



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Harbor Commission

Thursday, April 16, 2026

3:00 PM

Harbor Lite Yacht Club

Call To Order

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

Present: Lynn Monroe, Dan Strommen, Jim Poplawski - Chair and John Bertermann

Excused: Sean Fox Vice Chair and Alder – David Maack. (there are currently 3 vacancies)

Staff Present: Deputy Jerome Hipper – Racine County Sheriff's Dept. and Matt Koepnick – Director Racine Parks & Rec. and Ara Molitor – Secretary.

Staff Not Present: Ben Haas - County Parks Dept. and Jason Seyferth – Harbor Tenders

Reoccurring and Special Guest(s) Present: Amy & Rick Cermak, Kurt Wentorf, and Charlie Mannings

Approval of Minutes for the March 19, 2026 Meeting

Minutes of the March 19, 2026 meeting were approved.

Racine County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol Report:

Deputy Jerome Hipper from the Sheriff's Dept. reported that boat #2 is in the water and Boat #1 is ready to go. They are getting ready for the season.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department Report:

Matt Koepnick reported that the lake levels are currently 1.65 ft higher than last year. He also mentioned that there is nothing in the budget for the 6th street small boat launch gating of the lot. If anything happens it won't be until 2027 or later. Tom Molbeck has roughly estimated that it would cost \$50K to gate the lot. He asked if RHC money could be used for that. There was also a brief discussion regarding the removal of logs in the river. Matt Koepnick confirmed that the system in place works fine.

Old Business:**Racine Yacht Club Dredging Project****Winter damage to recreational docks: - Sec. Molitor****Gating the 5th Street Small Craft Launch – lot: Parks Dept.****South Shore Repairs: Parks Dept.****Dredging and Piling upstream of State Street Bridge.**

Racine Yacht Club Dredging Presentation: Jim Poplowski provided the letter of support of the dredging project proposed last month by Racine Yacht Club. That he wrote to the Mayor. I was directed by my predecessor that we cannot financially support this project. All money available to the Commission can only be used for the river channel.

Winter Damage to Recreational Docks: Jason Seyferth (Harbor Tender) is in the process of power washing and repairing the Rooney and Pugh piers due to winter ice damage.

South Shore Repairs: Matt Koepnick stated that there is money planned in the future for these repairs in the Capital Improvement Plan. It is in the preliminary design phase and any repairs are years out.

Dredging the River and Pilings Upstream from the State St. Bridge: City of Racine Development Authority has been notified of the situation regarding the pilings. It is possible that these will be

removed in conjunction with a river access wall replacement near the 4th Street extension, where the bridge used to be.

New Business:**Pump out station is now open.**

The Pump Out Station: is open for the season.

The State Street Bridge: We are currently in the design stages of repairing the bridge, with construction scheduled for 2027. It will be a separate project to repair the old abutment under the bridge (Harbor Lite Yacht Club). This is also in early proposal stages.

Next Meeting Date: May 21, 2026 - Fifth St. Yacht Club at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.