

# ***City of St. Clair Harbor Commission***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

June 28, 2014

### **I. Call to order**

Chairman McCartney called to order the regular meeting of the Harbor Commission at 9:00 am on June 28, 2014 at the St. Clair Boat Harbor.

### **II. Roll call**

Secretary Bill Schwarz conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Dan Lockwood, Dan McCartney, Kathy Darmstatter, Dennis Bucholz, Bill Schwarz, Paul Lydy, Keith Winn, Councilman Mitch Kuffa, Harbormaster Stephanie Schriener. Excused absence of Bernie Kuhn was noted and carried.

### **III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Secretary Bill Schwarz distributed the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved as distributed. Kathy Darmstatter motioned/Keith Winn supported.

### **IV. Financial Report**

- a) Mike Booth from the City of St. Clair presented the financials for the harbor. He noted some positives and negatives, as the harbor embarks on its season. The question of showing gallons sold on the report along with revenue from fuel will be looked at.

### **V. Old business**

- a) PWC phase 2 project

The Harbormaster informed the Commission that a final signature was still needed at the DNR by Paul Peterson. This is the only item holding up installation. It was suggested that a local businessman might be able to make a call to Lansing to help in the matter. The equipment is still available at Blue Water Docks to the best of our knowledge. A motion to allow the Harbormaster to prorate the PWC seasonal boaters was made by Dan Lockwood/seconded by Paul Lydy. Passed unanimously.

- b) Swap Meet

The June 7 swap meet went well.

- c) Camp Site update

This project is moving slower than planned. On May 16 DEQ asked for further details around the campsite. June 9 items were received by DEQ. Projecting the second week in July to review plans at the state level. The project is still on budget. Some bids for work have come in under planned budget. Questions around pricing for transients after the project is completed were raised. Pricing is currently at \$20 per night, but commissioners discussed raising the nightly price to \$40 - \$50 per night. This would have the campsite in line with boat rates, and comparables in the area. There was also discussion around a "tent" price.

d) Parking Lot work

A discussion was had around the maintenance for the harbor parking lot. At the prior meeting a vote was made to stripe the lot this season, and wait to stripe and seal the lot next season because there was interest in reconfiguring the lot to accommodate the new size trailers that have been parking at the harbor. The consensus was to maintenance stripe the lot for the remainder of the year and seal the cracks in the fall. We will look at an auto cad of the lot in the off-season to consider reconfiguring.

## **VI. New Business**

a) Canoe and Kayak rental to City employees

A discussion was raised about offering free rentals to anyone that worked for the City of St. Clair. It was determined that there was not enough supply to offer a deal at this time. Motion made by Bill Schwarz/seconded by Kathy Darmstatter to not offer this deal at this time. Passed 7-1.

b) Fuel pricing

Letters or calls have been received about two issues at the Harbor. The first issue revolved around the Tuesday discount for seasonal boaters. The request was to have that extended for multiple days during the week. It was determined that the Tuesday discount was appropriate at this time. The second issue revolved around the octane in the marine fuel. The difference between 89 and 90 octane for ethanol free fuel was between 30 and 35 cents per gallon. After further discussion a motion to use 89 octane when available was made by Dennis Bucholz/seconded by Keith Winn. Passed unanimously.

c) Bathroom concerns/repairs

Discussion was around the dated facilities. It was stated that everything has been repaired as needed for the season and both bathrooms were in working

order. Commissioner Lockwood mentioned the pristine facilities that were built in South Haven with federal dollars. City will review costs for facility and Commissioner Lockwood will attempt to fill out the federal grant forms.

## **VII. Harbormaster's Report**

a) ACBS show success

The antique and classic boat show was a success. 75 boats were on display. The show might be up in the air for next year, because Algonac is vying for the show due to an anniversary and rising water.

b) Staff update

The Harbor has a complement of 9 dock attendants and 2 security guards. 5 dock attendants are college bound in August, so the Harbor will make due with a reduced local staff. The Harbor is still pursuing an individual for the opening of Assistant Harbormaster. The Harbormaster encouraged the Commissioners to submit any appropriate names to her or the City of St. Clair.

c) Seasonal slip update

Nothing to report

d) Transient update

Season started slow, but looks to pick up.

e) New computer system

Everyone adapting well to the new system.

f) Reference to prior meeting

Discussion around signage at the marina included the PWC signs at the fuel dock. A new fuel sign was installed on the fuel dock for all boaters. Improvements at the anchor sign on the South Wall were made and the entry sign was repaired.

Conversation around the irrigation system that was destroyed by CSX was had. It was decided that repairs need to be done now, and the Harbor will bill CSX accordingly. Also, the conditions of the lawns at the Harbor are sub-par due to the weeds. It was suggested that the Harbor look into a weed-and-feed program for all of the lawns.

## **VIII. Public Comments**

Blue Water Young Professionals were having a poker run on the Pine River to promote activities in St. Clair. The group's focus had been on Port Huron in the past. They were looking for 30 – 50 people to participate as they were using the Harbor's canoe and kayak launch to portage. The theme was "Live, Work, Play in your Area".

#### **IX. Commission Comments**

Keith Winn: Pleased to see the dumpster area clutter had been resolved. He suggested that this should be looked at weekly in the future. He will also spearhead a sub-committee for grounds and maintenance with Dennis Bucholz.

Dennis Bucholz: Staff is doing a good job. Questioned the status on a new Harbormaster, because that had been a prior topic of conversation at past meetings. Nothing new to report.

Dan McCartney: Mardi Gras party is coming up.

#### **X. Adjournment**

Chairman McCartney adjourned the meeting at 10:30 am. **The next meeting will be August 23, 2014 at the St. Clair Boat Harbor starting at 9:00 am.**

Minutes submitted by: Bill Schwarz