

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

Chr. Peacock presided and called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Tim Bruning, Richard Geyer, Beach Hall, Jane Kroll, Joe Signorelli, and Richard Peacock.

ABSENT – Jim Bingle, Larry Bruski, Dick Lappin, and Bob Parsons.

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

Chr. Peacock welcomed Jane Kroll to the Committee. She was appointed by the City Council to fill the vacancy due to the resignation of Harry Whiteley.

It was moved by Comm. Geyer, seconded by Comm. Bruning, that the minutes of the January 8, 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:

- ◆The Boy Scouts boat, Prevailing Winds, may not be in the harbor this year. The boat failed inspection from the Coast Guard.
- ◆The application for the range lights has been submitted to the Coast Guard. Wagner does not anticipate any issues with the application. If all goes well, the range lights will be installed in the spring.
- ◆Ice suppression – Wagner has been turning it off on warmer days, but due to the recent cold weather, it is running continuously.
- ◆Double Handed Challenge will be a week later this year. They will be at the harbor on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.
- ◆There is a web-site that tracks the weekly water levels in Lake Huron; February's lake level is ten inches lower than 2007.
- ◆Final billing has been sent out to 38 seasonal boaters.
- ◆A copy of the financial summary of harbor operations for 2007, which was submitted to the State, was provided to the Committee. Comm. Hall explained that the report does not show the \$70,000, which was an internal transfer. City Mgr. Slown explained the financial outlook for the harbor.

**DETROIT BOAT SHOW**

Harbor Master Wagner reported on the planning for the Detroit Boat Show. The display that will be setup at the boat show was setup in the Council Chambers for the Committee to view. It includes photos, pamphlets, and a mounted brown trout. Wagner will be including dive photos from Steve Kroll. Comm. Kroll explained that this area is a prime location for diving. Comm. Hall stated it should be mentioned that Rogers City is a Customs Port-of-Entry Harbor. Wagner stated he does have enough help at the show, but would welcome more.

**WATERWAYS COMMISSION MEETING**

Harbor Master Wagner stated the rate structure waivers and charter boat plan is on the agenda for the Waterways Commission meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> in Lansing. He has spoken with DNR staff and there may be an issue with the DNR recommending the charter boat plan to the Waterways Commission because charter boats are to pay the double rate and Rogers City is asking for the full rate waiver. Discussion ensued on charter boat business and rates.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- ◆Sea Ray Group Rendezvous – Comm. Signorelli stated he will meet with a representative of the Sea Ray Group while he is at the Detroit Boat Show. He asked if there is something the harbor will

February 12, 2008

offer to entice the Sea Ray group to stop and use the harbor facilities on their way to and from the rendezvous. The group will be passing the Rogers City Harbor on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July and back again on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August. Discussion ensued on what to offer them, i.e. a discount on their dockage, or free slip. Harbor Master Wagner explained that some of the seasonal boaters see the efforts the City has taken to entice boaters, but do not offer them anything special. Comm. Kroll stated she will work with Wagner on coming up with a plan for the seasonal boaters. Further discussion ensued on what to offer the Sea Ray group.

**HAC RECOMMENDATION – 02/12/08 (1)**

A motion was made by Comm. Hall, seconded by Comm. Geyer, that Harbor Master Wagner and Comm. Signorelli work together to prepare an enticement plan to offer the Sea Ray Group to encourage them to use the Rogers City Harbor facilities on their way to and from their rendezvous. ROLL CALL: Ayes – All, the motion carried.

◆Old Comfort Station – City Mgr. Slown stated that something needs to be done with the Old Comfort Station to bring an amenity in that would draw boaters to the harbor. Discussion ensued on if Paul Campbell is still interested in running a business out of the Old Comfort Station. Campbell will be contacted to see if he is still interested before moving forward.

◆Fish Cleaner – Comm. Geyer asked if the fish cleaner contract has been signed. Harbor Master Wagner stated Jay Greve does not have a phone, so he sent a letter with the contract to him by certified mail. There was a brief discussion on if the harbor needs a fish cleaner and alternative ways to operate without a fish cleaner. With the lower volume of fish, it may be feasible to do without a fish cleaner.

Other items discussed:

- Harbor personnel.
- Hose reels covers and gas pump covers.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

---

RICHARD PEACOCK  
CHAIRMAN

---

JANET M. NOWAK, DEPUTY CLERK  
TREASURER