

**MINUTES OF THE HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2008**

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

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Jim Bingle, Tim Bruning, Larry Bruski (8:01), Richard Geyer, Beach Hall, Jane Kroll, Dick Lappin, Joe Signorelli, and Richard Peacock.

ABSENT –Bob Parsons.

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

It was moved by Comm. Signorelli, seconded by Comm. Kroll, that the minutes of the June 10, 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 Brian Wagner reported on the following:

- ◆Updated the Committee on special events that took place at the harbor:
  - Doublehanded Challenge finished with 36 boats, the event went smoothly.
  - Seasonal boater lunch was well attended. The plan is to hold this annually.
  - Salmon Tournament took place August 9-10.
  - Two rendezvous groups came through the Marina; one from the Chicago area and the other from the Colony Marine Group. Comm. Hall stated a written proposal was sent to the Great Lakes Cruising Club to consider the Rogers City Harbor for their 2009 Rally.
- ◆The green signal light at the harbor was vandalized and has since been repaired. Also, a seasonal boater reported the loss of a cannon ball from his boat and DNR Officer Craig Milkowski stated the lock on the DNR boat has been tampered with.
- ◆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. Wagner explained the information included in the reports. A brief discussion ensued on the decrease in boat traffic throughout Northern Michigan.
- ◆The web cam is high on the Technology Advisory Committee's list.
- ◆Harbor personnel have been moving the rocks in the sluice-way by hand to get the water moving.
- ◆Wagner explained how the harbor has been staffed during the boating season. He has modified the number of staff in a crew and the hours they work to reduce costs. Wagner stated that after the Nautical Festival, there are no activities going on at Lakeside Park; this is an issue with trying to sell the harbor to transient boaters. Discussion ensued on the concert series being extended through the month of August.
- ◆According to the Harbor Master at Presque Isle, ethanol in the fuel will be mandatory starting 2009. Discussion was had on the topic as ethanol causes problems in older boats.
- ◆Wagner will be doing some research to find funding for new radios. Currently there are only three radios operating, which will be an even greater issue next year. Discussion ensued on having a portable marine radio. Wagner explained they are expensive.
- ◆Wagner will be working on the Clean Marina audit this fall.
- ◆Local fishermen have been posting fishing information on the Great Lakes Anglers web site, which is good exposure for the harbor.
- ◆The sector light has not been shipped. There has been a hold up with the tri-colored lens, which had to be designed to match the end of the channel in the harbor.

**WATERWAYS WAIVERS**

Harbor Master Wagner updated the Committee on the Waterways waivers. At the February 15<sup>th</sup> Waterways meeting, Wagner spoke with Waterways Commissioner Janet Mansfield and she suggested he get creative with seasonal slip rentals. The Waterways Commission wants the boat slips filled. Wagner will be working on a seasonal slip rental proposal for the 2009 season. There were no seasonal charter boats, even though the rate was reduced down to the single seasonal rate. There are 39 full seasonal slips rented, 2 half seasonal rentals, and 2 monthly.

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**FISH CLEANING STATION**

Two days after the June 10<sup>th</sup> Harbor Advisory meeting, Harbor Master Wagner received a communication from Jay Greve stating he took another job. However, the fish cleaning station faired well without a fish cleaner. Wagner stated when fish traffic picks up and the Wastewater Treatment Plant cannot keep up with the fish entails, there will be a need for someone at the fish cleaning station.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

◆DNR Officer Craig Milkowski stated there will be a boat dedication of the new DNR boat at the harbor. The dedication ceremony will take place the first part of September. All Tribal fishing nets north and south of the Rogers City Harbor have been moved to the Stoneport area. The nets were moved due to the lack of whitefish being caught in the area.

◆TWIC Card (Transportation Worker Identification Credential) – Comm. Kroll asked Harbor Master Wagner if harbor personnel will need to get a TWIC card. Charter boat captains and Great Lakes sailors are required to have a TWIC card. Wagner will check into it.

◆Rogers City Salmon Tournament - Harbor Master Wagner reported he has not heard anything from the officials running the Salmon Tournament as to the outcome of the tournament. Discussion ensued on the lack of advertisement and communication from the Tourism Council about the tournament. Mike Modrzynski, *Alpena News* reporter, stated in the past the planning for the tournament started the day after the tournament ended. Further discussion ensued on the Salmon Tournament being labeled as the “Rogers City Salmon Tournament”. The City does not run the tournament and never has.

◆Old Comfort Station - Comm. Signorelli inquired if anyone has looked into the costs involved in converting the old comfort station into a lounge for boaters. Wagner stated this will be done in the winter.

◆Fishing Platform – Comm. Geyer asked if the sheet-wall could be painted for visibility purposes. Wagner explained that is how it was designed. Discussion ensued on painting the sheet-wall.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion from Comm. Kroll, seconded by Comm. Signorelli, the meeting was declared adjourned at 9:11a.m.

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RICHARD PEACOCK  
CHAIRMAN

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JANET M. NOWAK, DEPUTY CLERK  
TREASURER