



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Board of Harbor Commission

*Sherman Foertsch
Tom Ryan
Michael Fox
Tony Herrmann
Richard Hynek
James Rooney
Lynn Monroe
Dan Strommen
Tracey Larrin*

Thursday, March 23, 2017

4:00 PM

Fifth St. Yacht Club - 761 Marquette St.

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: 8 - Sherman Foertsch, Tom Ryan, Michael Fox, Tony Herrmann, Richard Hynek, James Rooney, Lynn Monroe and Tracey Larrin

EXCUSED: 1 - Dan Strommen

Also Present: John Rooney, Tom Molbeck, Jim Poplawski, Kurt Wendorf

Approval of Minutes for the February 16, 2017 Meeting

The minutes of the February 16, 2017 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

Racine County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol Report

Sgt. Hogan appeared before the Commission and reported on the vessel that had sunk near Palmer Johnson this winter, just upstream of the State Street Bridge. He noted the rudder shaft started leaking over the winter and the pumps that were set up could not keep up with the leak. He noted Jim Weidner is the new patrol manager in charge of the Water Patrol operations. He noted that he has discussed the issue of coming up with a long-term capital plan to replace some of the aging rescue boats #1 & #2. He noted that the Sheriff's Water Patrol has been assigned this past week and boat #1 was scheduled to be put in the water on Monday, March 27th. He also noted that the Water Patrol planned on placing floating docks the week of April 3rd, 4th and 5th at the small boat basin, pump out station and at Pugh and Rooney Recreational areas.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department Report

Tom Molbeck appeared before the Commission and noted the first week of April the piers would start to be placed at the 5th Street boat launch ramp. He also noted the kiosk has been tested and ready for the boat launch season.

Azarian Site Repair

In the absence of Tom Friedel, Chairman Rooney asked the item be deferred.

Secretary Rooney noted that a new City Administrator, Jim Palenick, would be taking over in late April, most likely after the April Harbor Commission meeting.

Chairman Rooney noted that the Secretary could set up a meeting with the new City Administrator to meet the Chair of the Harbor Commission and discuss some of the issues going on with the disrepair of the piers along the City-owned property under the authority of the RDA.

Fund For Lake Michigan - Proposal for Racine County Harbor Monitoring

Chairman Rooney informed the Harbor Commission that he spoke with the County Executive and this spring the survey will begin for the Root River and the harbor area. He believes the targeted completion would be May of this year.

Harbor Commission Improvements - ADA Kayak Launch at Pugh Recreational Area and ADA Lift Chair Improvement to 5th Street Boat Launch Pier

Secretary Rooney updated the Commission the Purchasing Agent has secured a purchase order with Port-A-Pier for both improvements. He noted he has spoken with Rick Paulson of Port-A-Pier who would like to come down and get the gangway for Pugh Recreational Area and the floating dock.

Chairman Rooney also asked if Mike Fox, Tony Herrmann, the Chair, Tom Molbeck and the Secretary could get together sometime in the near future to discuss the use of the Rooney Recreational Area by some of the groups having mini regattas down there for catamarans and Hobie Cats. He noted it has become a concern of the Harbor Commission and would like to discuss the issue with the Parks Department, seeing the Parks Department has authority over that area.

Racine Harbor & Root River Water Quality Issues

Tony Herrmann has been in contact with the Milwaukee River Keepers and with Representative Cory Mason's office on this item. He will continue to update the Harbor Commission.

Chairman Rooney distributed a report from SEWRPC describing the Horlick Dam alternatives. He asked the secretary to have copies made and distributed with the minutes.

Chairman Rooney noted that Bob Sample, of Racine Yacht Club, was desirous of improving the sand ramp near the dinghy racks. Bob Sample had suggested the yacht club supplying blue mats similar to North Beach.

Secretary Rooney noted these items would have to be accepted as a donation and if the yacht club were to provide, would have to enter into a hold harmless agreement and liability insurance requirements with the City. He suggested there are funds available for purchase by the Harbor Commission.

Tom Molbeck noted that Kathy Kasper has purchased these for the Parks Department.

Chairman Rooney asked that the Secretary contact the Purchasing Agent about procuring these and asked for a motion of authorizing the purchase of the blue mats for the sand ramp. Motion made by Foertsch, seconded by Fox to approve.

Kurt Wendorf appeared before the Harbor Commission and was discussing the possible vacation of Superior Street. He noted the Fifth Street Yacht Club would like to acquire that property for further expansion of piers. He noted the piers that are currently there are in disrepair and he asked the Harbor Commission to contact the City about having them removed.

Chairman Rooney noted that in the discussions with the new City Administrator to have the piers removed at Azarian he would also discuss the removal of the piers at Superior as well.

U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Lake Level Bulletin for March 2017

The Lake Level Bulletin was distributed. It was information only and no action was required.

Next Meeting Date - April 20, 2017 at 4:00 P.M. - Harbor Lite Yacht Club, 559 State St.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 P.M.

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