

HARBOR COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 18, 2007

I. Roll Call

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

Also present: Harbormaster Mike Johnson and City Manager Fred Geuder.

Vice-Chairman Bill McCullough called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. Minutes

Motion by Dika, seconded by Offield, to approve the minutes of June 20, 2007, as presented.
Motion carried.

III. Public Comment and Correspondence

Mike Esposito, General Manager of Irish Boat Shop, addressed the items on concerns about power loading at the Ford Park Launch Ramp.

Esposito stated that he understands the issue and the regulations, and acknowledged that some Irish employees had been in violation of the policy. He apologized to the Commission for these actions, and said that he would address the issue internally.

Esposito also said he would talk with Reserve Officer Mary Jane Kiogima about the issue, and said that he wanted to be made aware if there were more incidents.

Dika said he was pleased with Esposito's response on this issue.

Enter Schiller.

IV. New and Old Business

A. Ad Hoc Dock Committee

McCullough reported that the Ad Hoc Dock Committee had met recently.

McCullough noted a number of projects the Committee was looking at, including:

1. Lowering the shorter finger piers on the West Dock.
2. Considering when the West Dock finger pier decks should be converted to Trex.
3. Looking at replacing the Stand-by Dock at the Boat Launch with a floating dock similar to the Launch Ramp Dock.
4. Looking at re-using the existing Trestle Dock at the Boat Launch (the Stand-by Dock) as an improved kayak launch.

Mike Esposito commented that if the Kayak Dock were wider, it may be helpful.

Fred Rachwitz noted that he would want to make sure that changes to the Kayak Dock were in line with users' needs.

The City Manager suggested that all Commission members continue to monitor potential projects for future discussion.

Enter Michael Johnson.

B. Harbormaster Report

Harbormaster Mike Johnson reported that transient docking revenue to date is around \$74,000, in line with 2006 revenues to date. Johnson also noted that transient mooring fees of \$3,100 had been collected, with a possible increase in the availability of the 300 series moorings. Johnson did note an increase in boats days for the year to date.

Rachwitz asked about two Jet Skis that seemed to be docked at the 2-hour dock. Johnson said he was aware of the situation and would have the watercraft removed.

Johnson reported that about 50 boats were registered for the regatta, which is down. (The maximum permitted is 88.)

The City Manager noted that retired Harbormaster Bob Bokram would be honored with a reception at the Harbormaster Building on Friday, July 27th, from 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Rachwitz noted that the faucet for washing off sand at the Zoll Street Beach was not working. The City Manager said he would look into it.

Positive comments about the new fountain at the Harbormaster area were expressed.

V. Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the Harbor Commission is scheduled for August 15th, at 4:00 p.m.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Frederick W. Geuder, City Manager

HARBOR SPRINGS HARBOR COMMISSION

AD Hoc Dock Committee

Report of July 17, 2007 meeting

The Ad Hoc Dock committee met July 17, 2007 to discuss options related to difficult access to the shorter finger piers due to the low water. We also discussed the 2 hour courtesy dock and kayak launch ramp at Ford park. After examining the available options, we offer the following suggestions:

- 1) Lower the 30' and 45' finger piers on the west dock 2 feet. Add 3 steps with 8" risers to access the main pier from the finger pier.
- 2) Lower the east and west 30' finger piers on the tennis court bulkhead 2' using the system designed into the dock section. Add 3 steps with 8" risers to access the main pier from the finger pier.
- 3) Replace the existing trestle courtesy dock at Ford Park with a floating dock similar to the launch ramp dock.
- 4) Replace the existing kayak floating platform with the current Fork Park courtesy dock and lower it to allow for easier kayak and small boat launching.

These suggestions improve access on our shorter non-floating finger piers making it safer and more convenient for our customers to access their boats. At Ford Park, the new floating courtesy dock offers much greater stability which should increase its use. The current trestle courtesy dock, when lowered, will add additional kayak and small boat launching space and make it easier for its users to access the water.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Bartlett
Al Dika
Bill McCullough