

# Harbor Commission

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 21, 2012  
5:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers



City of South Haven

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

#### Roll Call:

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

### 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Silverman, second by Sullivan to approve the August 21, 2012 Harbor Commission agenda as presented.

All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Motion by Jeffers, second by Sullivan to approve the July 17, 2012 Harbor Commission minutes as written.

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. Marina Reports

VandenBosch gave the Commission an overview of the Marina Reports.

Silverman questioned the Boat Launching & Parking Fees Revenue, which VandenBosch will check into.

VandenBosch noted that lake levels are one foot higher than record lows.

## **6. Dredging Permit Proposal**

VandenBosch updated the Commissioners regarding the dredge permit. The Commission discussed the possibility of requesting a larger amount of dredging be done and the cost of the permit for dredging the area approved last month. After discussion, VandenBosch informed the Commission that engineering is not subject to bidding.

Sullivan noted that in his opinion the City is spending too much for this permit, based on the price his condominium association paid for dredging recently. The Commission discussed the process to get a permit for dredging; every adjacent property owner has to give permission; there is testing to determine whether there is contamination or not; and a site for placing the spoils must be located.

Silverman expressed concern regarding the expense but is not sure that is what the board is being called upon to evaluate. VandenBosch noted that this is something that will go to City Council.

Motion by Silverman that the Harbor Commission recommend to City Council that the proposed permit be expanded to include all of the area within the "federal lines" west of the bridge. Second by Jeffers.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Jeffers asked how far ahead of time the permit process needs to be started. VandenBosch said it is a long process; and it is possible that no dredging can be done before July. Silverman noted that the problem with dredging in April is the change in water level that often occurs in May.

Jeffers shared concerns of some boaters due to shallow water on the north side of the curve.

Silverman noted that this is the last year for the last dredging assessment; the typical funding for most of the dredging came from federal earmarks; now there is no funding method for dredging.

Motion by Silverman to recommend that City Council give careful consideration to the adoption of an assessment or other funding method to cover anticipated dredging costs.

VandenBosch suggested a study of the costs and issues.

Silverman noted that City Council meetings are more public, even though Harbor Commission is a public meeting. If City Council sends it back to us the Commission can

begin our evaluation. The Commission discussed whether there is a broader segment of the population to assess other than just slip owners.

The Commission discussed the number of boaters running aground or making accommodations to make it down the river. Sailboats in particular are having difficulties with the shallowness of the river. VandenBosch updated the Commission on soundings, which were not as deep as last month. Silverman pointed out the difficulty of getting boats upriver, especially after October 10.

Arnold noted there is a motion on the table and requested a second. Second by Jeffers. Arnold called the question.

All in favor. Motion carried.

VandenBosch will do soundings before the next meeting and get some information to the Commission.

## **7. Marina Management**

VandenBosch updated the Commission on the pages that were originally included in the agenda and have since been removed; negotiations have been ongoing between Marple and the City Manager and VandenBosch. The City is hoping for a five-year contract without too much additional cost; want to do more marketing of the marinas. VandenBosch told the Commission that negotiations are progressing well.

Silverman expressed interest in seeing the result of those negotiations and VandenBosch said he plans to bring that information to the next Harbor Commission meeting.

## **Member and Staff Comments**

VandenBosch updated the Commission on Boater Appreciation Day activities. Arnold shared his approval of the way Marple addressed the various opinions and viewpoints including asking for time to consider various suggestions and complaints.

VandenBosch updated the Commission regarding progress on the North Side Marina Building. The contractors plan to start mobilizing equip and materials October 1, 2012 and demolish the existing building October 15, 2012 then infrastructure work can commence. The projected completion date is April 15, meaning the building will be usable if not totally complete. There is an incentive for the contractors to complete the building by the end of March. Bids for the furniture have been obtained. Computer wiring bids are being worked on. Contractually the City is set to go and it is up to the contractor to get it done.

Silverman hopes the new North Marina building will be an incentive for more seasonal and new boaters to visit South Haven.

Silverman noted at the July meeting he talked about how successful the Queen's Cup was; in this regard, Silverman noted that this success could not have happened without the help of staff and a volunteer from the Yacht Club.

Arnold thanked staff for the Boater Appreciation Day. Arnold noted that he believes Marple's leadership is heading us in a better direction.

### **Adjourn**

Motion by Silverman, second by Sullivan to adjourn at 6:11 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marsha Ransom  
Recording Secretary