

# Harbor Commission

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 19, 2012  
5:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers



City of South Haven

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

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

Also present: Robin Abshire, Marina Manager; John Marple, Owner/Manager Old Harbor Inn, Wendy Hochstedler, Finance Director

VandenBosch noted that the new Marina Manager is here and requested that the Commission move the Marina Manager Item 8 to Item 3a

### 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Stephens, second by Pyle to approve the agenda as revised. All in favor. Motion carried.

### 3. Approval of Minutes: April 17, 2012 Meeting

Based on a question regarding the minutes, the board quizzed Marple regarding what the actual district would be. Pyle raised the question of qualifying for grants. Marple said *"from pier head to pier head to the bridge all property adjoining the river only"* works for him.

Motion by Stephens, second by Jeffers to amend the minutes to read as noted above.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Motion by Sullivan, second by Jeffers to approve the April 17, 2012 regular meeting minutes as revised.

All in favor. Motion carried.

### **3a. Marina Management Update**

VandenBosch introduced John Marple as the new Marina Manager.

Marple noted he was the Harbor Master during the 80's into the 90's when the South Marina was developed and ~~was also instrumental in vacating the turning basin when the turning basin was removed from the Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction and docks were added to the Maritime Museum.~~ Marple has been shadowing Abshire and staff and had some meetings. Marple noted that he feels the facilities are in great shape and noted he feels that Abshire has done a great job. Marple explained that the City has appointed him for a month and Marple hopes to continue on through the termination of Abshire's contract in October.

Marple's biggest concern is the Queen's Cup, a very important event for the city. Marple noted that unfortunately this year there is not a lot of water so staff will be challenged by where to put the boats. Noted volunteers are needed.

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

None at this time.

### **5. Marina Reports**

VandenBosch gave an overview of the Marina Reports.

Noted that we have a problem with tokens, so has sent out some bad tokens and they are to be recalibrated to work in the machine.

VandenBosch commented on the Lake Michigan water levels, which are about 10' from record lows.

### **6. Harbor Commission Code of Ordinances**

VandenBosch stated that recent Parliamentary Procedures training encouraged getting the Commissions' Code of Ordinances out to members.

### **7. Queen's Cup Update**

VandenBosch noted that staff will be challenged to get the deep draft boats into slips and some will be rafted off.

Stephens asked about the 10' shoal between the pier heads. VandenBosch said the biggest boats are probably going to turn around and go back. The depth we have seen is about 12' but it is different in different areas. Stephens asked how deep the deep draft boats are to which VandenBosch responded that some of the deeper draft boats are 8' to 10'.

## **8. Marina Management Update**

See Item 3a. above.

## **9. Black River Park Gravel Road and Drainage Response**

VandenBosch noted that he had gotten a request to look into the feasibility of moving the drive to align so those pulling longer trailers and boats could approach more easily. VandenBosch stated that the City Engineer thought it would be quite costly to line that up, including the cost of installing new storm sewer with the drive re-alignment. The City Manager has asked the City Engineer to continue to review this with the thought of a less extensive solution.

VandenBosch updated that changes requested regarding to the bridge and another question this board had last month will be in the next agenda.

## **Member and Staff Comments**

VandenBosch noted that the pre-bid meeting for the North Marina facility was today and the City is expecting to have a number of estimates.

Pyle asked about the Gus Macker which is coming on South Beach. VandenBosch said it is going to be on Water Street near the South Marina. The Board discussed pros and cons of the beach location.

Sullivan had a report of shoaling in Slip Away Cove which drew 5'1" and noted that a boat has to go way in to avoid the shoaling.

VandenBosch updated regarding dredging issues and timing of permitting. Noted that Army Corps may not be returning. VandenBosch also noted that a seasonal boater had to be refunded and turned away due to the low water, so indicated that there needs to be a dredging.

Arnold thanked Alan Silverman (in absentia) for all his hard work on the Queen's Cup, and Paul VandenBosch and Robin Abshire for helping organize the Queen's Cup. Arnold noted that he believes Abshire's last day is next week and thanked her for her service during all those years.

Abshire noted that she will be working in New Buffalo.

## **Adjourn**

Motion by Stephens. second by Pyles to adjourn at 6:03 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom  
Recording Secretary