



# City of Racine

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

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Board of Harbor Commission

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Thursday, September 19, 2024

3:00 PM

Racine Yacht Club

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#### Call To Order

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

Present: Jim C. Rooney – Chair, Sean Fox, Rick Hennig – Vice Chair, Lynn Monroe, Alder – David Maack, Tony Herrmann - HCE, Kurt Wentorf, John Bertermann, Deputy Jerome Hipper – Racine County Sheriff's Dept., and Ara Molitor – Secretary.

Excused: Jim Poplawski, Dan Strommen, James Rooney – HCE, Tom Molbeck – Director Racine Parks & Rec., and Marc Lovdahl – Harbor Tenders.

Guest(s) Present: Amy Cermak, Ben Haas and one other.

#### Approval of Minutes for the August 15, 2024 Meeting

*Minutes of the August 15, 2024 were approved as the last item presented.*

Racine County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol Report:

*Deputy Jerome Hipper from the Sheriff's Dept. gave a brief update of the boating season. The derelict boat mentioned in the last meeting was finally moved by a new owner. Apparently, the previous boat owner broke down and tied it up in that slip and could not get it fixed. They then sold it and eventually the new owner took care of moving it. Which bring up the question, in the future how can this be handled better? Is there a company that will tow boats?*

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department Report:

*Tom Molbeck was not present, report not given.*

#### Old Business:

Floating dock deck board replacement:

*Chair Rooney is working on getting 3 quotes to repair the floating docks during the winter months when stored on dryland. One will be Gilbane where he is currently employed.*

Estuary Renaming:

*Tony Herrmann (HCE) proposed the renaming of the existing estuary bounded by the Wind Point Reef to the north and the Dekoven Center/treatment plant to the south, the Racine reef to the east and the entire shoreline contained within including the Root River to the west currently known as the Root River/Wind Point Bay Estuary to the James F. Rooney Estuary. This item was brought to the commission several months ago and they had a scheduled meeting with County Executive Jonnathon Delagrave who unfortunately passed. They were waiting to reschedule the meeting once the new CE was named. Alder Maack moved that we start the process with the interim County Executive – Thomas Roanhouse. The motion was seconded and approved. Ald. Maack will join T. Herrmann and Vice Chair Rick Hennig when the meeting is scheduled. Secretary Molitor will draft a letter in support for the estuary renaming that they can also deliver along with their presentation.*

#### Dodge Street Pump Out Station:

*The Pump Out Station dock will need to remain in the river with water movers keeping it from damage during the winter. Secretary Molitor is having the electricians add an electrical power supply near the pump's supply to accommodate water movers. We are also in the process of purchasing the "movers". The pump out station is still currently not running because of the water main construction but that is coming to an end. We will get the station back on line for the end of the boating season.*

#### New Business:

*Racine County – Ben Haas (Racine County Parks) presented a proposal to transfer the ownership of the floating dock system that rings the 5th Street launch area to the Harbor Commission. This item was moved and approved to defer and discuss at the next meeting when we have more information. Several factors are driving the desire to do this.*

*•Complaint from F3 (management of Reef Point Marina) expressing concern with the damage caused by the storage against their docks in the winter.*

*•Stipulations/Concerns:*

*oThe 1200' +/- harbor walk docks, 210' +/- Rooney Rec. docks and 325' +/- Pugh Rec. docks will have to find new place for storage.*

*o5th Street Launch is first option for winter storage. Secretary Molitor to discuss with City Parks Dept. if that is possible, and how that is going to look.*

*oBecause of the condition of boat 1, they cannot move the pump out station dock. 140-150 ft. of the pump out station dock will now have to be wintered in place, needing water movers and electrical outlet to run movers. – cost for both will be coming from RHC.*

*oRacine County Sherriffs Dept. has offered to assist in the installation and moving of dock pieces now and in the future at no additional cost to the RHC.*

*oMaintenance, replacement etc. for the 1200' of wood deck docks are now the responsibility of the RHC.*

*RHC is already looking into replacing boards on the docks over the winter, should this cost be coming from Racine County as part of the transfer of ownership?*

□ *Future issues: a broken board, metal frame, anchor support etc. becomes a hazard to the public. RHC does not employ staff to maintain these issues in emergency fashion. Who will provide these services to RHC?*

o *Legal issues: any of the concerns listed above can easily become a lawsuit is someone get hurt or worse.*

□ *RHC is a City of Racine entity. So currently the existing docks that were purchased through RHC funds are City owned and maintained. The City of Racine Parks Dept. through the Common Council would have to agree to the additional maintenance and obligations encored with the transfer of the docks.*

□ *RHC cannot own property, everything that RHC is responsible for is technically the City's responsibility.*

□ *The City of Racine through the RHC now is obligated to rectify and compensate for any lawsuit damages. RHC must rely on City Attorneys' office for their defense.*

• *Other storage alternatives:*

o *The Rooney and Pugh Recreational docks could possibly be stored in the either of the parking lots depending on if they are maintained throughout the winter or if they are closed. The difficulty is getting them out of the water at those locations*

**Next Meeting Date: October 17, 2024 - Harbor Lite Yacht Club**

### **Adjournment**

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.*