



# City of Racine

City Hall  
730 Washington Ave.  
Racine, WI 53403  
www.cityofracine.org

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Board of Harbor Commission

---

Thursday, April 17, 2025

3:00 PM

Harbor Lite Yacht Club

---

#### Call To Order

*The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.*

Present: Sean Fox, Jim Poplawski - Chair, John Bertermann.

Excused: Jim C. Rooney – Chair (Outgoing), Rick Hennig – Vice Chair, Dan Strommen, Lynn Monroe, Alder – David Maack.

Staff Present: Deputy Jerome Hipper – Racine County Sheriff's Dept., and Ara Molitor – Secretary.

Staff Not Present: Ben Haas - County Parks Dept., Tom Molbeck – Director Racine Parks & Rec., Jason Seyferth – Harbor Tenders

Guest(s) Present: Kurt Wentorf, Gary Anders and Rick and Amy Cermak.

#### Approval of Minutes for the March 20, 2025 Meeting

*Minutes of the March 20, 2025 meeting were approved as printed.*

Nomination of New Officers of the Committee.

*Jim Poplawski volunteered to Chair the Commission, there was no opposition. Kurt Wentorf said that he would be willing to be a vice chair, however he cannot be nominated to the commission because of residency.*

*Since the meeting, I had a discussion with the City Attorney, and he confirmed that this is true and offered the following as proof:*

*Neither the City nor the County nor both together may alter the requirement that all members of the Board of Harbor Commissioners must be residents of the City. It is a matter of state law.*

*Per Wisconsin Statutes section 30.37(3), "A person appointed to the board [of harbor commissioners] shall be a qualified elector of the municipality which created the board and a resident of the municipality for at least 3 years."*

*Considering that information, Jim Rooney and Rick Hennig are also not eligible as board members.*

Racine County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol Report:

*Deputy Jerome Hipper from the Sheriff's Dept. stated that they have gotten everything in the water that they can except for the buoys that will go in next week and the City's docks that are being cleaned and repaired. The dock for the Pugh recreational area does not line up properly with the ground elevations creating a trip hazard. This is probably because the water level is low compared to years past. I will have City crews look at what they can do.*

#### Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department Report: South Shore Repairs

*Tom Molbeck was not present for the meeting to give an update. A couple of concerns were brought up in comments; repair of the south shoreline which affects parking for the boating and Salmon Arama, also the gating of the small boat launch.*

#### **Old Business:**

##### County - North Pier Phase II:

*Amy Cermak talked with Ralph Meliki – the new County Executive. He stated that they are in the design phase of the project. Ms. Cermak offered to invite him to an upcoming meeting at his convenience to discuss this with the commission. Whichever one it is, we will conduct that meeting at the Racine Yacht Club for convenience. This committee is willing to do whatever they can to obtain Wisconsin Waterways' money to assist in funding.*

##### County Small Craft Launch - surrounding piers

*The small boat launch piers the county decided to only install the west edge of the area. The rest have been moved and will be scrapped or salvaged.*

##### Dock & Pier Winter Storage (2025 & Future):

*The water movers installed for the Pump-Out Station docks worked well and will be purchased for the Pugh and Rooney Recreational area piers going forward.*

##### City (RHC) Floating dock deck board replacement:

*Jason Seyferth (Harbor Tender) will be assessing the 3 piers of concern for the committee for damage and repairs in addition to the cleaning / power washing that he currently is conducting.*

#### **New Business:**

##### Boating Hazard at the old Azarian Marina:

*Kurt Wentorf brought up the issue of old dock supports near the east end of the old property that are now above the water and could be very dangerous to boaters on the river. These are the responsibility of the property owner to remove them or mark them properly in the river as a "Hazard".*

**Next Meeting Date: May 15, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. - Fifth Street Yacht Club**

*unless the county executive will be invited as a guest. If that is the case, the meeting will be held at the Racine Yacht Club.*

### **Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.*