

**MINUTES OF THE HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2009**

Chr. Peacock presided and called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Jim Bingle, Tim Bruning, Richard Geyer, Beach Hall, Dick Lappin, Joe Signorelli, and Richard Peacock.

ABSENT – Larry Bruski, Jane Kroll, and Bob Parsons.

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

It was moved by Comm. Geyer, seconded by Comm. Bingle, that the minutes of the January 13, 2009 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:

- The Waterways Commission has granted the rate waivers and will extend the additional seasonal slips through 2012.
- The Central Reservation System was upgraded. Wagner explained that one of the elements of the upgrades that would be beneficial to the harbor is the point-of-sale system, which would mean the harbor would no longer need a separate cash register. Another upgrade is how they process credit card transactions. The harbor would receive payments daily. The current satellite feed is not always reliable, so Wagner has put in a request through Spherix to switch the connection from satellite to a cable feed with Charter Communication, which is more reliable. With the cable feed, the web cam would be operational. Because of the upgrading process, boaters are unable to make reservations online. Wagner has been monitoring this and informing the DNR of the issue.
- There were three-to-four minor vandalism issues at the harbor. Wagner is recommending a security system be installed at the harbor due to less staffing, and an increase in vandalism. He explained that it would cost approximately \$4,000 for a quality security system. He will look into possible grant sources to fund the system. There was a brief discussion about types of security systems, the need for the system, and vandalism.
- During the Nautical Festival, the “Armed Sloop Welcome” will be at the Rogers City Harbor. They will have reenactments, tours, and will offer charters.
- Wagner stated that in 2008, the harbor purchased an advertising package with the Great Loop Group in the amount of \$500. The package includes an ad in their membership booklet and on their web-site. The group has a large membership base and Wagner recommends continuing advertising through them.
- At the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Harbor Advisory Committee made a recommendation to send a letter to the Presque Isle County Commissioners in support of the Salmon Tournament. The letter was sent. Mike Modrzynski, representative of the Salmon Tournament was present. He explained that the tournament will not take place this year because of funding. He further explained that the County is unable to assist with funding except for advertising the event.
- Wagner will be working full days starting this week. He will be hiring only one assistant harbor master and another fill in assistant harbor master. Wagner will be reducing the dockhand count by over 30%. Comm. Lappin stated that the Power Squadron will assist in docking boats.
- Twenty four seasonal slips are paid in full; three have paid the deposit and ten are waiting. Wagner will be making phone calls and sending out emails to follow-up on the individuals who have paid the deposit and who are waiting.
- Comm. Signorelli asked where the aluminum pipe that is used to plant fish is stored. Wagner stated it is in a secure area at the DPW garage. He also asked about fertilizing the grass at the harbor. Wagner explained that the harbor will be fertilizing in conjunction with Lakeside Park.

**MARINA “FRIENDS” SUPPORT GROUP**

Included in the packet was an example of a “Friends” support group. The general consensus is that this example is more than the committee had in mind. Wagner explained that this is an example only and can be used as a guide. Comm. Signorelli explained that both he and Comm. Lappin are willing

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to put together a list of names of people who would be willing to volunteer and will be the contact people for Wagner when and where help is needed at the harbor. City Mgr. Slown stated his ideas of a support group and the importance of the group doing what they want to keep them interested. Discussion ensued on support groups that currently volunteer their time in the City, i.e. Wacky Weeders.

### **OLD COMFORT STATION BUILDING**

Comm. Lappin reported on the old comfort station building. He explained the preliminary proposal is to convert the old comfort station to a guest lounge and meeting room. A copy of the preliminary proposal and diagram was handed out to the Committee. The total estimated cost is \$30,000. Lappin explained that a second story would be beneficial, but it would make more sense to demolish and rebuild the building. A brief discussion ensued on how a second story could be added to the building. Harbor Master Wagner stated that the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary is applying for a grant to do maritime heritage along three counties, which includes Presque Isle County. There is a chance that they will install a kiosk at the Rogers City Harbor, which would include weather access. One of the aspects of the grant is a "hub and spoke" concept for each county and in Presque Isle County, the old comfort station could be the hub, where it could be made into a display area for maritime information that was gathered through NOAA. This would draw boaters and people who have an interest in maritime history. Comm. Hall explained how the maritime heritage trail is designed. Further discussion ensued on how the conversion of the old comfort station could be designed to accommodate both the hub and guest lounge.

### **MEMORIAL**

Comm. Hall reported there have been memorial funds donated by MJ Smitka in memory of former committee member Jack Smitka to be used at the marina. Hall explained a proposal to create a small picnic area with a platform at the northeast corner of the harbor. The Smitka family approved of the idea. The general consensus was that this is a good idea, as long as it will not be a vision obstruction. A sketch of what is proposed will need to be created along with the costs.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- Hammond Bay Anglers Tournament – Chr. Peacock reported the Hammond Bay Anglers will be holding their annual fishing tournament at the Rogers City Harbor. Chr. Peacock explained what activities will be held during the tournament, i.e., pig roast, and fish pond.
- Fish Planting - Comm. Signorelli reported that on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, the DNR will be planting 20,000 Steelhead in the Ocqueoc River.
- Bond Payments - Comm. Hall reported the City is in the process of working on the FY2009-10 budget and repayment of the bonds is a considerable concern. He explained what was and is being done to repay the bonds. City Mgr. Slown explained how difficult it is to refinance to get a lower rate to make the bonds feasible to repay. The next two years will be a difficult time, because this is when the bonds are due.
- City Mgr. Slown reported that he and Harbor Master Wagner met with the City of Alpena Administrators. Alpena was looking for ideas to help them deal with the changes that are occurring at their marina. Slown gave a brief overview of Wagner's role as the representative for Presque Isle County on the US-23 Heritage Route Management Council and that the County is looking for representatives. Wagner explained that his role in the US-23 Heritage Route is a promotional opportunity for the marina. Slown thanked Comm. Lappin for putting together the old comfort station proposal, and also thanked the Hammond Bay Anglers and the Committee members who give of their time to help the harbor. Slown invited the Committee to the Business Buzz meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15.
- Huron Sunrise Trail – Discussion was had on the Huron Sunrise Trail and that the section on Shore Drive needs to be resurfaced.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion from Comm. Signorelli, seconded by Comm. Bruning, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

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RICHARD PEACOCK  
CHAIRMAN

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JANET M. NOWAK, DEPUTY CLERK  
TREASURER

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