



Date: February 13, 2009
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2009
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Absent

Peter Hogenson

Marine Bureau Personnel

Mark Sandoval, Manager
Beverly Glavas, Special Projects Officer
David Kinley, ABM Harbormaster
Vivian Crook, Secretary

City Staff

Bill Money, Sergeant, LBPD-MP Unit
Grant Jefferies, Capt., Marine Safety/LBFD
Ramon Arevalo, Acting Manager, Maint.Ops.Bureau
Jack Belden, Supervisor, Marine Maint.
Sandra Gonzalez, Manager, Plan. & Devel. Bureau

Guests

Mike Malbon, former MAC Commissioner
Ted Kuhn, boatowner
Melinda Cotton, resident
Joan Van Blom, LBRA
John Van Blom, LBRA
Mike Magnuson, LBRA
Jim Litzinger, LBRA
A.C. duPont, LBRA
Joe Nicotera, LBMBOA

~~Vice Chairman Hutton~~ 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 January 4, 2009, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None

OLD BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- Mark Sandoval remarked that back in 1997, he started to look at the rebuilding of ABM. He said that the City is now at the point where the conceptual plan is being brought before the MAC committees for review. He said that he would be looking to the MAC for support of the ABM Conceptual Rebuild Plan.

Mark Sandoval went through a power point presentation of the ABM Conceptual Rebuild Plan. He said the entire ABM will be rebuilt with the exception of Basin 8. Bellingham Marine has been identified as the contractor. He is convinced that this is a very good company with a very good product. They will be responsible for the design and the construction. Moffat and Nichol is the engineering member of this team, a company who has been in Long Beach for decades and knows the waterfront very well. He anticipates that once the rebuild starts, hopefully in December of 2009, it will be completed in four years. Significant dredging, and some seawall repair, will need to be done. The staging area will be adjacent to the Marina Shipyard. The first phase of the rebuild is Basin 4. He talked about the slip mix, and said that there is little demand for smaller slips because it is cheaper to store smaller boats on dry land. He said that the contract has not been awarded. Also, that the construction portion is not under contract as yet. He explained the process of review for the Conceptual Plan; first it goes before the MAC, then the Planning Commission, then the Coastal Commission and the Army Corp. of Engineers for permits. The Planning Commission will not see the project until the EIR (environmental impact report) is completed.

Mark Sandoval said that in Basin 4, a lot of 20 and 25-foot slips will be eliminated for bigger slips, and that the total number of slips in Basin 4 will be reduced by eleven. He noted that there are two piles set into the water near the Maintenance yard that impede water access.

He said that competing demands for the waterways has turned the rebuild of the ABM into somewhat of a controversy. He said that he did meet with the Rowing Association Board on two occasions regarding lanes and access. He pointed out on the power point presentation that he had TranSystems draw a six-lane configuration in the channel, however lane six is not always open and accessible because the Sea Scouts always have boats on their dock and the Long Beach Yacht Club (LBYC) have the right to put boats on their dock, and do on occasion med-tie boats. He pointed out a five-lane configuration to show that it does fit in this area, however, the piles near the Maintenance yard are there. He said that in any event there will always be four lanes of rowing access through to where the curve is. He said that Basin 4 will take between six to nine months to complete.

John VanBlom said, speaking for the Rowing Center, that they have attempted to be good neighbors with the Sea Scouts and the yacht club. He said that Mark is taking the approach that since that water is obstructed quite a bit of the time, that it is all right to take up the rest of it. He said that the rowers strongly disagree with this approach. He believes that it will squeeze the area much tighter. He said that each year there is more traffic in this area, and that he is concerned for safety.

Mark Sandoval said that the slips are not impeding more into the water now than they would during a race. He said that the City will accommodate the racers, as they have in the past.

Joan VanBlom said that the public had not been consulted, and that public waterways are being taken away. She told the MAC that a lot of people had not been notified and that this is being rammed through. She said she understands that the marina needs to be rebuilt, but she does not think that any waterway that is currently there should be taken away.

Mark said that he has been talking to the rowing group for months about the rebuild, and that John VanBlom, her husband, attended those meetings. He explained that the open public process is starting right now.

Chairman Whyte explained to the audience that this meeting is the forum where they can voice their concerns.

Mark Sandoval said that he is trying to balance use of the waterways from competing interests. He mentioned that there is a waiting list for slips in the Long Beach Marinas.

The question was asked about Marine Stadium's historical landmark status.

Mark Sandoval responded that an EIR is being done. He said that Public Works has plotted numbers and that everything they've seen, historically, is that Marine Stadium does not extend past the Davies Bridge.

Commissioner Crawford remarked that two-thirds of the slips are not filled, and that it is not viable to rebuild in the same configuration.

Melinda Cotton stated that she felt the request of the rowers was reasonable in that the new slips should be built to the current configuration, keeping the existing open water space, and raise the slip rates of the boaters.

Chairman Whyte stated that the intent of the MAC is to balance the needs of all who use the waterways.

Mark Sandoval remarked that he takes a personal affront that someone would say that he is not open. He again explained the public process. He said that there have been five articles in the Grunion Gazette regarding the ABM rebuild, and that he mentions the rebuild in an update at every monthly meeting he attends with Councilmember DeLong. This rebuild is not a secret to anyone. He said again that this is the first public meeting regarding the ABM Conceptual Plan.

Commissioner Schaidle suggested that a special meeting be held, and public comment taken, before next month's MAC meeting in March.

A meeting was set for Monday, March 2, at 6 p.m. at the Peter Archer Rowing Center.

- Mark Sandoval reminded the MAC that the Annual Report should be completed and reviewed by the next MAC meeting, as it has to go before the City Council in April. He asked for input from the committees to complete the report.

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 January.

- Mark Sandoval reported that the available slips in the marina are full, and there is still a Waiting List.

Maintenance Operations Report

Supervisor Jack Belden gave the Marine Maintenance status report for the month of January.

- Jack Belden reported that under Marinas and Waterways, none of the items listed are warranty work items. Also, the items listed are very minor, i.e., loose cleats. So far the warranty issues have been for the most part minor issues that have been corrected before they became problems, i.e., small holes (air bubbles) in the concrete, main water lines installed too short causing them to break during extreme tides. Connolly Pacific has been very good and very quick to respond to warranty related issues.

Mark Sandoval reported that there has been an issue on Gangway GG where the main walkway is sitting on the bottom during severe low tides, pushing the fingers up and cracking the walkway. This issue is being addressed.

- Chairman Whyte remarked that lights in pedestal are going out.

Jack Belden responded that the lights were all put in at the same time and now need to be replaced at the same time. Maintenance replaced 301 lights the night before last.

- Jack Belden reported that the granite base of the Lone Sailor monument is cracking. It has "spider cracks" developing and Maintenance is attempting to come up with a solution to repair it.

- Commissioner Schaidle asked if the amount of trash on the beaches is about the same as normal or is it dropping down.

Ramon Arevalo responded that this last storm deposited a very large amount of debris on the beach. He said the debris is ending up on Junipero Beach and the Pier area.

Mark Sandoval said that a lot of the debris that ends up on the beach is less trash and more foliage. This may be due to many of the upland cities putting screens in their storm drain basins. He said that when there is a hard surge storm and a lot of rain in a short period of time, it increases the surge in the river and uproots what is growing in the soft bottom of the river, and this ends up on the beach.

Marine Safety Report

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

- Marine Safety will hold a burn boat drill at the end of this month and another one in March.
- The Swift Water Team will be deployed to handle the storm coming up this weekend.

LBPD MP Unit Report

Sergeant William Money, LBPD-MP Unit, reported on Marine Patrol stats for the month of December and activities for the month of January.

- The Marine Patrol Division is down one officer. The officer will be back in two weeks.
- Five people are in background checks at this time.
- The Marine Patrol Division has received two of seven Ford Explorers and two more will be delivered within next two weeks. The Marine Patrol Division was able to use these vehicles on the beach. They were first responders to a rape incident and were able to get to the victim in a hurry.
- There was an officer involved shooting on Second Street and Studebaker Road last month, and Marine Patrol was involved in capturing a highly wanted criminal.
- K-9 units have been training on the impound boats behind ABM office.

Executive MAC

- All items covered.

Operations Committee

- Reviewed the ABM Conceptual Rebuild Plan.
- Reviewed the MAC Annual Report.

Facilities Committee

- Vice Chairman Hutton distributed a summary sheet showing the projects that are on hold and the projects that are moving on.
- Melinda Cotton said that the public needs to be made aware of projects going on in the area. She would like a project list made available on the City's web site. She was informed that she could go on-line and look under Public Works to find meeting information, i.e., the March 4 public meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the Belmont Plaza Pool, the meeting regarding Leeway on March 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bixby Community Center, and the Colorado Lagoon restoration meeting tonight at 6 p.m. at Lowell Elementary. Sandra Gonzalez remarked that it is possible for the future of these projects to change quickly.

Mark Sandoval said that the MAC does not hold large public meetings regarding these projects; that sometimes they only contact the groups that are immediately impacted by the project. He said that as the projects come before the MAC they are placed on the MAC Agenda and that the agenda is posted on the City's Web page.

Finance Committee

- Vice Chairman Hutton distributed a copy of the Finance Report for the commissioners to review.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- None.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is set for March 12, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

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