

**MINUTES OF THE HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2008**

Chr. Peacock presided and called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Tim Bruning, Larry Bruski, Richard Geyer, Beach Hall, Jane Kroll, Bob Parsons (8:26 am), Joe Signorelli, and Richard Peacock.

ABSENT – Jim Bingle and Dick Lappin.

OTHER CITY PERSONNEL PRESENT – City Mgr. Mark Slown, Harbor Master Brian Wagner and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Janet M. Nowak.

It was moved by Comm. Hall, seconded by Comm. Geyer, that the minutes of the August 12, 2008 and October 14, 2008 meeting be approved as written.

ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

CITIZENS APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE: None.

REPORTS/ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

HARBOR MASTER REPORT

Harbor Master Wagner reported on the following:

◆Included in the Harbor Advisory meeting packet were reports of the harbor boat count, fuel sales, daily launch fees collected, seasonal launch fees collected, and transient dockage through September. Wagner gave a brief overview of the report. Power boat count was down 152 boats, as was the mid-grade fuel sales and launch ramp sales. October numbers were not included in the report. Re-payment of the bonds was discussed. A suggestion was made to band together with other marinas, and as a group, appeal to the State to assist with the bond payments. Discussion was had on trimming costs, which Wagner explained he is currently making an effort to do without sacrificing service, but most of the costs are fixed. It was suggested that volunteers could maybe assist with working on projects at the marina, i.e. paint the handrails and/or answer the phone.

◆Wagner attended the Michigan Small Harbor Coalition meeting that was held in Bay City. The Coalition is working towards getting a separate line item in the Federal budget to deal with dredging and other major harbor maintenance.

◆The sector light is in place; however, Wagner is disappointed with the visibility factor from the marina. He spoke with the manufacturer and it was explained to him that a boater, who is three miles out on the lake will see the sector light. The manufacturer will be sending 3 amps bulbs for the light to be more visible.

◆Miller Marine, the company who put in the ice suppression system in 1999, came to the marina tested the system, replaced the check valves, and patched seven places where the copper line was rubbing and had created holes. There was no charge for this service. The system is in good shape for the winter.

◆The harbor continues to have minor vandalism issues. One of the benches was damaged and the culprit was caught and restitution will be paid. In mid-October a trash barrel was thrown into the water. Last weekend kids were playing with the barricades.

◆On September 11th, the DNR held the dedication ceremony of their new boat. It will probably be docked in the harbor until winter.

◆December 3rd is the annual Harbor Master meeting in Bay City. Wagner is planning on attending.

◆The Waterways Commission has announced the 2009 rates will not change. Partial seasonal rates proposed for the 2009 season must be approved by the Waterways Commission at their February 2009 meeting.

City Mgr. Slown reported the DNR audited the harbor's financial records and the audit went well. Their main concern is if the City has been using marina funds for other activities.

SHERIFF BOAT

Harbor Master Wagner reported the Sheriff's Department is working towards getting equipment that will allow them to keep a boat in the marina and be available to respond if there is an incident on Lake Huron. Marine Officer Greg Main will be operating the Sheriff's boat. Comm. Kroll stated that emergency response training has never been held at the Rogers City Harbor, which should be pursued. Discussion ensued on emergency response training and that it would be a good promotion

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tool for the harbor and possibly generate traffic.

OLD COMFORT STATION

Harbor Master Wagner handed out a sketch of what is proposed for the old comfort station to turn it into a boaters' lounge. The project is still in the envisioning stage. Wagner stated it would be wise for a sub-committee to be formed to discuss this and bring it back to the Harbor Advisory Committee. Comm. Kroll stated a questionnaire should be sent to the seasonal boaters for input. City Mgr. Slown explained the project could be done on a volunteer level, i.e. friends of the harbor and/or people interested in the harbor.

PROMOTIONS

Harbor Master Wagner provided information to the Harbor Advisory Committee on what was done in 2008 to promote the harbor. Some of the FY2008/2009 budget has already been spent on promoting the harbor for the 2008 season. Discussion was had on the Detroit Boat Show and if revenue was generated from this show. Chr. Peacock spoke with Dave Snow, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, and they took part in the Grand Rapids Boat Show, which generated several calls. This led to a brief discussion on past efforts to combine the County and Chamber resources to promote the harbor and Rogers City area. Comm. Hall stated the American Wind Symphony has approached City Council about including Rogers City in their tour. Discussion ensued on the last time the Wind Symphony was at the harbor, which was not a good experience. Other suggestions were offered to promote the harbor, i.e. promote activities at the band shell, entice sports writers to fish from the harbor, use the City's web site to post fishing reports. Wagner stated that he received permission to put DNR employee, Julie Shafto's fishing story on the City's website. He also explained that the City's website is linked to Great Lakes Divers website. City Mgr. Slown will follow-up with the Chamber for their input on promoting the harbor and City.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Comm. Signorelli reported that Frank Krist has convinced the DNR that there is a need for the Brown Trout planting in the Rogers City Harbor. They have agreed and will plant the Brown Trout in the fall of 2009. It is expected that by then, the predatory birds will have moved south.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion from Comm. Kroll, seconded by Comm. Bruski, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

RICHARD PEACOCK
CHAIRMAN

JANET M. NOWAK, DEPUTY CLERK
TREASURER