



Date: April 24, 2007
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2007
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

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

Marine Bureau Personnel

Mark Sandoval, Manager
Beverly Glavas, Special Projects Officer
Joe Pitisi, Supervisor, Rainbow Harbor Marina
Vivian Crook, Secretary

City Staff

Mark Boone, Chief, Marine Safety, LBFD
Tom Shippey, Manager, Maint. Oper. Bureau
Philip Lopez, Superintendent, Marine Maint.
MPO Brett Engstrom, Marine Patrol Div.

Commissioners Absent

Guests

Bud Johnson, former DBW & MAC Commissioner
Don Cobleigh, LBMBOA
Bud Lorbeer, LBYC Port Captain
Ted Kuhn, boatowner

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 March 8, 2007, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- Mark Sandoval reported that the MAC has met the Department Director's timeline for the completion of the annual report. Mark presented the MAC Annual Report to the Commission for their approval.

Mark Sandoval responded to Commissioner Schaidle's question regarding the Mission Statement on page 9 of the MAC Annual Report. He explained that the goals in the Strategic Plan were adopted in 1999 and cannot be changed. He said that everything outlined in the Strategic Plan has been done, or is in the process of being completed. He also said that a marina optimization study is about to begin, and that this study does not include updating the Strategic Plan. He did say, however, that the optimization study will look at all aspects of marina operations.

Mark thanked everyone who provided input to the annual report.

It was moved by Commissioner Gidley and seconded by Commissioner Hutton that the MAC accept the 2006 Marine Advisory Commission Annual Report. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mark Sandoval discussed the annual Southern California Marina Survey done by the Marine Bureau. He explained that the survey covers marinas from Morro Bay to San Diego. The report does not show rates by slip size, but it does show the rate range, number of slips, how liveboards are handled, and what amenities are offered. The information in this report is shared with marinas up and down the coast if requested. The second part of the report shows how Long Beach marina rates stack up against what has been identified as "our market." He said, however, that he believes the market is changing and mentioned that, as part of an optimization study to be done in the near future, rates will be reviewed. He said the optimization study will allow an opportunity to identify who we think our competitors are. He suggested that the Bureau not do another survey, but instead let the optimization study take a look at how our rates should be gauged against the market. He pointed out that Long Beach marina rates are still significantly below average, and remarked that the LBSM was far below market as compared to the northern marinas.

Commissioner Gidley asked if other marinas were asked how they adjust their rates. Mark Sandoval responded that he does not ask other marinas how they adjust their rates, as all the marinas in the northern market and all but one in the southern market are privately run. He presumed that they are all market driven, however, he said he would contact them and get back to her with that information.

Commissioner Turrentine asked if the amenities offered in the Long Beach marinas were comparable to those offered in other marinas. Mark Sandoval responded that they were and that from a marina perspective the LBSM is as good as any marina in that category. Commissioner Turrentine commented, that being the case, cost could be used as an accurate comparison to see where we are. Mark agreed and said that the optimization study will spend a lot of effort on that very question. He said that it is very difficult to compare marinas because they vary, and that location is important. He said these issues will be brought out in the optimization study.

Chairman Whyte commented that he believes the marinas should be priced as one system. Mark Sandoval agreed and said that the factors that went into comparing two different markets is no longer prevalent. He said that at one point there was a big difference in demand between the two sides of towns (ABM vs. LBSM) however, he believes this is no longer the case.

Chairman Whyte said that since the optimization study is right around the corner, and these issues will be reviewed extensively, the MAC should not analyze this survey because the same type of information will be gathered by the consultant. He felt the survey should be received and filed as it is.

Mark Sandoval remarked that the pricing policy supported by the MAC states that it does not matter where the slip is located or what condition the slip is in, all slips are to be priced the same.

It was moved by Commissioner Hogenson and seconded by Commissioner Crawford that the MAC receive and file the Southern California Marina Survey as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

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 March.

- Mark Sandoval remarked that when customers cancel their slip they are asked why they are leaving. He reported that for the most part the responses are that the customers are moving or are getting out of boating, and that those who respond do not say they are dissatisfied.
- Mark Sandoval explained that the slips in LBSM that are "held for rebuild" are being held for the Transpac and will be filled from the Waiting List after that event.
- Regarding the ABM rebuild, Mark Sandoval said that he is still optimistic that the Planning Department will not require an environmental impact report, and, if there are no issues, the rebuild will begin in 2007. He said the RFP is complete, the conceptual plan is complete, and the attorney is reviewing the documents. He said the only problem that could arise would be if Planning Department staff recommend an EIR.

Maintenance Operations Report

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

- Phil Lopez pointed out the Preventative Maintenance Update section of the Maintenance Report, which shows that boatowners are being charged for damage they cause to LBSM docks. Mark Sandoval stated that he has written a couple of articles in the Marina Reader and posted notices on the gates throughout the LBSM marina informing boatowners that they are not to make changes to the docks and that they will be charged for any repairs done by the City.
- Mark Sandoval said that he is reviewing a boatowner request to be allowed to store items in their locked dock steps. Phil Lopez expressed Maintenance concerns that boaters might put anchors and chains in their dock steps, as has been a problem in the past, and that the heavy weight may damage the docks.
- Commissioner Hutton asked if thought has been given to the mounting of satellite dishes on the new docks in ABM. Mark Sandoval responded that the Rules and Regulations Committee recommended that dishes be mounted on the boats. He did say that he is getting a quote from Direct TV regarding wiring onto the marina.
- Commissioner Reed asked about the efficiency of the debris boom in the South Shore Launch Ramp area. Joe Pitisi explained that the only time there is a real problem with debris is right after the first major storm of the season. But, he said, Marine Maintenance sends a crew out after every storm and immediately cleans out the area. Joe said that the South Shore Launch Ramp is the second most popular launch ramp. It allows the boater to get out into open water quickly.

Marine Safety Report

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

- The Junior Lifeguard Program has 393 kids signed up at this time.
- The new rescue boats are coming along very nice and should be ready by next December.
- Marine Safety should have delivery of the beach vehicles from Ford within 90 days.

LBPD MP Unit Report

Marine Patrol Officer Brett Engstrom reported on Marine Patrol activities for the month of March.

- During the Grand Prix, Marine Patrol received complaints about the parking area for the Porsche Club. The boatowners complained that it impacted their parking.
- A 14 year-old boy was arrested for petty theft of a bike during the Grand Prix.
- The dry boat storage area in Alamitos Bay has experienced a lot of thefts recently (outboards, boats, boat trailers). Marine Patrol is suggesting that the area be re-keyed, as there were no signs of forced entry. They are also suggesting that "no trespassing" signs be posted in the area. Marine Patrol has patrolled this area during all three shifts, but has not been able to catch the perpetrator.

- Marine Patrol is asking that addresses be painted on buildings throughout the marinas to assist officers during calls for service.
- More “gangsters” have been seen in the downtown marina area. Two men were arrested in the downtown marina area recently. One of them was a member of the 18th Street gang from Los Angeles. Another gang member was arrested for a robbery committed on the bike path by Alfredos.
- Two men stole a vehicle and were involved in a high-speed pursuit that ended at Schooner or Later in ABM. The two men ran into the Marina Shipyard trying to get away, but were caught and arrested by Marine Patrol.

Executive MAC

All items covered.

Operations Committee

All items covered

Facilities Committee

- The ABM Aqua Link construction bid will go out in May.
- The Mooring Buoy Project will start off with half as many mooring cans as first suggested.
- The Bixby Amphitheatre construction bids will go out in July.
- The Jack Nichol Park opening will be held Saturday, August 4 at noon
- The LBSM grand re-opening will be held Saturday, May 19 at noon.
- The Committee has concerns about the Edison and Haines Plant requirement to comply with the new environmental laws, and what affect these laws will have on the Alamitos Bay environment.
- Commissioner Hutton reported that an agreement has been reached regarding use of 30 amp electrical cords in LBSM. The decision has been made that anyone who needs a change in power can request the change and it will be changed-out at no cost. He said that boaters need to be monitored to ensure that they are using the right cords and adaptors.
- Commissioner Hutton thanked Mark Sandoval for preparing and completing the MAC Annual Report.
- Chairman Whyte commended Mark Sandoval, LBSM staff, and the contractors for a fabulous job done with the whole LBSM rebuild process. He said that he has been told by boatowners that they were very pleased with how it was all handled. He said the LBSM is a fabulous, first-rate facility.

Mark Sandoval commented that there were reasons for doing LBSM first before doing ABM. He said that rebuilding LBSM first was a smart approach because it was a less involved project with no dredging and minimal pile work, and it provided a model for the ABM rebuild.

Finance and Information Committee

- Nothing to report.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- None

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Reed remarked that Doug Parsons should be remembered as part of the LBSM.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m. The next meeting is set for **May 10, 2007**, at 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

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