



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Harbor Commission

Thursday, August 19, 2021

3:00 PM

Fifth St. Yacht Club

Call To Order

Present: Tony Herrmann - Chair, Jim C. Rooney – Vice Chair, James Rooney, Rick Hennig, Jim Poplawski, Lynn Monroe, Sherman Foertsch, Alder - Edwin Santiago Jr., Sean Fox, Sgt. Dan Hogan – Racine County Sheriff's Dept. and Ara Molitor – Secretary.

Excused: Tom Ryan, Dan Strommen, Monte Osterman and Tom Molbeck – Director Racine Parks & Rec.

Approval of Minutes for the June 16, 2021 and July 22, 2021 Meeting

The minutes for the June 16, 2021 and July 22, 2021 meetings were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

Racine County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol Report:

Sgt. Hogan reported that the summer was progressing as usual with nothing extraordinary to report.

Jim Rooney thanked the Sheriff's Department for their prompt response and service during the recent drowning's.

Sgt. Hogan also brought up the "un-safe" practice of Spot-Locking in the mouth of the harbor. This time of year boats will spot lock so they can fish at the opening between the piers to catch salmon. This usually lasts about 10-14 days. It is a navigable water way, but you got boats lining up for position and people fishing from the piers which cause an extremely reduce area where other boaters can get in and out of the harbor entrance. The question is how can this be regulated and by whom? (DNR / Sherriff?) Is it possible to restrict this particular area to make it safer for all boaters in the short period of time? No action taken.

Parks, Recreational and Cultural Services Department Report:

Tom Molbeck was not present, Secretary Molitor did have the water level report from the Corp of Engineers (Down 1.5 Ft. from last year this time) but did not get the July Kiosk boat launch report prior to the meeting.

WDNR Issues-Waukesha Diversion of Water Approval:

Chairman Herrmann summarized the email he had attached to the agenda from Kurt Wentorf (forwarded from WDNR) regarding the Waukesha Diversion of their treated

wastewater to the Root River. It was discussed with no action taken. However, the commission will keep it on the agenda for future meeting discussion to monitor the situation. Mike Gitter (Interim Director – Racine Water and Wastewater Utility) will need to be included in the conversation in the future.

Senator Baldwin Infrastructure Reef Project:

Chairman Herrmann summarized his conversation with the Senator's Office. They feel that the Reef Marker Project and the North Pier Project are both good candidates for Infrastructure Bill. No action taken – monitor for future.

5th Street Boat Launch metering and or security issues:

There are a percentage of users of the launch area that are avoiding paying the kiosk when launching their boats. Either on busy weekends or at the beginning/end of the season to avoid paying the marina launch fees. The parking in the launch area is also being used to park during events for downtown and/or the Festival site, which reduces the capacity of boaters trying to utilize the facility for what it was for. There is also a reduced parking because the gravel lot to the south along the breakwater has been not useable since the 2019 season. How can this be enforced and who is responsible?

- Enforcement falls to the Community Service Officer for the City of Racine. All Parking in these area is reserved for boat owners with either a season pass or a kiosk receipt displayed.

- Possible Solutions:

- o Installation of a metering gate similar to a parking structure, pass holders will get a key fob and kiosk users will get a code?
 - o Installing a camera system to monitor the lot, possibly a wireless system.

- Other issues are the paving marking in the launch areas are barely visible, who is responsible to repaint those?

- No action was taken. Secretary Molitor will investigate options on how to monitor the area.

Next Meeting Date: September 16, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.- Racine Yacht Club

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.