



Date: June 16, 2008
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 12, 2008
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

Bradley Whyte, Chairman
Holly Carpenter, Vice Chairwoman
Mike Reed
Richard Turrentine
Harry Hutton
Peter Hogenson
Darlene Gidley

Commissioners Absent

Scott Schaidle
Randy Crawford

Guests

John Callos
Don Cobleigh, LBMBOA
Tom Sansoterra
Melinda Cotton
Tom Schadden
Everett Parker
Joe Nicotera
Paul Lawrence
Don Rogers
Mike Lesner

Marine Bureau Personnel

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

City Staff

Dave Kinley, Harbormaster, ABM
Jeff Garcia, LPBD Sergeant, LPBD-MP Unit
Mark Boone, Chief, Marine Safety, LBFD
Tom Shippey, Manager, Maint.Ops.Bureau
Dennis Eschen, Manager, Planning & Devel. Bureau
Christine Sanburg, Superintendent, Marine Maint.
Julie Maleki, 3rd Dist., City Council
Broc Coward, 2nd Dist., City Council
Vic Sagers, P/R Graphics

Guests

Bud Johnson, former DBW/MAC commissioner
Joe Nicotera, LBMBOA
Don Cobleigh, LBMBOA
Carla Collado, Grunion Gazette
Andrew Sienkiewich, LBMBOA
Ted Kuhn
Patrick Thorpe
Mike Hart
Bud Johnson
Deborah Fancett
Ken Nielsen
Ross Wallach, SCSC
Mike Schachter

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 May 8, 2008, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Andrew Sienkeiwich, President of the LBMBOA, complimented the MAC on dealing with the difficult issue of slip fees. He submitted to the MAC a letter of support from the LBMBOA regarding the square footage slip fee proposal. He explained the position of the LBMBOA in that their interest and primary support for this change is that it goes from an indexed based slip fee system to one that is cost based. The other key element of this proposed structure has to do with spreading the rate out on a square footage basis, which they are in favor of. He said that the LBMBOA has concerns about the actual execution of this process, and that it would be helpful to have a report card over time. He thanked the MAC again for dealing with this tough issue.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ross Wallach of the Southern California Speedboat Club (SCSC) asked for a noise variance for August 2 and 3 (Saturday and Sunday) of 120 decibels over an unlimited time period both days beginning at 9 a.m. He also asked for a couple of hours on Friday in the afternoon to do some testing of the course and to allow some boaters who have never raced Marine Stadium to run the course. He said that the club is again putting on the "Race for Hunger," and stated that MAC supported this event last year. He said that this event has been going on in Marine Stadium since the 1930's. Regarding noise levels, he said that the City hires a company to monitor noise levels during the event.

Mark Sandoval said that he would support the Friday afternoon testing and stated that the MAC's support is of an advisory capacity and that Phil Hester, Director of PRM, would make the ultimate decision with regard to this event. He remarked that last year a speaker was positioned up the canal, but that this speaker will be repositioned. He said that he does not recall receiving calls complaining about the boat noise, and that many of the homeowners in the area welcome the event.

Mark Sandoval thanked Commissioner Carpenter, who he said was instrumental in getting access to the Rodgers School playground area for vehicle parking for this event. He said that every year they look to improve this event.

It was moved by Commissioner Gidley and seconded by Commissioner Turrentine that the MAC accept the SCSC's Race for Hunger event to be held August 2 and 3, with a noise variance of 120 decibels over an unlimited time period both days beginning at 9 a.m., and allow testing on August 1 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

- Mark Sandoval announced that representatives Broc Coward and Julie Maleki of Councilmembers Lowenthal and DeLong's offices, respectively, were in attendance to present certificates of appreciation to Commissioners Carpenter, Reed and Turrentine, who are leaving the MAC.

Broc Coward, Chief of Staff to Councilmember Suja Lowenthal's 2nd District, presented certificates of appreciation to the commissioners. He remarked that he is a commissioner himself in his own city and appreciates the work that goes on in these commissions. On behalf of Councilmember Lowenthal, he thanked the commissioners for the work that they've done to protect the City's waterfront, waterways and everything that helps define what Long Beach is.

Julie Maleki of Councilmember DeLong's office echoed what Mr. Coward said. She added that the commission has a lot of controversial issues brought before them and that the input of the commissioners has helped to guide the Councilmember with his decisions. She stated that Councilmember DeLong appreciates the time that the commissioners have given to this commission, the community, the boaters and the residents that surround the boating community.

Chairman Whyte thanked Commissioners Carpenter, Reed and Turrentine for their help, support and service to the MAC and to the City. He stated that they have been valuable assets to the MAC and that he is sad to see them go. He wished them all the best in the future.

Mark Sandoval added that he was disappointed that Commissioner Turrentine would not be able to stay on the MAC, and said that Commissioner Turrentine has been a great support to the City.

Mark Sandoval presented shipwheel plaques to Commissioners Carpenter and Reed, which read: "Presented to (Holly Carpenter/Mike Reed) in appreciation for eight years of outstanding and dedicated service, on the Marine Advisory Commission, City of Long Beach, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, June 2008."

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Sandoval talked about the pricing strategy and reiterated some of the discussion from last month's meeting. He summarized that approximately six years ago he recommended, and the MAC approved, a pricing strategy that is essentially a market based strategy. Approximately two years ago some of the MAC members wanted to look again at the marina pricing policy and ultimately drafted a policy that moved away from market and became a cost recovery policy. The City was put in a position of estimating what costs were going to be before hand and develop rates that would recover those costs. The policy stated that each slip, regardless of location or condition, should be priced the same. Last October this policy was adopted. The second part of the pricing policy was essentially a square foot policy. He said that he worked for a number months with the MAC committee to determine a standard slip by length and standard width. He said he was seeking support from the MAC for this square footage pricing policy.

A discussion was held and boatowners in the audience gave input.

One boatowner suggested the City look for other areas of revenue to help with costs. Mark Sandoval responded that the costs of running the marinas are over \$21 million; of that, \$3.3 million are generated from other sources, i.e., yacht club rent, end ties fees, and special events fees. These monies go into the Marina Fund and are used before the slip fees are used.

Another boatowner asked how many MAC members were going to feel the effect of this square footage change. Most all of the MAC members are boatowners. Commissioner Hutton responded that he will see a 16.9% increase in his slip fees, and Commissioner Gidley said that she will also see an increase.

Mike Lesner suggested every boat be measured and that he only wants to pay for the water space he uses. A boatowner asked him what would then happen to the rest of the water space in the slip. Mike Lesner said that he didn't care, that would be the City's problem. A boatowner responded that if he only wants to pay for what he uses then the City can put jet skis in the slip with him to fill up the rest of the space, and that he didn't think that Mr. Lesner would really want that.

Mike Lesner said he felt was unfair to lean on the big boatowner. Mark Sandoval responded that the small boatowner has been subsidizing the big boat owner for many years.

Chairman Whyte remarked that the square foot policy is an adjustment to shift the burden more equitably to everyone regardless of the size of their boat.

Frank Farmer, a boatowner in LBSM, remarked that the CPI would be more equitable. Mark Sandoval replied that it would not be equitable to the small slip customers. Commissioner Hogenson asked Mr. Farmer to explain his proposal. Mr. Farmer could not.

Chairman Whyte said that the MAC has been studying this issue for many years. He said he wishes they could make everyone happy, but they cannot.

It was moved by Commissioner Gidley and seconded by Commissioner Hutton that the MAC accept the square footage slip fee as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Reed asked about a rebate.

Mark Sandoval said that if calculations were off, the overage would help adjust down the rates for the next year.

Commissioner Gidley added that part of what is left goes into a maintenance fund.

Commissioner Hutton said that slip fees would be able to be traced back to where the money is being spent. The way it is now, you can't track it. He added that Mark Sandoval comes very close with his estimates for the coming year.

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 May.

- Mark Sandoval thanked the MAC for their support with regard to the pricing structure. He said that slip occupancy will not suffer because of this change, and that it will be interesting to note any movement.

Mark Sandoval reported another good month of filling slips in LBSM. He said that staff is doing a great job and that Supervisor Laurie Little has a lot to do with this. He said that when needed she will step in and assist her staff with filling the slips, i.e., making calls, etc.

Chairman Whyte said that staff was to be congratulated for their work with filling the empty slips.

Maintenance Operations Report

Superintendent Sanburg gave the Marine Maintenance status report for the month of May.

- Maintenance is continuing to work on removing fingers in Basin 3 in preparation of the rebuild. This is an on-going project.
- Maintenance is dealing with many issues having to do with the failing infrastructure of the aging Belmont Pool. Repairs are taking a lot of time.
- Included in the Maintenance Report is a graph, which shows ABM and LBSM stats separated out. Maintenance is still working on improving this graph.

Marine Safety Report

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

- The Junior Guard Program has over 500 participants.
- One of the new rescue boats is now in service, and the second boat will be in service in July.
- Through the Office of Emergency Services (OES), Marine Safety has received a grant for swift water rescue equipment. Marine Safety officers will be picking up \$300,000 worth of equipment from Sacramento on Monday. This equipment is free to the City; Lifeguards use it, they (OES) maintain it.
- Twenty people have started Rookie School. Chief Boone remarked that Rookie School is pretty tough and Marine Safety loses approximately 25% of rookies every year.
- A couple of years ago Mark Sandoval helped secure funding for the purchase of electronic systems for the Lifeguards. The mobile data systems have just been installed in all Marine Safety vehicles and vessels. Chief Boone said that Mark Sandoval has been very helpful with many of the Lifeguard CIP issues.

LBPD MP Unit Report

LBPD Sergeant Jeff Garcia, MP Unit, reported on Marine Patrol activities for the month of May.

- Marine Patrol has been initiating vehicle stops on the mole road in LBSM. These stops have been helpful in finding illegal drugs, intoxicated individuals, etc.
- A man attempting to commit suicide drove his car into water near Khoury's Restaurant in ABM. He managed to remove himself from the car, climbed onto the rocks and then threatened to jump off the pier. While running, he was stunned by an officer's taser and fell to the ground. He was taken into custody and then to the hospital psychiatric ward for monitoring. Lifeguards were on scene to assist. Sergeant Garcia stated that it was a great effort on everyone's part.

- Sergeant Garcia said that he has been with Marine Patrol for a couple of months now and is beginning to restructure the division, looking at equipment, assets and personnel. He is looking at ways to better secure the marinas from a homeland security standpoint. He said he is very happy to be among these fine officers.

Executive MAC

- All items covered.

Operations Committee

- All items covered.

Facilities Committee

- Commissioner Reed reported that the bond issue for the rebuild of the ABM, when it happens, would be for the marina only.

Mark Sandoval remarked that he met with the City Treasurer and an outside financial consultant regarding the ABM rebuild. The Treasurer and the consultant both said that they did not believe that the City would be able to float a bond based on Port and oil revenues because those revenues are too volatile.

Mark Sandoval said he met recently with the City Manager, and the City Manager sent a directive to the Finance Department to make the analysis of the bond issue for the marina happen quickly. This is now a high priority for the Finance Department. Mark said that the longer we wait the more it will cost.

- Commissioner Reed reported that the Army Corp of Engineer's Feasibility Study is in its 18 month of a 26-month study.
- The Beach Master Plan is currently about 50 % complete.
- The Belmont Brewery is planning to sue the City for loss of revenue, due to the repaving project.
- The Mooring Buoy Program should begin in July.
- The Bluff Erosion Project is finally done.
- Dennis Eschen distributed the Colorado Lagoon Restoration Project report. This report will be on next month's agenda. Dennis Eschen explained that the MAC can make a recommendation regarding the EIR on the Colorado Lagoon, however they are not obligated to do so.

Finance and Information Committee

- Commissioner Hutton thanked the members of the MAC for taking the time to understand the square footage policy and for their input during the meeting.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Reed thanked the MAC and City staff for the great job they do. He was thankful to have been able to work with them. He commented that having projects run by the Marine Bureau is great, and that things are going in a good direction. He encouraged the MAC to monitor the projects to ensure that they move along.

Commissioner Carpenter said that she has enjoyed the time she served on the MAC, and that she has learned much. She thanked staff for their support and remarked that she was very impressed with everyone she worked with in the City. She mentioned some of the issues MAC has reviewed over the last years, i.e., dogs on the beach, smoking in the beach, trashcans on the beach, and the marina pricing policy and said it was all very interesting and an honor to serve on the MAC

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting is set for **July 10, 2008**, at 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

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