



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Board of Harbor Commission

Thursday, May 23, 2019

3:00 PM

Racine Yacht Club - 1 Barker St.

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Present: Mike Fox, Sherman Foertsch, Tom Ryan, Richard Hynek, James Rooney, Lynn Monroe, Tony Herrmann, Alder Tracey Larrin

Excused: Dan Stommen

Also Present: John Rooney, Sgt. Dan Hogan, Tom Molbeck, Jim Poplawski

Approval of Minutes for the April 18, 2019 Meeting

The minutes of the April 18, 2019 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

Racine County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol Report

Sgt. Hogan appeared before the Commission and noted the first day of operation is Friday, May 24, 2019. He indicated there is a real shortage of summer help for the program and he noted he has expressed that to his superior officers at the Sheriff's Department. He noted the new summer hours would be Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday through Sunday they would run with 2 back-to-back shifts, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and then 3 p.m. to 11 p.m.

There were some inquiries regarding the amount of timber floating in the harbor from all the recent rains.

Sgt. Hogan noted they are actively taking care of that.

There was also discussion to have Sgt. Hogan and the Water Patrol contact Racine County DPW to look at adjusting the floating dock at Pugh Recreation Area.

Chairman Rooney noted that should be moved up to a higher ramp as it appears, because of high water, there is an issue with that.

Mike Fox also noted one of the spud piles on the Rooney Recreation Area floating dock appears to have become detached from the pier.

Sgt. Hogan noted he would look at both of those items the next time they are out on the water and address them.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department Report

Tom Molbeck appeared before the Commission and reported last year's final revenue numbers.

Secretary Rooney noted he would summarize those and distribute those with the minutes.

Tom Molbeck noted the 2018 totals were \$30,431.28.

Secretary Rooney distributed the boat launch sales report for 2019 through the month of April. He noted that year to date, revenues of \$3,697.99 with the majority coming from season passes, as only \$396.00 has been collected at the kiosk for the sales of daily passes to launch.

Tom Molbeck also reiterated to the Commission the launch fees that were proposed for 2019 have been rolled back to 2018 rates. He noted he presented these rates to the Harbor Commission last fall. However, because of some issues within the budget process there were concerns these new rates weren't made available to the Common Council and the Mayor requested the rates be returned. He also noted that all the piers are in at the 5th Street Boat Launch. He did note everything seems to be operational, including the kiosk and the washdown station. However, the handicapped chair lift, when that was installed, it appears the battery was not working. He informed the Commission they have looked into the issue of getting the battery recharged or replaced and hoped to have it operational soon. He also noted there will be a lot of activity at the 5th Street Boat Launch this summer as he has summer seasonal help scheduled for 28 hours a week at the launch to help with the kiosk, washdown station and the chair lift, as well as general maintenance down there. He also noted Downtown Racine Corporation ambassadors will also be assisting with boaters in the area.

Reef Lighthouse

Tony Herrmann addressed the Commission and noted he has been in contact with 1st Congressional District Congressman Bryan Steil, regarding the issue of the state of disrepair the Reef Lighthouse is in. He noted he is continuing to try to have a permanent solution to repair that, rather than have the existing floating buoy mark the end of the reef. He stated that in 2011 nearly \$1 million dollars was spent to rebuild the Reef Lighthouse and that money appears to have been wasted now that the navigation light rests on a buoy that is anchored to that location. He noted that most of the debris from the base has been destroyed by strong wave action, now also sits along the reef, and indicated there are really two hazards out there. One being the natural reef and one being the remains of the reconstructed reef that has disintegrated the last few years. He is continuing to press Congressman Steil about the \$300 million that appears to be available for the Great Lakes region and will be in contact with the 9th District Coast Guard Office along with Senators Johnson and Baldwin to find a pathway to funding the problem that is not going away.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lake Level Bulletin for May 2019

Secretary Rooney distributed the Lake Level Bulletin and noted the water level is approximately 7 inches above 2018 levels and up approximately 9 inches below the all-time high.

In reference to the high water levels, Chairman Rooney started a discussion regarding the floating dock at the Rooney Recreational Area. From the time it was installed, this spring to current, the section attached to the sand ramp is now under water because of high water levels. He asked Secretary Rooney to contact Port-A-Pier for a solution.

Secretary Rooney noted he has discussed the situation with Rick Paulson of Port-A-Pier and has sent photos of the problem to Port-A-Pier. His initial thought was an additional pier section could be added to get the area by the sand ramp out from under the water. He did not know the amount of additional floating pier section. That said, he would be contacting and following-up with Port-A-Pier shortly.

Chairman Rooney noted there is funding from the Waterways Commission for items such as this, but in an effort to expediate the matter he was seeking authorization for the secretary to procure another section of floating dock.

Mike Fox then asked for a discussion on the status of the Harbor Commission finances.

Secretary Rooney noted the Harbor Commission has a Restricted Reserve Balance of \$162,537.58 with annual expenses for 2019 currently at \$8,405.38. He noted with additional revenues in 2019 for moorings, dingy storage racks, boat slips and launch sales through April, the revenue plus the Restricted Reserve balance is over \$188,000.00, so ample funding is available. He noted he would distribute this information with the minutes.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Tony Herrmann, seconded by Mike Fox to authorize the Secretary of the Harbor Commission to procure additional floating dock in the not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000.00.

Secretary Rooney also asked that a request for Special Dock Usage be considered at the meeting. The request was by the Racine Yacht Club for the Hook Race for Friday, July 12th through Saturday, July 13th. He noted on the application they are requesting overnight dockage for approximately 3 to 5 boats at the Rooney and Pugh Recreational Areas as needed. Motion made by Fox, seconded by Foertsch to approve. Passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date - June 20, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. - Fifth Street Yacht Club, 761 Marquette St.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.