



Date: January 17, 2007
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2007
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

Bradley Whyte, Chair
Holly Carpenter, Vice Chair
Randy Crawford
Harry Hutton
Peter Hogenson
Darlene Gidley
Richard Turrentine
Scott Schaidle

Commissioners Absent

Mike Reed

Marine Bureau Personnel

Mark Sandoval, Manager
Beverly Glavas, Special Projects Officer
Vivian Crook, Secretary

City Staff

Philip Lopez, Superintendent, Marine Maint.
Hurley Owens, Supervisor, Marine Maint.
Tom Keleher, LBPD Sgt., Marine Patrol Division
Mark Boone, Chief, Marine Safety, LBFD
Julie Maleki, Analyst, City Council, 3rd Dist.

Guests

Mike Malbon, former MAC commissioner
Bud Johnson, DBW Commissioner
Don Cobleigh, LBMBOA
Carla Collado, Grunion Gazette
Carl Kirnbauer, LBMBOA
Jeff Phelps, Royal Flush

Chairman Whyte convened the meeting at 2:30 p.m., at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

ROLL CALL

Mark Sandoval called the roll of commissioners and introduced Marine Bureau personnel and City staff.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The November 16, 2006, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

- Belmont Pier Mooring Program

Mark Sandoval reviewed the mooring project and remarked that the MAC had approved conceptual plans for mooring locations and mooring regulations. He explained how PRM submitted the mooring program to the Planning Department, and the Department determined that a mitigated negative declaration would be appropriate for project. A mitigated negative declaration ultimately goes before the Planning Commission for approval. A presentation was made to the Planning Commission in December, followed by a lengthy question and answer session. There were a number of speakers in favor of the project, and a small number of opponents; i.e., the Surf Rider Foundation (SRF), whose primary objective is to lower the breakwater and bring surf back to Long Beach. The SRF stated their concerns were with regard to the environmental sensitivity of this program, such as, illegal dumping, trash overboard, creating environmental problems. It was explained that there would be zero tolerance for anything going overboard and into the water (i.e., trash, holding tank debris, boat maintenance debris), and that a mooring master would be on site at least 100 hours a week (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.), seven days a week. It was also explained that mooring technology is much more environmentally sensitive today than previous. Unfortunately, the mooring project did not pass based on a 3 to 3 vote. Planning Department staff asked that the Planning Commission delay any action, and allow the City time to look at more stringent environmental rules and come back to get the votes needed for a mitigated negative declaration.

Beach Ventures, the mooring concessionaire, has meet with Jeff Phelps of Royal Flush and the two have worked out an agreement that the mooring fee would include boat-side, on-call, pump-out service; a "we tip" program for illegal dumping with some type of award to the whistle blower; and, an at-boat trash disposal service.

Mark Sandoval said that the reason he put this item on the agenda was to obtain MAC support for alteration of the mooring rules that will become part of the new program to be taken back before the Planning Commission.

Mark Sandoval explained that the mooring rules are not set in stone and at any time the City can require the concessionaire make changes.

It was moved by Commissioner Turrentine and seconded by Commissioner Gidley that the MAC support the three changes to the mooring rules. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Monitoring water quality within Alamitos Bay.

A very high level committee has been pulled together at the direction of the City Manager, involving the Assistant City Manager, department heads and bureau managers. This committee is going to try to determine and correct problems of poor water quality in Alamitos Bay. Testing of City facilities has been done, and with the exception of one pump-out station in Basin 6, no other problems were found. Two pump-outs in Marina Pacifica, not City owned or controlled, were found to be faulty and the City's Health Department shut them down, making sure the deficiencies were corrected before they were allowed back into service.

The City has entered into an agreement with Moffat and Nichol Engineers to do some water movement testing in Alamitos Bay. This study is intended to show what will happen with water in the bay at peak operation when all 12 power plant pipes are pulling water; and, what will happen if all the pipes are shut off. The study will also look at how quickly the water is turning over, and water quality risks. Environmentalists contended that the intakes for those pipes are disrupting fish reproduction (larvae). This push from environmentalists has resulted in legislation requiring that energy plants find alternatives to pulling water out of an existing bay or ocean source. Mark Sandoval said he would request, on behalf of the MAC, that the Water Department or the City provide a summary of this legislation. He remarked that should an alternative be identified that requires zero water being pulled from the bay, the water in the bay will be turned over a lot less frequently and, he believes, the bacteria problems that are now being found could become worse. He asked that this item go to the Operations Committee for review and study, and to determine what role the marina and marina customers could play in moving towards a solution.

Chairman Whyte asked that the Operations Committee review this issue and report back the MAC.

- Mark Sandoval asked for input from the MAC towards finalization of the MAC Annual Report, specifically under the Observation Section. The Department Director has asked to have the report by May. Mark recommended shooting for March or April at the latest for the final draft. He asked that commissioners contact him by email.

Chairman Whyte asked for participation from each committee and member.

BUREAU MANAGER'S REPORT

Marina Operations Report

Mark Sandoval gave the report for the Marine Bureau Major Accomplishments, the Monthly Fund Budget Report for ABM/LBSM/RBH, the Total Vessels In and Out by Marina, and the Slip Status Report for the month of December.

- LBSM will hold slips open on DD and EE docks for TransPac, to be held in July.

Maintenance Operations Report

Superintendent Phil Lopez gave the Marine Maintenance status report for the month of December.

- Commissioner Hogenson asked how the width of the beach is measured.

Phil Lopez said that he would obtain the answer from Beach Maintenance and forward it to the MAC.

- Commissioner Crawford wanted to relay to Marine Maintenance that the comments from boaters recently have been very complementary.

Marine Safety Report

Chief Mark Boone gave the Marine Safety status report for the month of December.

- The hull on the new rescue boat has been completed and building will soon start on the second boat.
- Marine Safety's Swift Water Team has been "typed" and will now benefit by reimbursement from the State for equipment and training expenses. Also, Marine Safety will be reimbursed if the Swift Water Team is deployed to assist outside the City.
- A large-scale aircraft drill will be held in the Port area next Wednesday. All public safety agencies in the Port will participate in this drill.

LBPD MP Unit Report

LBPD Sergeant Tom Keleher reported on Marine Patrol activities for the month of December.

- Sergeant Keleher thanked the MAC and the audience for their thoughts and prayers on behalf of LBPD Officers Yap and Wade who were critically injured in a shoot-out in December.
- Sergeant Keleher remarked that individual dock phones in the marinas do not show location when in contact with 911. The address that shows up is the main office phone number. This makes it difficult for LBPD officers who do not know their way around the marina. There is also a problem for LBPD officers gaining access through the gangway gates in LBSM.

Mark Sandoval stated that better location identification of the rest rooms in the marinas; i.e., using larger letters, is being addressed. He also said that every City safety employee has a wafer on his or her I.D., and he believes this wafer can be programmed to allow gate entry. He believes it is a matter of getting the technology to work so that the gate system can read the wafer on the I.D. The Department is working with Tech Services on this issue.

Executive MAC

- Chairwoman Carpenter stated that items discussed at the meeting were water quality, the mooring program, the waiting list process, and fish larva.

Mark Sandoval commented with regard to water quality that Marine Bureau staff walk the Alamos Bay regularly and tell him that they have never seen so much marine life (Garibaldi, sea stars, dolphin, seals, sea turtles, large sea shells, small sharks and sting rays).

Commissioner Carpenter expressed concern that flushing out the Bay will cause sea life to die.

Mark Sandoval remarked, regarding legislation being pushed by the environmentalists, that he would report at the next Water Quality Committee meeting that the MAC is very interested in evaluating this legislation. He said that the MAC could take an official stand as a commission. This legislation may be faulty and create more problems environmentally than it would solve. He said that the flow results will be a good indication. Data has been matched to the power plant indicating bad readings when water flow is low. A lot of effort City-wide is going into trying to figure this out.

- Mark Sandoval reported that an optimization study is being done on marina operations. Marina operations will be looked at from a standpoint of efficiency, effectiveness, and fees. A consultant will be used and all departments that have any operational involvement will be included. The study will take a look at fees, rules and regulations, operating relationships, and be expanded to cover RBH, taking a look at the mix of operators in the Harbor, and fee structure in the Harbor. The study will also look at the rule regarding guest slips in the marinas and evaluate the slip pricing policy. There will be a kick-off meeting with involved departments at end of the month.

Mark Sandoval said that a steering committee will be set up and will include representation from MAC, LBMBOA, and marina boaters.

Chairman Whyte asked that Commissioners Hutton and Gidley sit on the steering committee and represent the MAC.

Mark Sandoval reported that he met with the Deputy City Manager on Friday, regarding the optimization study, and that an updated draft will be sent to MAC.

The RFP for the Optimization Study will be sent out to MAC before it is finalized.

Operations Committee

- Commissioner Gidley reported that the committee discussed the pros and cons of monthly vessel pump-outs for marina boatowners.
- The committee also discussed the procedure for filing vacant slips (Waiting List process).

Facilities Committee

- Commissioner Schaidle reported that there is an issue with the memorial art on the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier. The concern is that the flagpole might be knocked over in strong winds.
- Within the next month, someone should be hired to begin work on the Beach Master Plan.
- Most of the dirt at Jack Nichol Park has been removed.
- Commissioner Hogenson stated that a presentation made last week by the Army Corp of Engineers gave the following recommendations regarding beach erosion: Create a five hundred foot beach; build a 600-foot cement groin above the water; build a 600-foot submerged groin; or, replenish the beach.
- Commissioner Schaidle reported that the LBSM is three docks away from completion and the Bureau is looking toward the grand re-opening on May 19.
- The conceptual plan for the ABM rebuild is 98% finalized. A presentation will be brought before the MAC. Mark Sandoval stated that the conceptual plan for the rebuild has not changed much from the plan that came out of the Alamitos Bay Master Plan.

Finance Committee

- A meeting is schedule for next month. Beverly Glavas stated that December's financial closed yesterday and that the Marine Bureau should have the report by the end of next week.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Peterson asked if the MAC would be receiving future reports on the status of marina pump outs.

Mark Sandoval said that he would ensure it occurs.

- Commissioner Hutton asked for an update on the preventative maintenance program for the newly rebuilt LBSM docks.

Mark Sandoval said he would ask Marine Maintenance about the process, i.e., how often the docks are inspected and what happens after inspection. He explained that the marina has a 10-year warranty on the docks, and if something breaks the contractor will fix it. He said that unless a customer or user caused the damage, top to bottom, front to back, the marina has a 10-year warranty. He said the only exception would be the pilings, which were in place before the rebuild.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting is set for February 8, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

cc: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
City Clerk