

Harbor Commission

Harbor Commission Workshop Minutes

Tuesday, July 16, 2013
6:30 p.m., Council Chambers
South Haven City Hall



City of South Haven

The Harbor Commission will meet to discuss and take public comment on plans for Black River Park and a new fish cleaning station.

Arnold called the workshop to order at 6:26 p.m.

VandenBosch noted that we are looking at the new fish cleaning station project; the main goal is for the Harbor Commission to recommend to City Council at which location the fish cleaning station would be located so a new drawing/master plan can be prepared to send to City Council. This board will continue to work on the concept and master plan to create what we need to apply for a grant.

Kathy Burczak, Senior Landscape Artist, Abonmarche. Explained the proposed improvements for Black River Park, noting that she hopes for more great input "like we got last time we presented."

Burczak explained the rationale for the configuration of the entrances and exits, noting that the current road creates a back-up; anyone leaving the marina has a conflict. Option A & B are very similar but B allows for a road without using the culvert that is shown in A. Noted that since the last meeting more research into this drain has been done; the main drain goes this direction while the little segment in question is not listed as part of the county drain. Burczak feels that, based on that research, there will be a culvert in that little stream area.

Burczak noted that improved traffic flow and accommodating people stopping at the bait shop before launching were taken into consideration, with the main entrance remaining in the same place for the same reasons and bait shop customers can get to the launch gate without cutting into the stacking line. Pointed out multiple ways Plan C improves traffic flow.

Location for Fish Cleaning Station: Both locations are good.

First location is in the boat launch area, close to rest existing rest rooms and free parking area as well as parking for people who are launching.

The second location speaks to comments regarding group events and off-site weigh-ins; this location has a free pull-in, pull-through parking lot and an unloading zone next to the proposed fish cleaning station. There is access to pull-through parking for those with boat trailers and both regular and ADA compliant parking spaces. We feel that in this location it would be advantageous to extend the roofline and add an ADA compliant unisex restroom and a small storage facility. An extra restroom equals an extra \$45,000. Jeff noted that with the gravel parking area, there could be a band of bituminous to make the area more accessible.

Burczak showed a concept drawing of a fish cleaning station showing elevation, low maintenance features, air flow and double door for access.

The board discussed with Burczak how many people can work at the table shown to which Burczak responded that four can work at the main table and they are planning to add an ADA work table. St. Joseph has a cross table so eight (8) people can work there, plus the ADA complaint work station.

Tony McGee, Abonmarche, pointed out that the grinder system for disposing of the offal is one way or another one, currently used in Manistee, uses a freezer system and someone picks up the offal to use for cat food. The tables are sloped to the center allowing the offal to flow to the grinder or freezer, rolled lips to keep the water from sloshing off the fronts of the tables. Floor drains; there are slopes from the table to the drains in quadrants. There is a water hose for spraying down the facility as well as the hoses used during the fish cleanings.

After questions regarding how many parking spaces will be lost by adding ADA parking at launch side where the docks are Burczak explained that the parking lot will stay the same and the ADA parking will be in the same area and just renamed as ADA. Adding the ADA parking is just a matter of restriping.

There was discussion regarding the gates/doors of the fish cleaning station and locking them at night. It was pointed out that nighttime fisherman might come in at 11:00 pm or midnight.

A citizen commented on the anti-microbial boards shown in the photographs by Burczak; noted that at one harbor he visited, the table tops are made of permanent anti-microbial boards, instead of separate boards.

It was noted that architects have addressed the issue of shields for protecting fishermen from the spray across the table. VandenBosch suggested a floor or mop sink.

VandenBosch said we have had problems in the past with fish heads jamming the grinder, which is why the gates have been locked, sometimes as early as 5:00 p.m. The group discussed the poor quality of the grinder blades, which had been a large share of the problem with fish heads being caught in the grinder. The blades have since been replaced with new blades. VandenBosch said the city will try to keep the grinder open more.

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Bangor-South Haven Historic Water Trail representative questioned placing the fish cleaning station near where people are recreating. Burczak noted the newer systems do not allow for as much aroma to escape. Trail rep stated that in the past the Water Trail group has had their annual meeting at Black River Park utilizing their own canopy and it is very comfortable there. VandenBosch noted that there will be a loading area for kayaks and canoes. There was discussion about what material will be placed at the launch; currently it is mostly sand with some concrete mixed in. The concrete needs to be removed. Sand or grass is best for launch sites.

Sullivan asked about adding trailer parking over the spoils area; also asked "Is there any thought to increasing the free parking to the spot south of the launch?" Burczak pointed out that there are forty-three (43) vehicle and thirty-three (33) boat trailer spots. There could be 109 total vehicles without trailers. On Dunkley there are twenty (20) free vehicle spaces and some boat trailer spaces.

The board discussed the cul-de-sac in the previous plan, which although fairly large, made it difficult for people with trailers to turn around. For those people who like to stop at the bait shop and then launch, access will be easier.

VandenBosch said there will be a lot of landscaping, a gazebo etc. once the dredging is over. The planning of the various upgrades is being done through the Parks Commission so VandenBosch doesn't have details on that.

The Harbor Commission took a straw poll and unanimously likes the green circled area by the temporary parking area best, with good traffic flow and separate drop-offs.

Motion by Stephens, second by Strong, to accept the green circled area as a starting point to send to Parks Commission for comments. Motion carried.

Motion by Strong, second by Stephens to adjourn at 7:03 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom
Recording Secretary