

Minutes of Bay St. Louis Municipal Harbor Commission

Date: Tuesday, January 7, 2014

Location: Bay St. Louis Central Fire Station Training Room, 543 Main Street, Bay St. Louis
The meeting of the Bay St. Louis Municipal Harbor, Marina and Pier Commission convened at 3:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Vice Chairman Ken Barbor presiding, J.P. Compretta, Charles LaFleur, Rod Ward, Chris Roth and Mike Hemsley (alternate).

Absent: Commissioners Lee Seal and Chet LeBlanc

City Officials Present: Buz Olsen, Paula Fairconnetue and Don Rafferty

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RE: December 17, 2013

Commissioner LaFleur moved, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to approve the minutes of the Harbor Commission meeting held December 11, 2013, as presented.

A vote was called for with the following response:

VOTING YEA: LaFleur, LeBlanc, Ward, Barbor, Compretta

VOTING NAY: None ABSENT: Seal and LeBlanc

Guest: Police Chief Mike DeNardo

Re: Harbor Security

Vice Chair Barbor stated that the Commission wants the Harbor Master to have authority, but weren't clear on what sort of authority he ought to have and how he would affect that authority.

Chief DeNardo stated that Pass Christian and Long Beach has armed officers at their harbors because of the high crime area. The City of Gulfport has a large port and they don't have an armed officer. If the Commission wants our Harbor Master to have arrest authority, then he has to be a certified police officer, and his position would fall directly under the chief of police. The Commission wouldn't have any authority over him. If the Commission selects a Harbor Master who's not certified to carry a weapon, then he would have to attend a police academy, have sixteen weeks of field training and ride with the police department until the chief feels he's ready. In that case, you're looking at almost a year before the Harbor Master could assume his duties. He would have to be bonded and required to take continued education training each year. If a bad arrest is made, the city could be sued. An armed harbor master could possibly become a liability to the city.

The chief reported that he has three to four officers working night shift and a good number of officers on duty during the day. The downtown area is considered as 'Zone A.' Officers patrol the downtown area at all times and wouldn't have a problem walking down to the harbor to check on things. Emergency response time is less than a minute and a non-emergency situation has a two to three response time. In security situations for events such as the bridge fest, two officers are usually assigned to work an event.

Chief DeNardo recommended a good camera system for security purposes. The chief stated that he's applied for a security camera system through a Homeland Security Grant and he will look

into adding the marina on the grant. He would need the plans for the harbor to apply. The chief stated that he didn't think the Harbor Master needed to be armed, but he could have the power of a building official, or code enforcement officer. He could issue a citation for violation of the city ordinances and the person would have to appear in court. If someone gives the harbor master a hard time, he could give the police department a call and we're be there in no time.

Marketing Discussion

Commissioners Charles LaFleur and Chris Roth met with Myrna Greene and representatives from The Ad Agency to discuss promotion of the harbor. Myrna gave them dates on a list of boat shows we might be interested in participating in; the New Orleans Boat Show is scheduled for March 7-10; Mobile Boat Show, February 7-9, Gulfport Boat Show, April 3-6; Houston Boat Show, TX , June 20-24. Commissioner LaFleur reported that they gave the advertisements rep information on the harbor to begin drafting the rack cards. The cards will be informational with no prices and will be distributed throughout the area. Interested parties can call the Tourism office for more information. The Ad Agency should have a proof of the card ready within three weeks for the Commission to review. The Tourism office will serve as the point of contact until the harbor is open for business. Myrna also inquired if we will be offering any early slip rental incentives.

Commissioner Roth stated that the rack cards should be ready for distribution by February 21st. The process of slip assignments, rates and berthing and slip rental agreements have to be approved and available to the tourism bureau so they will be prepared to answer questions and give out information to the public.

The Commission discussed presenting the rates, slip agreement and advertisement for the Harbor Master to the City Council at their next meeting.

AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE RACK CARD DISTRIBUTION and PARTICIPATION IN BOAT SHOWS

Commissioner Roth moved, seconded by Commissioner Ward, to authorize the Hancock County Tourism Development Bureau to draft and distribute promotional rack cards for the harbor and participation in the boat shows at no cost to the Harbor Commission or the City of Bay St. Louis.

A vote was called for with the following response:

VOTING YEA: Roth, Ward, Barbor, LaFleur, Compretta

VOTING NAY: None ABSENT: Seal, LeBlanc

Slip Rental Committee Report

The Slip Rental Committee is in the process of finalizing the document and will present document to the Commission for discussion and approval at their next meeting.

ByLaws Tabled

The Commission discussed terms of service, election of officers schedule and setting meeting dates. Discussion of ByLaws was tabled until next meeting.

Harbor Master Committee Report

Commissioners LaFleur and Roth spoke with the Human Resource Department and the Mayor on the process of advertising for a Harbor Master.

Mr. Rafferty recommended that the Committee draft the job description and submit to the Mayor for advertisement.

Commissioner Ward inquired if the Harbor Master had to be a resident of Bay St. Louis.

Mr. Olsen stated that there is no residency requirement for the position.

The Committee distributed two job description documents to the Commission for review and comment.

Mr. Rafferty stated that the Mayor expects the Commission to review applications, interview and make a recommendation to him.

Mr. Rafferty will draft ordinance on rates and slip rental, once information is approved.

Slip Assignment Discussion

The Commission had a lengthy discussion the order of slip rental by ordinance being priority to Bay St. Louis residents, second priority to Hancock County residents then State residents and out of state. Further discussion was had on the number of slips someone would be allowed to lease. The Commission discussed the possibility of allowing a renter who wants to lease multiple slips to lease one high priority slip, and once other renters have the opportunity to rent a premium slip, the multiple slip renters would be allowed to rent other premium slips, if any are still available.

During further discussion, consensus of the Commission was to consider raising the rate fee, utility and environmental fees on the Premium Pier One slips. As rates are set now, there's only a \$60 difference between the 60' slips and other slips in the harbor. The Commission agreed to discuss rates further when all commissioners are present.

Buz Olsen stated that Councilman Seal requested if the Commission would consider allowing fishing on the end bulkhead at the harbor.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Commissioner Compretta moved, seconded by Commissioner LaFleur, to adjourn the January 7, 2014 Harbor Commission meeting, there being no further business to discuss.

A vote was called for with the following response:

VOTING YEA: Roth, Ward, Barbor, LaFleur, Compretta

VOTING NAY: None ABSENT: Seal, LeBlanc