



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Board of Harbor Commission

Thursday, November 15, 2018

4:00 PM

Racine Yacht Club - 1 Barker St.

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:22 P.M.

Present: Mike Fox, Tom Ryan, Richard Hynek, James Rooney, Lynn Monroe, Alderwoman Tracey Larrin

Excused: Sherman Foertsch, Tony Herrmann, Dan Strommen

Also Present: John Rooney, Tom Molbeck, Bob Jaeck, Jim Poplawski

Excused: Sgt. Dan Hogan

Approval of Minutes for the October 18, 2018 Meeting

The minutes of the October 18, 2018 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

Racine County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol Report

In the absence of Sgt. Hogan, no report was given. However, it was noted all floating docks were removed by Racine County Public Works and Sheriff's Water Patrol and the Sheriff's Water Patrol boats have been removed from the water for the season.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department Report

Tom Molbeck appeared before the Commission and distributed proposed rate changes for the launch fees at Pershing Park. He distributed the proposed fees to the Harbor commission with the new fees shown and the existing fees shown in parenthesis.

In a response to a question, he noted that non-resident launch fees were for residents who are not of the City of Racine.

The revenue report for launch sales was also distributed. \$30,407.28 through the end of October in launch sales was reported for the season, of which \$21,506.00 were from daily sales for launches at the kiosk.

In looking at the new rates, it was discussed it was financially advantageous for a boater to buy the season pass, if they are launching around 6 or 7 times a year. To do so, that is an individual choice that is made.

Tom Molbeck also noted that the cost to upgrade the fee structure in the electronic kiosk was a \$450 charge to do so. He noted that the increase in fees would easily cover the \$450 one-time charge.

Chairman Rooney also mentioned that Racine County did prepare a resolution for the City of Racine that the City of Racine did not act on in 2017 and 2018 regarding equal fees for both resident and non-resident, essentially ensuring all County residents pay the same fee. He noted the City not taking action on that was correct as this is revenue that goes half to the Harbor Commission and half to the Parks Department for upgrades to that facility. He noted that typically funding of improvements by the Wisconsin Waterways Commission requires at least a 50/50 match and that match was coming from City residents not County residents.

Mike Fox also reiterated the increase in fees will help pay for future improvements that are needed in the area and that residents who pay higher taxes in the City of Racine should get a break on the lower rates being City residents at the launch.

Tom Molbeck noted that the Harbor Commission didn't need to act on these rates. This was more for their information and noted it would be going to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Board for their consideration and approval. He did note he would inform the Board the Harbor Commission does support the increase in launch fees.

Reef Lighthouse

Secretary Rooney distributed two letters from Paul Ryan and the USCG to the Commission members to review.

Chairman Rooney facilitated a discussion regarding the issues of the Reef Lighthouse and its state of disrepair after only 6 years of service. He noted Tony Herrmann was not in attendance at today's meeting as he was in Cleveland meeting with the USCG regarding the Reef Lighthouse, on behalf of the Racine Harbor Commission, and trying to ensure that funding is appropriated for its repairs. He asked that the Harbor Commission consider reimbursing travel and lodging expenses to Commissioner Herrmann.

Secretary Rooney noted that Commissioner Herrmann would need to provide detailed receipts of all expenses and fill out an expense report provided by the City of Racine. He also noted the expense report would be reviewed at the February Harbor Commission meeting and would have to be voted for and approved by the Harbor Commission for payment to Commissioner Herrmann.

Bob Jaeck was also in attendance and offered to e-mail a report to the Secretary of the Harbor Commission for distribution to the members of the Harbor Commission. He noted the report from his group, that he is a member to, gave extensive coverage, history and photos of the ongoing issues with the Reef Lighthouse.

Secretary Rooney noted he would distribute that information with the next meeting minutes.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Level Bulletin for November 2018

Secretary Rooney distributed the Lake Level Bulletin for November 2018. This was information only and no action was required.

Next Meeting Date - February 21, 2019 - Racine Yacht Club, 1 Barker St.

The next meeting date was set for February 21, 2019 at the Racine Yacht Club. There was discussion whether the Harbor Commission should continue to hold meetings at Racine Yacht Club, Fifth Street Yacht Club and Harbor Lite Yacht Club. After further discussion, it was noted that meetings would continue to rotate around the three yacht clubs.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.