

**MINUTES OF THE HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2008**

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

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

ABSENT – Tim Bruning, Larry Bruski, 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. Hall, seconded by Comm. Signorelli, that the minutes of the February 12, 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:

- ◆Received the six power pedestals with 100 amp service, they will be installed by the end of April.
- ◆The Coast Guard approved the permit for the range light. The equipment is on order and it is planned that it be operational by the end of May. The range light will be installed at the corner of Ontario and Lake Street inside Lakeside Park.
- ◆Wagner received seven applications for the Assistant Harbor Master position. He will be interviewing three people this week. The Sunrise Side Association is sponsoring a hospitality training program in late June. Both of the Assistant Harbor Masters will be attending the training program.
- ◆At the Detroit Boat Show, Wagner met with Pam McCleery, Regional Sales Manager of Lakeland Boating. She offered to do a story along with a picture of the Rogers City Harbor. McCleery put together an advertising package that will include a ¼ page ad in Lakeland Boating at half the original price. The ad will run for three months during the prime boating season. Wagner explained how promotional dollars have been spent, i.e. Detroit Boat Show, Lakeland Boating ad, Great Loop Association, Presque Isle Visitors Guide, and Wooden Boat Show flyer.
- ◆Wagner distributed a report on seasonal slip rentals. He briefly explained what was included in the report. Discussion ensued on the decrease in seasonal slip rentals. There was also a brief discussion on the sale of seasonal launch permits.
- ◆DNR Officer John Morey contacted Wagner and said there will be some Tribal fishing nets operating out of Hammond Bay. The DNR will be monitoring them. Wagner received a letter from Frank Krist about the settlement the Hammond Bay Anglers negotiated with the Inland Tribal business. Chr. Peacock further explained there are no major issues so far.
- ◆Wagner is working to better promote the Rogers City Harbor through the Pure Michigan website. He explained the Pure Michigan website is highly used and tightly controlled by the State Government.
- ◆The DPW has refurbished the docks at the launch ramp and tightened some posts. They will also be working on the post on the outside wall.
- ◆The Coalition of Small Harbors Group is encouraging small harbors to lobby the State for funding to help with maintenance and dredging in small harbors. Wagner will be attending the meeting in Lansing on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

City Mgr Slown gave a brief report on the following items:

- ◆The Visitors and Conventions Group are working on tourism issues which are not addressed by the Tourism Council.
- ◆The Way Finding Signage Project is moving forward; however, as of yet there is no final word on the grant.
- ◆A Wind Power Project is being pursued for the harbor. Comm. Hall further explained what the project entails, which led to a brief discussion.
- ◆NEMCOG is sponsoring a session on waterfront issues, it will be held at the Presque Isle Township Hall on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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- ◆Harbor Master Wagner will be the contact person for the City's website.
- ◆There is a Great Lakes Compact Agreement that states around the Great Lakes are trying to enter into to regulate water withdrawals from the region. Slown briefly explained what the agreement is and the importance in supporting it.

### **OLD COMFORT STATION**

City Mgr. Slown reported on leasing the Old Comfort Station. Paul Campbell did not respond to leasing the old comfort station, so an ad was placed in the *Presque Isle Advance*. The only interest in leasing the old comfort station was from Darrin Darga. According to the City Attorney, Darga will be able to enter into a contract with the City; however, he will have to abstain from Council discussion and decision in dealing with the old comfort station. The lease would be for one year. Darga was unable to attend the meeting; however, a handout was provided on what he proposes including hours of operation, product mix, and bike rental. Discussion ensued on remodeling the building for long term purposes, which could possibly be funded through grants. The consensus was to wait until 2009 to move forward on remodeling the building.

### **CHARTER BOAT PROGRAM**

Harbor Master Wagner and Comm. Hall attended the Waterways Commission meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> in Lansing. The Waterways Commission compromised on the charter boat proposal. They are allowing the Rogers City Harbor to charge charter boaters the full seasonal rate versus the double rate that is normally charged. This is for this season only and the City will have to report back to the Waterways Commission on how the proposal worked. Discussion ensued on alternate ways to draw charter boats and other type of charter services, i.e. glass bottom boat, sail boat charters, or scenic boat rides to the area.

### **DETROIT BOAT SHOW – UPDATE**

Included in the packet was the Detroit Boat Show report. Chr. Peacock, Comm. Signorelli and Comm. Kroll attended the boat show and gave their input on the event. Harbor Master Wagner stated three out of four people who walked by the booth at the boat show have never been or have heard of Rogers City. The consensus is the County and/or Chamber of Commerce should have assisted with financing the City's participation in the boat show since attendance in the show not only represented the City, but also the County.

### **FISH CLEANER - UPDATE**

Harbor Master Wagner spoke with Jay Greve. The earliest Greve will be available to work at the fish cleaning station is July 8<sup>th</sup>. He would work through the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. Wagner recommended a contract with Greve for two months with a flat fee, which will decrease the expense to the harbor since there is a decline in fishing and decrease in harbor traffic. Discussion ensued on the importance of having a fish cleaner available during the busy fishing season.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Soumi Fishing Tournament – Comm. Hall spoke with a representative from the Soumi Fishing Tournament Committee about holding their tournament at the Rogers City Harbor. In the past, they have held tournaments at the Rogers City Harbor.

Sea Ray Group Rendezvous – Comm. Signorelli does not know how many of the Sea Ray Group will use the harbor facilities on their way to and from their rendezvous. Committee members volunteered their services when the boats come into the harbor. Discussion ensued on having a welcoming reception for the group.

Wolverine Power – A question arose about the status on Wolverine Power working in the harbor to remove a couple of large rocks in the channel. City Mgr. Slown explained, pending Harbor Master Wagner receiving the necessary permits that nothing will be done until this fall. Wagner added that he intends on having Wolverine Power also remove the rocks in the spillway.

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Brown Trout Planting - Comm. Signorelli does not have an exact date when the brown trout will be planted in the harbor, but it will be some time at the end of April. It will be a split planting between Rogers City Harbor and Thompson Harbor and will be the last year they will be planted. Signorelli voiced his concern with the youth fishing the undersized brown trout that have been planted. City Mgr. Slown stated that if someone witnesses fishing in the harbor area to call the Rogers City Police Department. Discussion ensued on keeping the cormorants and seagulls out of the harbor when the brown trout are planted.

Web Cam – Chr. Peacock asked what the status is on the web cam. City Mgr. Slown explained there is not enough thru-put capacity to take the signal from the camera, pull it through to the internet so it goes on the web-site. Wagner further explained fiber optics is needed to make it work. Peacock asked if the weather report could be available on the web-site. Wagner will check into this request.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion from Comm. Kroll, seconded by Comm. Geyer, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

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RICHARD PEACOCK  
CHAIRMAN

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JANET M. NOWAK, DEPUTY CLERK  
TREASURER