

HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 3rd, 2015
5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

James Anderson
Fred Radandt
Peter Allie
Mike Dailey
Jack Resch
Jason Sladky
Rich Larsen

STAFF PRESENT

Paul Braun, Harbor Master

OTHERS PRESENT

Rick Schwarz
Jim Muenzenmeyer

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Lee Kummer
Doug Borys

Approval of the Minutes from the January 27th, 2015 Meeting

Motion made by Fred Radandt and seconded by Peter Allie to approve the January 27th, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

New Business

Update National Marine Sanctuary Project

Mr. Anderson gave the Commission a brief update regarding the activities to date regarding the National Marine Sanctuary designation. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be hosting a community meeting on November 17th at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. They will be available to answer any questions and take community feedback in regards to the National Marine Sanctuary Project which could be established in Lake Michigan, the sanctuary area would roughly span from Two Rivers to Port Washington. NOAA would also like to meet with major stakeholders in the community.

There have been some concerns raised by the Commission regarding the ability to ballast water in the sanctuary. The ballast question should be discussed with NOAA; the Commission does not want to lose the ability to ballast. NOAA is looking for locations to construct a new visitor and research facility and Manitowoc is vying to have the building located in the City.

Update Marina Dock Replacement Project

Jim Muenzenmeyer and Rich Larsen gave the Commission an update regarding a dock replacement study that is currently on-going. Dock E, in the marina, is in poor condition and needs replacement. The City is working with a consultant – Lunde / Williams to

design the new docks. The current docks are original to when the marina was constructed back in the 1980's. After dock E is replaced, docks A – D will be phased in to be replaced. Dock E failed sooner than the other docks because it was a different brand. E dock will be ADA compliant. When monies become available the docks will be replaced based on the study prepared by Lunde / Williams.

Many of the building and construction codes for docks have changed since the original docks were constructed and those code changes have dramatically increased the cost of the replacements docks. Fire prevention features will be added to the dock locations. There are some logistical issues that must be addressed in regards to fire hookups and fire access. The hope is that dock E is replaced in 2016. The study also factored in the change in boat designs and utility requirements that new boats require today.

Discussion Regarding Potential Habitat Improvement Concept for the Confined Disposal Facility

Mr. Braun informed the Commission that he, Dan Koski and Greg Minikel from the Department of Public Infrastructure met with Betsy Galbraith, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Jim Kettler, Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership; Jim Knickelbine, Woodland Dunes and other interested individuals to discuss the potential of enhancing the habitat on a portion of the confined disposal facility (CDF). The CDF is owned by the Army Corps of Engineering. Mr. Braun commented that the group wanted to discuss the potential of doing some habitat improvement in an area east of the dog run with the goal of attracting song birds to the area.

Mr. Braun stated that staff was open to the idea but wanted more information. He also stated that staff was concerned with attracting seagulls to the CDF which have caused problems in the past. Staff was also concerned that the habitat could attract endangered or protected animals or plants which could then hinder any future dredge disposal activities in the CDF. Mr. Braun stated that the CDF is owned by the Army Corps of Engineers and they would need to authorize any activities at the CDF.

The Commission concurred with the concerns presented by Mr. Braun. The proposal is in its very early stages and if the idea gains any more momentum the idea will be formally presented to the Harbor Commission for their input.

Update “Blue Rail” Storm water Mitigation Project – U.S. EPA Grant

Mr. Braun informed the Commission that the City Engineering Department received an EPA Green Infrastructure grant to mitigate storm water entering Lake Michigan at the Blue Rail location in the marina. The grant is in the amount of \$89,000 and requires a match from the City in money or in-kind services.

The project is proposed in three phases with the first one being the construction of rain gardens which would treat surface runoff water exiting the parking lots. Phase II would occur when funding becomes available; and would re-route the storm sewers off of the beach area and discharge them into the Marina area.

The plan is that a treatment unit would be also installed to remove floatables, sediment and other items discharging into the water. The third phase would be a beach nourishment project that would entail placing more beach sand and planting dune grass in the area. This is similar to work that occurred at Red Arrow Beach a couple of years ago. The current grant from the EPA would be only for phase 1.

Update of Proposed Army Corps of Engineering's 2016 Dredging Projects

Mr. Braun informed the Commission that he received a phone call from Melissa Bosman from the Army Corps of Engineering; she stated that the Corps have some dredging funds available for the Manitowoc River. She contacted Mr. Braun to see if there was any knowledge of known troubled areas that the Corps should focus their dredging on.

Mr. Braun provided the Corps with some maps indicating the priority locations are an area in front of Burger Boat and an area from the mouth of the Manitowoc River to the end of the pier heads. The Corps is planning on dredging in July of 2016. Mr. Braun stated that he contacted Jim Botz, Mead and Hunt to get his input; Mr. Botz has done work for many years in Manitowoc for many of the private riparian property owners.

Harbor Assistance Program Funding

Mr. Braun informed the Commission that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Harbor Assistance Program funding has been returned to the State budget. The 2016 HAP funding was originally decreased to around \$1.3 million in Governor Walker's budget. The previous State budget allocated \$12.9 million for harbor related projects. Mr. Braun stated that the Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association worked diligently to have the monies re-budgeted.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be selected at a later time.

Adjournment

Fred Radandt made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 p.m. Jason Sladky seconded the Motion.

Paul Braun

Harbor Master