

**MINUTES OF THE HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2008**

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

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Jim Bingle, Tim Bruning, Larry Bruski, Richard Geyer, Jane Kroll (8:02 am), Dick Lappin, Joe Signorelli and Richard Peacock.

ABSENT – Beach Hall and Bob Parsons.

OTHER CITY PERSONNEL PRESENT – Harbor Master Brian Wagner and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Janet M. Nowak.

It was moved by Comm. Bingle, seconded by Comm. Geyer, that the minutes of the April 8, 2008 meeting be approved as written.

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:

- ◆ Brian Hanson is the new Assistant Harbor Master. Hanson has previously worked for the Marina as a dock attendant.
- ◆ The harbor sign has been relocated to the other side of the new comfort station.
- ◆ Doublehanded Challenge race starts June 28th.
- ◆ Included in the Harbor Advisory meeting packet was a copy of a report Wagner received from DNR Officer John Morey. The report lists the location of tribal commercial trap net operations in the area.
- ◆ Items that were stored in the shed at the north end of the harbor have been moved to the DPW garage. DPW cleaned up the area around the shed to make it look more presentable.
- ◆ Thirty seven (37) confirmed full seasonal slips and four (4) partial seasonal slips are rented.
- ◆ Statistical information on harbor boat count, daily launch fees collected, and fuel sales were included in the Harbor Advisory Meeting packet. Wagner gave a brief overview of the statistical information. Discussion ensued on fuel costs and rates.
- ◆ To qualify for a “Clean Marina” designation, there is a problem with the diesel pump nozzles dripping. Wagner is installing pressure relief equipment to solve the problem. Dick Badcock, a consultant for Clean Marina, was at the harbor and commented that he is impressed with the Rogers City Marina. However, before the audit can take place, harbor personnel will need to finish the self evaluation.
- ◆ Nine dock attendants were hired; however, Wagner is cutting back on labor expense by sending one dock attendant home early on slow traffic days.
- ◆ The fish cleaning station is working well. Jay Greve is scheduled to start at the fish cleaning station on July 10th.

PROMOTION REVIEW

Harbor Master Wagner provided a report to the Harbor Advisory Committee of the Rogers City Marina Promotional Plan. The report explains where the marina has advertised. Wagner also handed out samples of these advertisements.

OLD COMFORT STATION

The Old Comfort Station will not be leased this year. Harbor Master Wagner and City Mgr. Slown have discussed converting the old comfort station into a lounge for boaters. The building will need to be remodeled with funding coming from matching grants. Discussion ensued on converting the old comfort station into a lounge for boaters and the possibilities involved.

HAC RECOMMENDATION – 6/10/08 (1)

A motion was made by Comm. Geyer, seconded by Comm. Lappin, to recommend that City Council consider remodeling the Old Comfort Station and turn it into a lounge for boaters.

ROLL CALL – Ayes, All the motion carried.

MARINA DAY EVENT

Harbor Master Wagner reported on the Marina Day Event. In working with Comm. Kroll on an event for boater appreciation, Wagner discovered there is a National Marina Day, which is to celebrate America’s gateway to

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boating. National Marina Day could combine boater appreciation, and an opportunity to show what the harbor has brought to the Community. Discussion ensued on a date to hold the event; August 9th is when the National Marina Day event is held nationwide.

MICHIGAN SMALL HARBORS COALITION

Included in the Harbor Advisory meeting packet was a copy of a resolution in support of the Michigan Small Harbor Coalition. This resolution does not request funding. Wagner gave a brief power-point presentation explaining the Michigan Small Harbor Coalition mission statement, goals, and vision. Discussion ensued including: which harbors are supporting the Coalition, and who would represent Rogers City, i.e. Harbor Master Wagner.

HAC RECOMMENDATION – 6/10/08 (2)

A motion was made by Comm. Bruski, seconded by Comm. Lappin, to recommend that City Council support the following resolution:

Resolution Supporting Michigan Small Harbors Coalition

- **Whereas**, there are more than 50 federally authorized small Great Lakes harbors in Michigan, more than all the other Great Lakes states combined; and
- **Whereas**, the federal government is responsible for maintaining boater access to these harbors through adequate dredging and maintenance of navigation infrastructure (hereinafter referred to as maintenance); and
- **Whereas**, small harbors perform other valuable functions such as ports of refuge during inclement weather, ports for U.S. Coast Guard rescue stations, ports for law enforcement, ports for commercial fleets, ports for Great Lakes research vessels, and ferry terminals; and
- **Whereas**, many of the 50 federally authorized small harbors in Michigan require regular maintenance because of natural sedimentation, low water levels, storm events, and littoral drift, among other factors; and
- **Whereas**, longstanding federal policy prevents the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from allocating funds for the maintenance of small harbors in its operation and maintenance budget for the Great Lakes, thus forcing these harbors to seek Congressional assistance or “earmarks” to secure funds for maintenance; and
- **Whereas**, this inefficient, inequitable system has resulted in maintenance backlogs that have hindered, or in some cases totally blocked. access to Michigan small harbors, causing significant economic loss and increased risk to human health and safety; and
- **Whereas**, small harbors in Michigan have not, to date, had an organization through which to unite and speak with one voice to address concerns about maintenance and other shared interests to federal and state agencies;
- **Therefore be it resolved** that The City of Rogers City supports and commits to being a member of the Michigan Small Harbors Coalition; and
- **Be it further resolved** that The City of Rogers City urges the Michigan Small Harbors Coalition to advocate for a more equitable, sustainable, needs-based system to allocate funds for adequate maintenance of small Great Lakes harbors in Michigan.

ROLL CALL – Ayes, All the motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

◆ Boy Scout Boat – Comm. Bingle inquired on the status of the Boy Scout boat. Harbor Master Wagner explained the program will not continue without financial support.

◆ Sea Ray Group Rendezvous – Comm. Signorelli inquired if the Sea Ray Group has been heard from. Wagner stated he has not, but has tried to contact the group’s organizer, Deb Dubsher.

◆ Sector light – Comm. Lappin inquired about the cost of the sector light. Harbor Master Wagner explained it was purchased through a matching grant, with the City responsible for \$1,500.00. Wagner stated he has not received the light; there is a problem with the manufacture getting a component for the lens. Discussion ensued on the need for the light and its purpose. A suggestion was made to post information at the boat launch ramp explaining the use of the sector light.

◆ Web Cam – Harbor Master Wagner explained the web cam is at a standstill. The newly formed Technology Advisory Committee is working on the web cam.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion from Comm. Signorelli, seconded by Comm. Kroll, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

RICHARD PEACOCK
CHAIRMAN

JANET M. NOWAK, DEPUTY CLERK
TREASURER

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