

HARBOR COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
May 19, 2004

I. Roll Call

Jim Bartlett	Present
Yvonne DeWindt	Absent
Al Dika	Present
John Flemming	Present
Tom Graham, Sr.	Present
George Kilborn	Present
Bill McCullough	Present
Fred Rachwitz	Present
Jane Ramer	Present
Dick Schiller	Present

Also present: City Manager Fred Geuder

Also present in the audience was Pringle Pfeifer

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Bartlett.

II. Minutes

Motion by Kilborn, seconded by Ramer, to approve the minutes of December 3, 2003, as presented. Motion carried.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence

None.

IV. New and Old Business

A. Seasonal Slip Procedure Update

City Manager Fred Geuder reported that the first year of working under the revised rules went very well. Turnover was up somewhat with 4 Dock Slips changing hands, and 9 Moorings changing hands. Geuder felt that 3-4 of the changes were somewhat linked to the rules changes.

Information has been coming in. Those boaters who did not have the information at home are now providing the information. A reminder letter was sent out to the boaters. Several contract holders are on a "watch" list. These boaters will have to comply with ownership rules by December 1, or will not be issued a new contract for 2005.

Enter Schiller.

B. West Dock Project Update

City Manager Fred Geuder reviewed the current cost estimates. The price of steel is up, and whatever type of decking will be used will require the use of stainless steel fasteners (about \$2000 worth). We have estimated a cost of \$35,000 for replacement of the three finger piers. Walstrom would fabricate these piers, and then use an adjustable height system. In spring 2005, we would then have Walstrom install skirting and new decking on the three 60' fingers.

After discussing and reviewing the options for decking, the Trex product is being recommended.

Bartlett discussed Trex. Mackinac Island has a test area of Trex and it seems to be working. It is a composite product made up of recycled materials. It is slip resistant and low maintenance; no staining or sealing is required. One problem with treated products is that new treatment processes will make those products less durable. The Eppe decking that was being considered at a cost of about \$50,000 more was not deemed to be of any advantage.

Geuder passed around a sample that shows the color (gray when weathered) and the grain that was designed into the product.

In response to a question from Bartlett, Geuder noted that the cash balance in the Waterfront Fund had a balance of around \$600,000 as of the end of 2003. With a total cost of the project an estimated \$300,000, we would still have our \$300,000 balance available, and we generate a positive cash flow of about \$75,000 in a normal year.

Bartlett suggested that the Commission consider a recommendation to the City Council to proceed with the project.

Motion by Schiller, seconded by Flemming, to approve the proposed dock renovation project as presented, and to recommend approval of the project to City Council. Motion carried.

C. Rules and Regulations Codification

The City Manager reported that City Attorney Jim Ramer had consolidated and reorganized the rules and regulations. In 2002, the anchoring rules were changed and in late 2003, the seasonal contract procedures were updated and modified. Ramer incorporated these new rules, and reorganized the format.

With no objection, the Commission accepted these changes.

The City Manager also presented a revised map to accompany the rules, which is a combination of the new Harbor Plan map and useful information. The Commission presented a number of useful suggestions for and questions about the map. Geuder will review these suggestions with both the Harbormaster and Benchmark Engineering.

D. Kayak Storage

The City Manager presented a letter from Judy Dawson requesting that the City install additional kayak storage racks. She noted that her husband has some physical limitations, and a space for storage would be helpful.

The Commission discussed the request, noting that capacity had been expanded only last year. All of the uses on the waterfront have waiting lists, so being on the list for 2-3 years, or longer, is not unusual.

Bartlett suggested that Commission members monitor the situation again in 2004, and perhaps consider whether or not to recommend additional capacity for 2005.

E. Open Forum

Bartlett asked Commission members to look at the 2-Hour Shoppers' Dock during the 2004 season. The Commission has previously talked about an expansion of this dock and ideas should be considered.

McCullough noted that he has served as the City's representative to the Little Traverse Bay Watershed Protection Committee, which was formed by Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council. They have formulated a report that the City will be asked to endorse. He will obtain a copy of the report and give it to the City Manager for distribution to the Commission.

The City Manager noted that in light of Bartlett's comment, the Commission should review the Capital Projects list and update. He will provide a copy of the current list to the Commission for review prior to the next meeting.

V. Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Harbor Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, June 16, at 4:00 p.m. The other required summer meetings are scheduled for July 14 and August 11.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Frederick W. Geuder, City Manager