

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 Arnold at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Chairman Jeff Arnold, Vice-Chairman Mary Stephens, Fred Jeffers, Cathy Pyle, Alan Silverman, Daniel Strong, Greg Sullivan.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Stephens, second by _____ to approve the April 16, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes with the correction noted and the April 16, 2013 Workshop Meeting minutes. 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. Issue with the storms and debris coming down the river. As a safety issue with the size of some of these logs, which are hitting the boats and lodging underneath we are attaching ropes to them and dragging them out. His question is, under the river maintenance Black River Friends, charter, this being a safety issue, if we get a rope on them and tie them off, isn't it the city's responsibility to remove them.

Sullivan asked whether the city in spring time have taken care of that. V stated that if they are in a marina area, they private marina members are responsible. If they are in the river itself, the city is responsible to remove them.

Strong asked if we can tow them to the boat launch, and then the City pull them out. V noted that it is important to tie them up as it takes a while for city crews to get to them.

Jeffers noted that there are some really old logs coming down. V noted that if someone tows a log to the Black River launch site, talk to Norm or V.

The group discussed who would pick up the logs and who would tow them to the launch site. V noted the city has an aluminum boat. Orey noted that wasn't his group; we have been paying for them to be removed.

Steve Eberhard is in the same marina, and there is a lot of dirt from the J & B dredging piled up across from me. When the wind blows it is blowing dirt all over us on the other side. Difficult to keep our area nice and clean. Wonders if there is somewhere else it could be piled and if it is contaminated. V said that dredging is not done by the city so he has no knowledge if that is contaminated or with what. V asked if the speaker has talked to the owner; said he has once and doesn't know that he wants to talk to him again. V will let Barney know in a letter or in person and let him know there is a problem with sand blowing across the river.

5. Marina Reports

VandenBosch gave an overview of the Marina Reports, noting that there are two more months to go.

6. Nichols Landing Dock Extension Request

V noted this item was adjourned to this meeting. V read every place he could find in minutes, regarding harbor lines. The key is the Army Corps harbor line is a 195' channel width by the All Seasons and Yacht Club line. The city project lines were 175' channel width. So that means that the city harbor lines are further out in the river than the Army Corps' lines. V noted that the city project line which ran through the Idler on the drawing we had, which indicates that dock could be extended out to that project line.

VandenBosch did let Brian Lewis know the results of his research, that it 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 if you want to make a clarification in the form of a motion, or do nothing. V. noted that decision was made in 1989. Strong asked if boats could be docked on the outside of that line, to which VandenBosch responded yes. V noted the project line determines how far you can build a project extension out to. Sullivan asked if anyone could tie up a boat anywhere? VandenBosch said the only limit he knows is that moored boats are not permitted to block navigation on the river.

V noted that in the past the DNR used to issue a Marina Operating Permit, but that requirement was dropped 4 or 5 years ago. V. 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

V 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.

8. Bascule Bridge Improvements

VandenBosch provided quite a bit of information in the agenda about the bridge and the work that will be done. V stated this board has been concerned in the past with reliability, maintenance, and lighting. There is a very interesting economic impact study on pg. 57, which was used to get the grant for the bridge. V noted that on page 67 there is a lighting diagram, the red and green lights, which were proposed to put on the bridge.

Strong thinks it would be an improvement. The biggest problem with our bridge is coming from the lake, there is a corner. So the lights will have to be situated so they can be seen. V noted the lights need to be able to be turned green individually, depending on where the wind and current is coming from. Strong noted that maritime rules state the downriver boats have the right-of-way except commercial vessels, which we don't 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. V said he is not sure how the yellow light is going to be used. There is a bell and you can hear the gates opening. V is not sure he would recommend another light. Pyle noted that signage on that corner might be helpful. Reineck said out of town people may not know what the lights mean but a sign would be instructive.

Pyle asked when this project is going to start to which VandenBosch noted he thinks is in October and it will take quite a long time. If work begins before that, V noted that it won't be the lifting part. 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

V noted the big item was approved at CC last night but at least we are getting it done. The change order, instead of bidding out the upper river part, we bid it out as a change order. The total amount, \$490,000, is a very good price and we were able to get a grant so will be able to dredge without a special assessment.

V pointed out the graphs for how deep the dredging will be, etc. can be found in your packet. V noted that we will be finishing the North Marina sometime this week, it is a huge part of the project.

V put together a memo requesting a budget amendment. Put in a funding source MDNR waterways for our grant, \$150,000 from Mun. Marina Fund and bal from River Maint. Fund. He just looked at ability of those two funds to pay. That budget amendment was approved at CC last night. Budget pgs. Begin on pg. 90. They added a revenue source of the state

dredging grant \$ and they took out \$ for unbudgeted dredging cost. On pg. 92, the River Maint. Fund, the current yr projected budget column shows payment of \$; we had already pd other items, which is where the \$104,000 came from which leaves a balance. Looking at next yrs budget, which starts in July, we plan to build that reserve up.

V said the engineering costs are not included in this and much of that is coming from the Marina Fund; we have not tallied up the engineering costs that are associated with this. Stephens asked what they were for. V noted they were for permitting, putting the bids together, doing the before and after soundings (that is how the contractor is paid – based on those soundings).

Sullivan asked if we have an idea of the amount. V said 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 – 50,000 is a good ballpark for engineering. Sullivan asked if that gets split between various funds to which V responded yes, it does, but isn't sure of the exact split or which funds it is actually taken from.

Stephens asked about the estimate we did previously. V 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.

V noted the dredger is movnign slower than we or they had expected. They are about 1/3 of the way done with the contract. After north side marina, they will do FGW and turning basin, then move on. V 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. They were going to start much earlier, and until we had authorization from the state, so we held them up. The completion date, which V believes was Apr. 14, is no more. We just hope he 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 it would be sunken, noting that some boats have hit it, including the Lindy Lou. V noted that the deepest part holds the pipe so a deep draft boat that is trying to avoid the pipe is in shallow water. Dredger is placing extra buoys where the pipe is shallow.

10. General Comments

V – next mo. Comments from public for BR 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.

Talked to the fire chief about the fire boat; we have a dock available in two places, wherever they prefer. It does require a lift and cover for the current boat, so if there is an interest, they are looking for a way to fund that. This board has stated a desire for that a number of times, so there is an opportunity there.

The fish cleaning station; we looked at moving the grinder . . . maybe someone had already done that. The electrician looked at it; we ordered new blades 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 Thu. May 30. We hope the rebuilt motor and new blades will be an improvement.

Member and Staff Comments

Reineck noted there is also a fish cleaning station at the north side marina, the motor is weak and it doesn't do the job. V hopes to fix it for the rest of the season; the plan is to write a grant and it may take 2 or 3 years. Pyle asked if the fish cleaning station will be locked up with a code this year again. Pyle will ask Norm. Pyle heard a lot of comments about the weeds in the parking lot. V said we are contracting with DeBest to put some weed killer down, should happen by Friday. Pyle said other comment was 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.

Pyle asked about the bags the spoils are being put in them. Jeffers and Strong noted it is an interesting process; saw people beating the bags with large sticks. V 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.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary