



Date: September 18, 2007
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2007
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

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

Marine Bureau Personnel

Mark Sandoval, Manager
Beverly Glavas, Spec. Projects Ofsr.
Vivian Crook, Secretary

City Staff

Mark Boone, Superintendent, Marine Safety, LBFD
Tom Shippey, Manager, Maint. Oper. Bureau
Phil Lopez, Supervisor, Marine Maint.
LBPD Sgt. Tom Keleher, LBPD-MP Unit
Corporal R. Schroeder, LBPD-K9
Sergeant L. Debrabander, LBPD Vice
Vic Sagers, PRM, Graphics
Julie Maleki, Asst., Councilmember DeLong

Commissioners Absent

Richard Turrentine
Peter Hogenson

Guests

Carla Collado, Gazette Newspaper
Ralph Woods
Ted Kuhn
John Yeamans
Matt Duggan
Andy Sienkiewich, LBMBOA
Larry Goodhue
Don Cobleigh, LBMBOA

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 City staff and guests.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The August 9, 2007, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Corporal Schroeder, LBPD-K9, reported that the problem he spoke about last year, regarding people living under the pier, has been corrected. At that same time last year he talked about signage regarding beach hours not posted on the beach and Lifeguard towers not numbered. He said Municipal Codes are difficult to enforce when they are not posted. Posting the signs at the entrance to the parking lots and on the beach stairways would be helpful. Also, numbering the Lifeguard towers and adding the addresses below the numbers would be helpful during emergency situations.

Phil Lopez said that signs noting beach hours have been posted but are vandalized and/or torn down. Maintenance is looking at marking the sidewalk with the address information in hopes of lessening vandalism to signs.

Mark Boone responded that Lifeguard towers have always had signage, however the lettering has now been redone and made larger. The towers have been signed front and back, and addresses have been placed below the numbers.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mark Sandoval reported on the Marine Stadium Fence Survey and meeting. A two-hour meeting, supported by MAC, resulted in no unanimous consensus. There were pockets of agreement on the location of pedestrian access gates and questions asked about how the three-foot masonry wall would be affected by changes to the fence. Mark Sandoval said that another survey will be done, which will be more specific regarding the masonry wall and pedestrian access.

Mark Sandoval distributed a sample version of the new survey that will be mailed out to the residents in the area. Once the responses are received, another public meeting will be held.

A resident on Paoli Way remarked that because of the narrow road, the wall has been nicked and damaged by cars. He suggested any new fence be set back to avoid damage, and attention be paid to the pedestrian access gate. He said a lot of initial planning and detail work is necessary to make the fence turn out nice.

Another resident from the area expressed his desire that the fence stay. He believes the fence helps keep the neighborhood safe.

Mr. Goodhue commented he felt the residents who face the fence should have the say in what type of fence/style is to be used. He also asked that the MAC read his letter regarding the historical aspect of the fence.

Mark Sandoval said that this issue might not come back before the MAC until the November meeting.

- Commissioner Reed remarked that he felt the Seaport Marina Hotel was an important project, and that the MAC should take a stand on the issue regarding its impact on parking and access into the marina lot. He stated the City Council will be looking at the issue again in October, and felt a letter from the MAC noting its concerns should be submitted.

It was moved by Commissioner Crawford and seconded by Commissioner Reed, that the Chairman of the Marine Advisory Commission representing the Commission, write a letter to the Mayor and the City Council voicing concern over the current version of the development proposed for the Seaport Marina Hotel as it relates to impacts to the marina and its customers. The Commission recognizes that something does need to be done with that parcel.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

BUREAU MANAGER'S REPORT

Marina Operations Report

Mark Sandoval gave the report of 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 August.

- The Marine Bureau is continuing to aggressively fill slips in the LBSM. The revenues are reflective of this, and the estimates to close are positive.

Maintenance Operations Report

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

- Rest room A-23 in ABM will be down for approximately one week for repairs to the sewer line. Contractors will be out next week to take care of the problems with the shower at A16.
- One of the Maintenance carpenters has been off from work for a month and a half on a medical issue. Phil Lopez said that he has staff covering for this employee and overtime is being given to address dock repair issues.
- Maintenance has hired four new employees. One new hire is a painter, two others will be staffing the pier for cleaning, and another has been hired to handle graffiti problems.
- Commissioner Crawford complimented Maintenance on the good job they are doing.

Marine Safety Report

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

- Lifeguards performed 130 rescues over Labor Day weekend.
- Chief Boone stated that one day last month while he was on the beach, three dog bites were reported. He expressed frustration that by the time Lifeguards get to the dog beach area, the person who owns the dog that bit the other person has run off with their dog and cannot be found. At that point all Lifeguards can do is treat the patient. He stated that the dog beach area is small in relationship to the number of dogs visiting that area, and it seems to be becoming more and more impacted; consequently there is more conflict between dogs and their owners. Thousands of advisal contacts by Lifeguards to the dog beach area are made over the summer. He recalled one incident involving a Rotweiler, where the recurrent Lifeguard was trying to get the owner of the biting dog to stay and wait, but the owner ran away with his dog. Lifeguards do call Animal Control to come down, but they are 45 to 50 minutes away.
- Chief Boone reported the fatality of a kite sailor, which occurred after Labor Day. He said a citizen reported seeing a kite board with no one onboard. Lifeguards responded and found the kite sailor tangled in the line and being held under. It was unknown weather or not the person got trapped in the lines or if a medical problem caused his death.

LBPDP MP Unit Report

LBPDP Sergeant Tom Keleher reported on Marine Patrol activities for the month of August.

- Sergeant Debrabander, LBPDP Vice, addressed the MAC regarding lewd conduct issues in the beach rest rooms. He said that the 72nd Place rest room is a very popular spot for lewd activity. He stated the need for lighting in this area, as it is so dark at night. He said that the use of lights will not remove the problem, but it will help reduce the problem. He also said that painting addresses on the rest rooms would be a big help to officers working in the area. He mentioned that the design for the new rest rooms will be one rest room (with a door) that only one person can fit in, similar to Bolsa Chica. He explained that this is not a "gay" issue; it is a deviant activity issue. He said that signs need to be clearly posted regarding curfew hours on the beach because a lot of lewd activity occurs on the beach at night. He said LBPDP is working on getting more enforcement for this area. He also wanted to know what could be done to close off the Granada parking lot at night. Closing off this lot would help immensely.

Mark Sandoval said that leaving the Granada lot open is an unwritten agreement that was made before he became Manager, and goes way above him. He said that he could ask the question, but that this decision was made at the City Council level numerous councilpersons ago. He said that the Granada launch ramp is left open for overflow parking for Ripples bar.

Sergeant Debrabander said that lighting, signs and cameras can help make it more difficult for people to do illegal activity.

Mark Sandoval said that the rest rooms are being addressed and the new restrooms will be single stalls with one door, and that the Municipal Codes will be posted.

Phil Lopez said that Maintenance will be putting up larger signs (with the rest room number and the street address) on the rest rooms.

- LBPD Sergeant Keleher reported that Labor Day was very busy, and that 150 parking tickets were issued.
- Sergeant Keleher read accommodations for two Officers, R. Ramirez and J. Litienger, who, while on routine beach patrol, came across a female screaming that her nine-month old baby was choking and not breathing. The officers immediately contacted Dispatch and requested the Fire Department be dispatched to the scene. The officers performed a back slap and finger sweep, which dislodged a plastic candy wrapper from the infant's throat and the infant began breathing normally. Sergeant Keleher remarked that MPOs would not even be on the beach if it were not for Mark Sandoval.
- Two officers left the Division for better pay and benefits elsewhere. Marine Patrol now has four positions to fill.
- Sergeant Keleher reiterated what Corporal Schroeder was saying about the need for addresses on the buildings in the marina. This, he said, is a big issue. He explained that when Marine Patrol is in need of back up it is difficult to tell the other units where they are located, and when officers have someone at gunpoint, minutes seem like hours. This is an officer safety issue. He said that Marine Patrol would be more than happy to sit in on a committee and/or assist in pointing out where addresses are needed.
- Mark Sandoval announced that for the next two months the MAC meeting will be backed up to the third Thursday (October 18 and November 15).

Executive MAC

Don Cobleigh said that he would like to add the support of the Boatowner's Association with regard to the letter that is being sent to the Lennar Group regarding the boatowner parking issue.

Operations Committee

All items covered.

Facilities Committee

Commissioner Reed reported the following:

- Commissioner Reed spoke regarding the eelgrass issue. He said that eelgrass grows in water ten feet deep or less. It cannot grow in deeper water because without enough light it will die. Any area that has eelgrass and is dredged must be replaced on a ratio of 1 to 1.2; essentially if 100 acres of eelgrass is dredged it must be replaced with 120 acres of eelgrass. This will become an issue in Basin 4.

Mark Sandoval said that a full biological review is underway. A number of environmental issues need to be addressed with the rebuild; i.e., dredge spoils, and the impact on birds and fish. According to the consultants, everything seems to be solved except the eelgrass issue. One option is to take it out and then replant it once construction is completed. However, as was explained, it cannot be replanted in water deeper than ten feet because it will not survive. The other issue is that it is so prevalent in the bay that there aren't many areas where there isn't eelgrass that would enable mitigation in that area. This is an issue that was not anticipated because it is relatively new. The regulatory agencies are very adamant that the eelgrass must be mitigated. This is becoming a big issue with all developments in the water and it will be a big issue with this marina. A consultant is on board trying to figure out how to handle this. The okay has been given from Planning and Building to get the bid on the street before the eelgrass issue is solved. The eelgrass issue is not holding up the bid, but it will hold-up the Coastal permit. Eelgrass provides a protective habitat for the small fish.

- The Alamitos Bay Aqua Link will be going out to bid next month.
- The Beach Master Plan contract is in the purchasing pipeline.
- The Belmont Pool rehabilitation has a Request for Proposal out for pool designer.
- Rainbow Harbor Dock 9 is complete.

Finance and Information Committee

- Commissioner Hutton passed out the Finance report, which shows 100 per cent positive results in every area. He stated that the third quarter is doing well.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- Don Cobleigh asked for an update regarding the Belmont Pool moorings.

Mark Sandoval responded that he needs to complete the Coastal permit application. He said he does not foresee any issues with the Coastal Commission.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m. The next meeting is set for **October 18, 2007**, at 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

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