



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Harbor Commission

Thursday, April 15, 2021

3:00 PM

Harbor Lite Yacht Club

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Present: Tony Herrmann - Chair, Jim C. Rooney – Vice Chair, James Rooney, Sherman Foertsch, Sean Fox, Rick Hennig and Ara Molitor – Secretary.

Excused: Lynn Monroe, Dan Strommen, Tom Ryan, Alder - Edwin Santiago Jr., Sgt. Dan Hogan – Racine County Sheriff's Dept. and Tom Molbeck – Director Racine Parks & Rec.

Approval of Minutes for the 3-18-2021 Meeting

The minutes for the March 18, 2021 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

Racine County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol Report:

No report given, Sec. Molitor will call Sgt. Hogan and get an update.

Parks, Recreational and Cultural Services Department Report:

No report given, Sec. Molitor update commission of the items that he had – Lake level and Boat Launch Sales Report.

North Pier Condition Report:

Sec. Molitor distributed memory sticks with the TRC Report dated 3-28-18. Vice Chair Rooney gave a summarized overview for the report. Key points were as follows:

- The TRC Report Dated 3-28-18 was commissioned by Racine County Department of Public Works and Development Services.*
- The Racine Harbor and its pier protection system are property of Racine County.*
- VC Rooney went on to highlight some of the points outlined in the report:
 - o The North Pier (NP), portions of which are 120 years old, should be closed to pedestrian traffic/access because of its deteriorated condition.*
 - o Even though the NP originally was not intended for public access/use, like the South pier has been widely used by the public for fishing, hiking, nature walking and leisurely family strolling as long as anyone can remember.**

- o *The NP takes most of the beating when the area experiences northeastern wind & storms.*
 - o *The NP 50+ years ago, already has had a wind/water/wave/ice destructive "blow out", involving the inner portion of the north pier that was urgently repaired to protect the Counties investment assets.*
 - o *The original design which was constructed in the early 1900's and had a projected life cycle of 25-50 years with annual maintenance and monitoring performed.*
 - o *The NP during its 120 years has had minimal performed maintenance and monitoring except for the "blow out" repair in the 1970s.*
 - o *The TRC report (completed in 2017, published in 2018), recommended major repair work to be completed within the next 5 years. Five years expire in 2022 from when the report was conducted.*
 - o *As a point of reference in 2017, the total estimated economic impact of the Racine Harbor and its related activities by our tourism office was \$41 million.*
 - o *As another point of reference, the South Pier was reconstructed in the 1980's with a cost of \$8,000,000.*
- *There will be a meeting with County Executive Delagrave and RHC Members (Herrmann, Rooney and Rooney) on Tuesday, 4-20-21 at 1:30 p.m.*
 - *Chair Herrmann suggested that the RHC-board supply a letter to give to Delegrave showing the support of the board and outlining our concerns with the condition of the north pier of the harbor. – motion and approved unanimously.*
 - *The Board asked Sec. Molitor to distribute the report showing the internal amenities with several options for the NP prior to the next meeting. (They will be distributed with the meeting minutes)*

Reef Point Lighthouse Condition Report:

Chair Herrmann gave a brief report regarding the deteriorating condition of the Reef Point Lighthouse. We have received support confirmation by both Senators: Johnson and Baldwin and also from Rep. Steils. Chairman Herrmann feels that our best bet would be to have Sen. Baldwin champion the project to repair/replace the lighthouse.

Special Dock Usage:

Amy Cermak, T10 Race Coordinator, has chosen the Racine Yacht Club to host the T10 North American Championship in August 2021. Requesting usage of Rooney dock on Monday, August 16-23, 2021.

Motioned and approved unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: May 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.--Fifth St. Yacht Club

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.