

# Harbor Commission

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 18, 2012  
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.

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

### 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Silverman, second by Stephens to approve the Agenda moving Item # 8 ahead of Item # 5.

All in favor. Motion carried.

### 3. Approval of Minutes: October 16, 2012 Meeting

Motion by Stephens, second by Silverman to approve the October 16, 2012 Regular Meeting 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.

### 8. Marina Marketing

Marple gave a presentation on Marina marketing which he proposes to do in conjunction with the Maritime Museum. The proposal includes attending a Strictly Sail show in Chicago and another boat show in Grand Rapids.

Marple shared the cost for booth equipment, entrance fees and employee costs. Once the first capital costs (equipment) are expended the annual cost will be about half what the total will be the first year.

The Commission discussed the funding sources for the marketing effort, which will be through the Marina Fund. There was also discussion of how Marple will track response to the marketing program. Discussion ensued regarding the need for marketing during slow economic times.

Motion by Silverman to recommend that the City provide the funding and approval necessary for attendance at both the Chicago Strictly Sale show and the Grand Rapids boat show. Second by Strong.

After discussion, Arnold called the question.

Aye: Jeffers, Pyle, Silverman, Strong, Arnold

Nays: Stephens

Motion carried.

Marple updated the commission on seasonal renewals, noting that he has heard concern expressed regarding water levels. Marple believes there will be a significant economic impact due to the water levels. Silverman pointed out that while he has a contract to get his slip dredged it will not do him much good if he cannot get up the river.

## **5. Marina Reports.**

VandenBosch gave an overview of the Marina Reports.

VandenBosch pointed out Black River Park revenues as better than any year in quite a while; keeping the parking lot open longer is an experiment to see if there is value in keeping the gate functioning year round.

Pyle noted that a fishing event got moved at the last minute and boaters were not prepared to pay the launch/parking fees. Those with boats had to launch at Riverbend Boat Club, according to Pyle, and many participants fish from Black River Park banks, and do not launch boats. Quite a number of river fishermen were inconvenienced and upset.

VandenBosch noted that revenue received between October 15 and December 5, which is up from revenues in previous years.

## **6. Charter Fishing**

VandenBosch reminded the board that Chad Bard of a charter fishing enterprise has requested to operate a charter fishing business out of a South Side Marina slip. VandenBosch noted that the marina slip fee has been doubled for this commercial use.

VandenBosch noted that he has heard concerns regarding the cleaning of fish and run off from that activity into the river. Bard stated he normally cleans the fish on the boat and dispose of the remains off-site. Bard will call the Department of Natural Resources and learn if there are rules regulating that activity and will get back to VandenBosch with that

information. If cleaning the fish on the boat is a problem Bard stated he can use the provided cleaning stations instead.

Motion by Pyle to recommend that City Council permit Chad Bard and IT-IL-DO Charters, LLC to move into the South Side Marinas as a commercial enterprise. Second by Jeffers.

Silverman asked if VandenBosch was looking for an approval of the enterprise or of the contract.

After discussion Pyle amended her motion.

Motion by Pyle, second by Stephens to recommend that City Council approve the Charter Fishing License Agreement with Chad Bard and IT-IL-DO LLC.

All in favor.  
Motion carried.

## **7. Dredging**

- a. Museum Marina
- b. Permitting
- c. North Side/South Side Marina
- d. Main Channel (upstream from Bridge)
- e. Lake Michigan and Outer Channel

VandenBosch updated the commission with the information that some contamination was found which will necessitate retesting. There was discussion regarding beach replenishment. VandenBosch is concerned with the response time of the Department of Environmental Quality which is reported to be slow since he is hoping to get the request for proposal out in early January.

VandenBosch noted that because of timing, this proposal was taken to City Council last night and was approved. Bid specifications will be put together and the terms will include language noting that dredging cannot commence until the permit is acquired. That permit covers the North and South side assuming the permit arrives time for the work to be done.

VandenBosch noted that dredging at the Museum Marina is going on now; that project may be done by the end of the year. Dredging will continue through December or until it is done, unless there is a blizzard. VandenBosch arranged that if the maximum amount of 3,400 cubic yards of dredge spoils is not reached during the Marina portion of the project, the project will move up and do more outside of the area initially indicated.

Abonmarche is putting together bid documents for the main channel; according to VandenBosch, volume estimates were based on VandenBosch's soundings from last April. Upriver, VandenBosch's plan is to have a 40' wide channel dredged because the river is

really shallow there and this plan should reduce the number of estimated yards. VandenBosch noted this bid should be ready to go by the time the city receives the permit.

Silverman's concern is determining what will be accomplished. Immediately West of the marina line as shown; that depth was approx. 4 to 4.5 feet. That is an area that needs dredging and that is not shown there. VandenBosch explained that this estimate was put together by taking the soundings done in late March and early April and applied the dredging depth policy 5.7' below low water datum. Those were the areas that we identified as being within that policy and bid specs on this area have not been started yet.

VandenBosch pointed out the aerial photo of Lake Michigan in the agenda packet, where the 14' calculations were used. Jeffers asked what the city has to do for the dredging to happen. VandenBosch said a funding source has to be identified and city staff is in talks to try to make the dredging happen.

In an effort to keep boaters up to date, VandenBosch wrote a memo for Marple with information for the boaters. VandenBosch noted that the Department of Natural Resources asked for answers regarding dredging so VandenBosch put together a report. VandenBosch hopes to get the job done right and before May 1<sup>st</sup>. The city is going to try to do everything but the channel but if a funding source can be identified, VandenBosch would like to have the channel dredged, also.

VandenBosch indicated that the River Maintenance Fund shows that the Harbor Commission did a pretty good estimate; the numbers are not too far off of our Capital Improvement plan, according to VandenBosch.

Silverman asked if there has been any further discussion about assessment at the City level. VandenBosch said there has not but now that there is a little better idea of what the project might be it is probably a good time to find out if City Council supports this proposal. VandenBosch reviewed the process for special assessments.

Discussion ensued regarding the placement of the dredge spoils. The city engineer has been asked to apply for a permit to place the spoil in the flood plain. The elevation distance is very minimal so if that permit is obtained, North and South side marina dredging spoils will be placed at the site of the old electric barn, spread out and covered with clean top soil and used for overflow parking. VandenBosch noted that due to contamination, a restrictive covenant is required on the site. VandenBosch gave the commission an overview of the contamination issue, including acceptable numbers in comparison to the actual numbers.

## **9. General Comments**

There were none.

## **Member and Staff Comments**

Strong: Asked for update on the North Side Marina

Pyle: Asked where the fish cleaning station will be.

Silverman: Wondered if there has been any interest from any other fishing boats on the South Side Marina.

Pyle: Asked if the Chamber and Visitor's Bureau have been contacted about sharing expenses and the equipment for the boat shows.

## **10. Adjourn**

Motion by Strong, second by Stephens to adjourn at 6:40 p.m.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Marsha Ransom  
Recording Secretary