



Date: October 10, 2008
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2008
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

Bradley Whyte, Chairman
Harry Hutton, Vice Chairman
Randy Crawford
Scott Schaidle
Darlene Gidley

Marine Bureau Personnel

Mark Sandoval, Manager
Beverly Glavas, Special Projects Officer
Vivian Crook, Secretary
Laurie Little, Harbormaster, LBSM

City Staff

Bill Money, Sergeant, LBPD-MP Unit
Mark Boone, Chief, Marine Safety/LBFD
Grant Jeffries, Capt., Marine Safety/LBFD
Ramon Arevalo, Acting Manager, MOB
Christine Sanburg, Superintendent, Marine Maint.
Julie Maleki, 3rd Dist., City Council

Commissioners Absent

Peter Hogenson

Guests

Ted Kuhn, boatowner
Andy Sienwiesneski, LBMBOA
Joe Nicotera, LBMBOA
Robert Lindsay, boatowner
Christopher Peters
Will Hayes, boatowner
John Doogan, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
Larry Sammons, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

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 September 11, 2008, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Doogan, representative of the USCGA, reported that a safety and equipment inspection event was held on August 23 and 24 in the LBSM. This event was not punitive and punishment was not imposed if a vessel did not pass inspection. The goal was to make sure that boaters had the proper safety equipment on board to allow them and others a safe boating experience. Mr. Doogan stated that Laurie Little, Harbormaster at LBSM, was a big help with the success of this event. He read a letter from the Commodore of USCG, and USCG Auxiliary, which expressed thanks for her vital help in their vessel safety check blitz. Her assistance in making the boatowners aware of the this program, by hanging a large banner in the LBSM office, leaving flyers at the counter, and posting flyers on all the dock gates made for a very successful event. He stated that vessel safety checks dramatically lower the number of accidents for boaters, and that in marinas that require tenants to have yearly vessel safety checks accidents have gone down an average of 60%. On this weekend, 13 trained vessel examiners completed 49 vessel safety checks, and passed out safety information and answered boating questions of 203 boaters.

Mark Sandoval commented that this is a great program. The service provided is not punitive; hence boaters are not reluctant to participate.

Commissioner Gidley remarked that she had her boat inspected by the USCG this summer. She said the gentleman who inspected her vessel was non-threatening and extremely knowledgeable. She commented this event was well worth the time.

- On behalf of the Marine Bureau, the MAC and the citizens of Long Beach, Chairman Whyte presented LBFD/Marine Safety Chief Mark Boone with a shipswheel plaque, commemorating his years of service. It read, "Presented to Mark Boone, in appreciation for thirty-four years of outstanding and dedicated service to the Marine Advisory Commission and the City of Long Beach, Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, October 2008." Chairman Whyte stated that Chief Boone has been of great help to the MAC, the boaters and the citizens on the beach, and that his service has been much appreciated.
- Mark Sandoval spoke regarding the 2008 Annual Marina Customer Service Survey, which was presented to the MAC at last month's meeting. Response from the MAC was held over to give time for the MAC committees to review and give input. The MAC recommended no changes to the survey. He asked that the MAC receive and file the survey.

It was moved by Commissioner Crawford and seconded by Commissioner Gidley that the MAC accept the 2008 Annual Marina Customer Service Survey as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mark Sandoval spoke regarding Robert Lindsay's slip permit cancellation. He stated that the bureau had received a number of complaints about Mr. Lindsay from other permittees whose boats are on the same dock, including loud noise, loud partying, and boarding other peoples boats. Mr. Lindsay's slip permit was cancelled due to several reported incidents. Mr. Lindsay met with Laurie Little regarding his cancellation. Ms. Little scheduled an appointment for him with Mark Sandoval for the following Monday to further discuss his cancellation, and between meetings Ms. Little received more complaints regarding Mr. Lindsay for the same type of activity. This was surprising to Mr. Sandoval because Mr. Lindsay knew he would be meeting with Mr. Sandoval to discuss the problems that led to his slip cancellation. Mr. Sandoval denied Mr. Lindsay's appeal and informed him that he could make an appeal before the MAC.

Mr. Lindsay admitted to loud, late night activities on his dock. However, he stated that the incident regarding the roaches was not his fault. He said that people had broken into his boat when it was on GG Dock and brought blankets with them and then roaches got his boat. He said that the beer can incident was an accident; he did not intentionally throw it at his neighbor's boat, but that it accidentally fell out of the trash can he was carrying off his boat and landed on his neighbor's boat. He also said he no longer has the same girlfriend, who he use to fight with constantly. And he said that it was not him, but his brother who looks like him who came down with some friends on a surprise visit to his boat, who was the one vomiting and urinating off the dock, though he admitted that he has been guilty of this in the past. He said that he hasn't been the best neighbor in the past, but that he has changed. He asked that the MAC have mercy on him and allow him to keep his slip. He volunteered to pick up trash and keep the GG Dock clean.

Mark Sandoval said that boaters expect something to be done about this type of behavior. He said Mr. Lindsay was moved to GG Dock and will never be allowed to move back to S Dock. From the Marine Bureau's perspective, he has a problematic track record.

Commissioner Gidley said that the Rules and Regulations do describe disruptive behavior as the reason for cancellation. Mr. Lindsay was given sufficient notice, and this was not the first time that there was a disturbance. She said that as a boatowner, she is responsible for the behavior of her guests that it is her job to monitor her guests.

Commissioner Hutton stated that he wanted to give Mr. Lindsay another chance. He suggested a probationary period.

Mr. Lindsay's boat does not run. His engine is under construction. Mr. Lindsay said that his engine could be fixed in two weeks.

Mark Sandoval said that he could write him a temporary assignment (TA) for 3 months. This would be enough time for him to get his engine in. A TA is renewable at the end of each month, if there are no further issues. If he causes any problems, his TA will not be renewed at the end of the month.

It was moved by Commissioner Schaidle and seconded by Commissioner Crawford that the MAC recommend Mr. Lindsay be allowed a temporary slip assignment on a monthly basis for approximately six months, to be reviewed in thirty days. In thirty days his vessel must pass inspection. He is to have no visitors on the dock. He will be restricted to one key fob. He will keep gangway GG looking clean, as he volunteered to do. Should there be any further problems, his slip permit will be cancelled. The motion passed unanimously.

- Rules and Regulations Changes – three items:

Mark Sandoval reported that the Marine Bureau had been receiving complaints regarding the lack of enforcement of parking regulations related to vehicle size in LBSM. Marine Patrol has become more aggressive in their enforcement regarding this issue, and has cleaned up a lot of the problems. Other complaints heard were regarding the storage of RVs and oversized vehicles. Marine Patrol conducted an inventory and found 30 oversized vehicles, half of which were RVs. The rule for LBSM is that vehicles cannot exceed 20 feet in length. Letters were sent to RV owners informing them that they are not allowed to store their RVs in the marina. Under this same rule, a number of SUVs and dually trucks would also not be allowed in the marina, and a number of customers use these as their primary vehicles. He recommended increasing the length of vehicles allowed in the marina to 21 feet. This change will need to go before the City Council before it can be established.

It was moved by Commissioner Gidley and seconded by Commissioner Crawford that the MAC support the change in the oversize vehicle policy in LBSM to 21 feet. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Sandoval explained that currently, Liveaboards (LABs) can live on vessels 25 feet in length overall. He said that he has noticed that some problems encountered with LABs are with those who live aboard smaller vessels. He remarked that there seems to be some type of connection, and recommended that the minimum length of vessel size for LABs be increased from 25 feet to 30 feet. He said he knows of no other marina that allows a person to liveaboard a 25-foot vessel, and that this change would be consistent with the industry. He said that current LABs with 25-foot vessels would be grandfathered-in. This change will need to go before the City Council before it can be implemented.

It was moved by Commissioner Gidley and seconded by Commissioner Hutton that the MAC support the change in the overall vessel length for Liveaboards from 25 to 30 feet. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Sandoval stated that the LBSM has both a hard key and an electronic fob key system. The LBSM was re-keyed ten years ago and for ten years now hard keys have been the same, which means that security has been lessened. Hard keys are difficult to control. In the past there had been a couple of problems with the inability to use the fob keys during power outages. It was found that the installer of the electronic system did not use waterproof conduit when they wired the system, and this became a problem when it rained. The system has since been rewired and waterproof conduit has been installed throughout the marina. Mr. Sandoval said that he wants to go to total fob system, with the exception of LABs who would also be issued a hard key. The cost to issue hard keys will be less if they are only issued to LABs, and this will greatly enhance security in LBSM.

Mark Sandoval said that should there be a massive failure, the gates would remain open and Marine Patrol would monitor the area until the problem is fixed. This change will need to go before the City Council before it can be implemented.

It was moved by Commissioner Crawford and seconded by Commissioner Hutton that the MAC support the re-keying of LBSM to a total fob system with the exception of the LABs who would also be issued a hard-key. The motion passed unanimously.

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 September.

- Mark Sandoval reported that last month the Marine Bureau held slips open in LBSM for the boat show event. He said that the boat show pays \$45,000 to hold their event. He said that he is getting pressure from the RBH tenants to waive their slip fees when they have to move their vessels to accommodate this event. This would cost the \$42,000. He said he did not know how costs would be recovered if this were done. RBH tenants are not displaced for a whole month, however this is an inconvenience.

Maintenance Operations Report

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

- Pumpouts are still in working order.
- 240 work orders were completed for the month of September.
- Marine Maintenance is doing a lot of repairs on the docks. Many docks are failing at the same time.
- Marine Maintenance is working overtime to get jobs done faster.

Mr. Hayes thanked Marine Maintenance for changing the sprinkler heads in the LBSM, they are now much more effective.

Marine Safety Report

Captain Jefferies gave the Marine Safety status report for the month of September.

- Next Wednesday a retirement celebration for Mark Boone will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Lifeguard Station 21. This will be a very casual, low profile gathering, as preferred by Chief Boone.
- The Swift Water Rescue Team responded to Louisiana to assist where needed with hurricane Gustov. A fourteen-person team, seven Lifeguards and seven Firefighters trained in search and rescue and swift water rescue, drove 36 hours straight and arrived in Baton Rouge on September 2. On September 9 they were released from Louisiana and were dispatched to Houston, Texas. The hurricane hit on September 12. The next day they headed to Bridge City and spent three days there. When they first arrived, 80% of the town was under water. LBFD/LGs were the only team able to put boats in the water and search for victims before the waters receded. On September 15 they were released from Texas. Marine Safety is putting together a power point presentation covering this response. The team did an excellent job.

LBDP MP Unit Report

Sergeant William Money, LBDP - MP Unit, reported on Marine Patrol activities for the month of September.

- Three people are going through background checks at this time.
- Two people are out on injuries.
- On September 12 in LBSM Marine Patrol officers booked a man in possession of a stolen vehicle.
- On September 26 in LBSM Marine Patrol officers arrested a man burglarizing cars.
- On September 30 in LBSM Marine Patrol officers arrested a man on the Jetty in position of crack cocaine. He had a no bail warrant for manslaughter out on him.
- On September 23 in ABM Marine Patrol officers approached a subject loitering in the area. After further investigation it was found that he had committed two burglaries in Seal Beach the night before.
- Marine Patrol officers chassed a man who ran from the officers in ABM. During the foot pursuit the officer saw the suspect toss something resembling a gun into the water around gangway 36. Marine Patrol officers caught the man, who was a parolee from Bellflower. The next day, the Lifeguard Dive Team located a gun at gangway 36. He was a documented gangster and will be receiving a minimum sentence of 8-years for felony possession of a loaded firearm.

Executive MAC

- All items covered.

Operations Committee

- The Recycle Program for the beaches was approved by the City Council.
- The title "Long Beach Aquatic Capital of America" was approved the City Council.

Facilities Committee

- No meeting.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Mark Sandoval introduced Ramon Arevalo, Acting Manager of the Marine Maintenance Bureau. Ramon is temporarily filling this position.
- Mark Sandoval said that the first of three Breakwater meetings was held last night. He said it went well and that everyone recognizes that the possible redesign of the breakwater is a multifaceted question. There are things that need to be protected and issues that need to be taken care of.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting is set for November 13, 2008, at 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Yacht Club.