previously. VandenBosch said when the Army Corps decided they would do some of the dredging, the state took some of that away from us, and we got a grant, so we came out ahead.

VandenBosch noted the dredging is going slower than we or the dredgers had expected. The dredgers have completed about 1/3 of the contract. After north side marina, they will do Friends Good Will and the turning basin, and then move on. VandenBosch noted that the contractor has the right to do the dredging in the way that will cost him least, and he is helping us by following our calendar. The dredgers were going to start much earlier, but the city held them up but waiting until there was authorization from the state. The completion date, which VandenBosch believes was April 14, is no more. We just hope the dredger continues to work and make progress; he may be doing private marinas on the way, too. The main channel, the river, is clean, and will be pumped out as beach replenishment. That is part of the change order. Strong asked if the pipe for the beach replenishment material

would be sunken, noting that some boats have hit it, including the Lindy Lou. VandenBosch noted that the pipe is in the deepest part of the river, so a deep draft boat that is trying to avoid the pipe will be in shallow water; the dredger is placing extra buoys where the pipe is shallow.

## **10. General Comments**

VandenBosch: Next month the Harbor Commission will be receiving comments from the public for the Black River Park fish cleaning station. After that we will focus in more on the fish cleaning station; trying to find a location for the fish cleaning station that will work.

VandenBosch: Talked to the fire chief about the fire boat; the city has a dock available in two places, wherever they prefer. The boat does require a lift and cover so if there is an interest, the fire department is looking for a way to fund that. This board has stated a desire for the boat to be in the water a number of times, so there is an opportunity there.

VandenBosch: The fish cleaning station; the electrician looked at it and new blades were ordered and the engine will be rebuilt. Late the night of Memorial Day, we will remove that grinder and take it to be rebuilt. Hoping to have it back in place by Thursday May 30. We hope the rebuilt motor and new blades will be an improvement.

## **Member and Staff Comments**

Reineck: There is also a fish cleaning station at the north side marina; the motor is weak and it doesn't do the job. VandenBosch stated he hopes to fix it for the rest of the season; the plan is to write a grant and it may take two or three years.

Pyle: Will the fish cleaning station be locked up with a code this year again? VandenBosch suggested asking Norm Padnos.

Heard a lot of comments about the weeds in the parking lot. VandenBosch said we are contracting with DeBest to put some weed killer down, should happen by Friday.

The South side – fish tournament complaints that with the lack of staff, the bathrooms were not kept up, mainly during the weigh-ins. Marple said he will take the fall for it; he didn't realize it would be that big.

Asked about the bags the spoils are being put in. Jeffers and Strong noted it is an interesting process; saw people beating the bags with large sticks. VandenBosch noted they cut the bags open, use a bulldozer to smooth it out and put the fabric back down.

## **Adjourn**

Motion by Strong, second by Stephens to adjourn at 6:38 p.m.

May 21, 2013  
Harbor Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom  
Recording Secretary