



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Board of Harbor Commission

Thursday, October 24, 2019

3:00 PM

Harbor Lite Yacht Club - 559 State St.

Call To Order

Present: Mike Fox, Sherman Foertsch, Tom Ryan, Richard Hynek, James Rooney, Lynn Monroe, Tony Herrmann, Dan Strommen

Excused: Alder Tracey Larrin

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

Approval of Minutes for the September 19, 2019 Meeting

The minutes for the September 19, 2019 meeting were approved as printed. Passed unanimously.

Racine County Sheriff's Department Water Patrol Report

Sgt. Hogan appeared before the Commission and noted he is working with the Sheriff's Department to increase the hourly salaries of the assistants that assist Water Patrol in the summer time to \$12.00/hr. He noted that a higher wage would help with retaining some of these college students in subsequent years. He also informed the Commission he is working with the Sheriff's Department, as well, on a plan to replace Boat # 2. He noted the boat would most likely be procured from the 1033 Program whereby they can purchase used equipment. He did note that the year it would be done has yet to be determined. He also indicated all floating docks and piers will be removed November 4 - 6, 2019. Buoys will be pulled out and he is working with DPW to get the water markers out, as well.

John Rooney noted the navigation aid repairs that Sgt. Hogan and the Water Patrol did this summer were finally reimbursed from the WisDNR. He noted the cost of those navigation aids was \$1,406 and the City of Racine was reimbursed \$703.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department Report

Tom Molbeck appeared before the Commission. He noted that by November 15th all the piers will be removed from the 5th Street Boat Launch. The kiosk will also be taken out of service at that time along with winterizing of the washdown station and pulling out the ADA chair lift.

John Rooney noted revenue through the month of September was \$23,518.97, of which \$17,030 comes from daily passes sold at the kiosk. He noted he would generate a revenue report similar to what was done in previous years with the bar charts and the projections of revenue moving forward.

Chairman Rooney noted that if a meeting was not held in November, perhaps that revenue report could be sent out with the minutes of this meeting and he would discuss the disposition of the next meeting at the end of the agenda.

Reef Lighthouse

Tony Herrmann gave an update on the communication for the Reef Lighthouse. He noted that a new Rear Admiral, named Donna Cattrell, was put in place at the office in Cleveland, Ohio. He noted he has redistributed all of the information and pictures to the new Rear Admiral to update her and will be requesting her personal review of that information and hopefully a site visit to Racine to view the Reef Lighthouse for herself. He also noted that retired Judge Flynn has been working with himself and Chairman Rooney via a Freedom of Information Act Request for all documents regarding the Racine Reef that have been corresponded with to the United States Coast Guard. He repeated some of the concerns of the layered fog and distributed photos where only the top of the old Reef Lighthouse could be seen and the existing height of the light on the buoy would never be able to notify mariners of the reef in that location. He further expressed concern that the boating lanes for commercial cargo that generally stay 6 miles and further away from the shoreline do, in fact, travel 1.5 miles away from the Racine shoreline due to weather. He indicated the USCG only seems to be concerned regarding commercial shipping as it relates to this lighthouse as opposed to recreational boaters; however, he did note that commercial shipping would have a problem if it was navigating this close to shore.

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

Secretary Rooney distributed the report. This was information only and no action was required.

Next Meeting Date - February 20, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. - Racine Yacht Club, 1 Barker St.

After further discussion regarding the next meeting date, a motion was made by Fox, seconded by Hynek to cancel the November 21, 2019, meeting and resume meetings in February 2020.

Secretary Rooney noted he would work with the various marinas and yacht clubs to establish a schedule for Harbor Commission meetings in 2020. He did note he would remain Secretary of the Harbor Commission until such a time a new City Engineer was hired and that new City Engineer was comfortable with their duties and responsibilities to serve as Secretary to the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

Motion made by Fox, seconded by Herrmann to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Adjournment