



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Harbor Commission

Thursday, March 19, 2026

3:00 PM

Racine Yacht Club

Call To Order

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

Introductions of Members and Liasons:

Present: Sean Fox Vice Chair, Jim Poplawski - Chair, and John Bertermann

Excused: Lynn Monroe, Dan Strommen and Alder – David Maack. (there are currently 3 vacancies)

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

Staff Not Present: Jason Seyferth – Harbor Tenders

Reoccurring and Special Guest(s) Present: Amy & Rick Cermak, Kurt Wentorf, Jed Haas, Charlie Mannings and AJ Koski – Racine Health Dept.

Overview of Commission Funds and Responsibilities:

Racine Harbor Commission Overview: Secretary Molitor gave an overview of the responsibilities and duties of the Harbor Commission, including historical background, financial information along with the fiscal responsibilities that the Harbor Commission is responsible for. See attached.

Approval of Minutes for the October 16, 2025 Meeting

Minutes of the October 16, 2025 meeting were approved.

Racine County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol:

Deputy Jerome Hipper from the Sheriff's Dept. reported that they will be in the water by the first week in April. They are planning on painting Boat 1 and are budgeting to replace that boat in two years.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department Report:

Matt Koepnick reported the lake levels currently and that they are still trending down. He also mentioned that they have a new concessions vendor for the shop at the 5th

street small boat launch. Also reported that the Park's Dept. is planning on replacing some of their launch piers in 2027 for the 5th Street launch.

Old Business:

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. Ben Haas of the County also said that the County's piers in the 5th Street launch area were also damaged due to the winter ice. As for the RHC piers, we have purchased 3 more water movers and will install two at each of the pier locations next winter.

Gating the 5th Street Small Craft Launch - lot :

Matt Koepnick addressed this briefly in his presentation – stating that this was not passed onto him from his predecessor and was not called out in the Capitol Improvement Plan during budget time.

South Shore Repairs:

Matt Koepnick stated that there is money planned in the future for these repairs in the Capital Improvement Plan. We also mentioned to him that we have already previously approached Sen. Balwin's office regarding this issue and she was favorable to the idea to help out in her discretionary funds.

New Business:

Dredging the river near the 5th Street Yacht Club could be needed in the very near future along with removing 18 piles that were originally just cut off below the water level when the Azarian Marina was purchased by the City of Racine Development Authority.

Next Meeting Date: April 16, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. - Harbor Lite Yacht Club

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.