



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

Commissioners Present

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

Marine Bureau Personnel

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

City Staff

Paul Wawrzynski, Chief, Marine Safety/LBFD
Ramon Arevalo, Acting Manager, Maint.Ops.Bureau
Phil Lopez, Superintendent, Marine Maint.
Sandra Gonzalez, Manager, Plan. & Devel. Bureau

Commissioners Absent

Guests

Ted Kuhn, boatowner	Don Bogart	Theresa Hamblet	Jeff Jones
Melinda Cotton, resident	John Narz	Larry Hamblet	Larry Goodhue
Joan Van Blom, LBRA	Michelle Mowery	Steve Chaffin	Earl Johnson
John Van Blom, LBRA	Don Trojan	Katrin Gleie	Joy Stanton
Mike Magnuson, LBRA	Jill Ammirato	Ron Hosford	Joe Nicotera, LBMBOA
Jim Litzinger, LBRA	Jann Gath	Marc Brenner	Andrew Sienkiewich, LBMBOA
A.C. duPont, LBRA	Bob Kconick	Jan Mazgajski	Doug Krikorian, Press Telegram

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.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The February 12, 2009, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved with a change to show Chairman Whyte convened the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Melinda Cotton asked how the kite operation on the beach in Belmont Shore was proceeding.

Mark Sandoval explained that approximately three years ago a Request for Proposal for a kite surfing concession was done. Two responses were received. Both parties were interviewed. Instead of giving the contract to just one, it was decided it would be offered to both. Before the contract could be issued, one of them fell out. So, the concession was given to Kites, Etc. This is the only concession at the current time. The concessionaire has indicated that in order to have a successful kite surfing concession, he needs to have some type of physical presence on the beach. One idea was to place a container in the LaVerne Lot. He brought a rendering of a container, which he tried to decorate so that it would not look like a container. Mark said that he did not like the renderings and neither did the residents. Mark, along with a couple of residents and the concessionaire met on the beach to discuss options and informed the concessionaire that they could not agree to a permanent structure at this location. It was settled on that he would bring a trailer on the weekends and set up a table and an umbrella. If he finds it necessary, he may request to put a 20-foot trailer behind the Granada snack bar near the launch ramp for temporary summer storage. Because it is temporary it does not need Coastal Commission approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Alamitos Bay Marina Conceptual Plan

Mark Sandoval commented to the MAC that at the meeting last Monday night they heard from passionate speakers about their issues, most of which are rowing related regarding the channel. He said that he believes some of this passion was linked to misinformation, and noted that their picture advertisement is a misrepresentation of reality. What MAC did not hear at that meeting were some of the other stakeholders. He said he was contacted before and after the meeting by the principles of the Dragon Boat and Outrigger groups who said that if the marina were rebuilt in this design it would not be an issue for them. He also heard the same from a couple of rowers and some paddlers. He said he would leave it up to the MAC to determine how they want to address this.

Chairman Whyte proposed another meeting to hear from other stakeholders.

It was moved by Commissioner Gidley and seconded by Commissioner Hogenson that the MAC conduct one or more public meetings to gather additional information (regarding the Alamitos Bay Marina Conceptual Plan), and to defer any decision until these meetings have been conducted. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Chairman Whyte commented that at Monday's meeting several people brought up the issue of safety, particularly with regard to the junior program and mixed use of boats in this area. He was wondering if something could be done in the short-term to help alleviate some of these safety issues.

Mark Sandoval said that he also heard at this meeting that there is a safety issue, which was news to him.

Chief Wawrzynski said that there is a lot of multi-use activity in this area. He went into detail with regard to Marine Safety coverage for the marinas and the waterfront. He stated that Marine Safety has 24-hour response capability in ABM, and that their presence is increased during the summer to meet needs.

Mark Sandoval said that in the 13 years that he has been Manager he has never heard that there was a safety issue in this area. He stated that it was not his decision to mix the use, he did not design or build the marina, nor did he build the Davis Launch Ramp. However, what he heard was that mixed use in the channel has created a safety issue. He said that he did not know if there was data to support this, but to hear at a meeting that there is a safety issue, now, concerns him. And, maybe, regardless of the design of the marina, they should be looking at further separating the uses. Maybe they need to address what happens in this channel, not with the rebuild, but what is happening in this channel today. Because, he said, if there is a safety issue, they would be remiss in not addressing it now. Whether that would be expanding the hours of Marine Stadium and trying to keep the rowers there, or putting in a buoy system. He said again that he did not hear until Monday that there was a safety issue, but that now that they have heard it, it needs to be addressed.

Chief Wawrzynski stated that Marine Safety went back through their vessel accident records and could not find any reports to Marine Safety of incidents involving rowers.

Commissioner Crawford commented that his company has four vessels on the water daily, and that he has never in his 46 years of being here heard of safety issues with regard to rowers.

Vice Chairman Hutton commented that he also had not heard of any safety issues until Monday. He said that the MAC needs to deal with something specific, but that right now they are in the dark, they cannot find the evidence, they cannot find anything.

Commissioner Gidley asked if Marine Safety could break their report out by marinas, so that the MAC could have a better picture of what's going on in Alamos Bay.

Chief Wawrzynski said that he would look into breaking out the report between the marinas.

Chairman Whyte asked if they could have a representative or two (from the rowing group) come to one of the MAC committee meetings to discuss these safety issues.

Keith Johnson of the Long Beach Junior Crew volunteered to attend the committee meetings. He said he asked at the last meeting who they report the safety issues to and he did not get an answer. He then said that reports were being made in the harbor and that they were told to report them to Mark Sandoval's office. He said incidents were occurring but they are not being filed or taken.

Mark Sandoval asked Dave Kinley, Harbormaster of Alamos Bay, if the office had received any reports about incidents on the bay.

Dave Kinley responded that the office has not received reports from rowers regarding accidents.

Commissioner Hogenson suggested that the issue of safety be brought up in the sub-committees.

There was a discussion about combining the Facilities and Operations Committee meetings, holding two meetings for the public to attend, and where and how to notice the meetings.

Mark Sandoval commented that every month that there is a delay, the rebuild gets pushed back. He said that the results of Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and the MAC's recommendation are both going to feed into a Planning Commission hearing. He said that he talked to Development Services who said that running them concurrently is not a problem. No matter which venue a change is directed from, if there is going to be a change, the change sets it back to the planning stages.

Mark Sandoval stated that the minutes of this meeting will be made public after the MAC in a subsequent meeting, votes on them. Then they will be posted on the Website. He said a Public Records Request would gather anything that is in writing. He said that he is printing out all the emails that he has received. He stated that he welcomes the chance to get his presentation seen and heard by as many people as possible. He wants to get the information out.

The question was asked if Mark would include additional information in his presentation, i.e., the funding source for the rebuild, contract status of the loan, when construction will begin and anticipated completion. He responded that he would insert this information.

Mark Sandoval stated that every loan application to the Department of Boating and Waterways has been approved by the City Council, and that these things have not been done in a back room, they are all the result of public action. He said that the EIR asks what the slip mix will be. He said that he cannot develop a slip mix until he develops a conceptual plan, he cannot finalize a conceptual plan until he goes through this process, and he cannot do an EIR on a concept that is still in debate. He said he cannot wait for an EIR to design the marina because the EIR asks for the marina design, it asks for conceptual design, pre-engineering, and a slip mix. He said the contractor hired to do the EIR has asked what the slip mix will be, and there is no way to get one without doing the other.

Commissioner Gidley mentioned that there is a regatta scheduled for this Sunday. She asked if there would be anyone (rower) available to educate any commissioners who might go down to view it.

Jim Litzinger invited the commissioners to come on Sunday between 7 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. He said that the Spring Regatta is a smaller race than some of the others.

Melinda Cotton asked if there was a design concept that shows a rebuild within the existing footprint.

Mark Sandoval responded, yes, and said that he could make it part of the presentation

John Nunn said that what is being proposed will make it more difficult to promote more events here. He said that in August they held the Master Nationals, a four-day event, and probably generated over a million dollars for the City (hotels, rental cars, restaurants) and that it cost the City nothing. He said they brought in some volunteers and made a little bit of money. He said that once the docks are in it will be more difficult to do this. He said this facility is unique in that there aren't that many Olympic Rowing Venues in the United States. They can draw events here, but not if it's impinged upon.

Mark Sandoval stated that there was a cost to that event. He said he had to shut the Davies Launch Ramp down for four days. He agreed to do this because this event happens once every ten years. But if a venue is created where he has to shut down the launch ramp time after time during the year, this will be a disservice to another stakeholder group that uses these waters.

Mark Sandoval stated that the MAC is aware that the EIR will address the Historic Landmark issue. He said that he approved the draft Notice of Preparation (NOP). The NOP should go out relatively quickly. The NOP goes out to all interested parties. Those who filled out the sign-in sheet on Monday will get a copy. The NOP basically says: Here are the basics of the project; we are finalizing an EIR; and, are there issues at this point in time. If we receive questions, then we (City staff with a consultant asking City staff's response to any input received) answer the input, those questions and a response are incorporated into the EIR. He thinks there is a 30-day period between the NOP and the EIR to do all of that. It may take the City longer to respond to the input received. Then after that the EIR goes out, he believes there is a 40-day period for input to the EIR. He said not to quote him because he has a consultant who is handling all of this, but that this is his understanding of the process.

The question was asked if any MAC members were also LBYC members. The response was that one MAC member is a LBYC member.

Andy Sienkiewich, president of the Long Beach Boatowners Association, said that he was pleased to hear about the upcoming meetings. He thought that looking at alternatives is a good approach to pursue. He said that looking at safety, the number of slips, and construction dollars will help to look at this objectively and will be instrumental in making the decisions. He is glad for the time to make an objective decision.

A woman from audience said that she agreed with the gentleman who just spoke. She said that she thinks that this is a wonderful opportunity to re-evaluate and find a plan to give the rowers more space, get rid of the docks that interfere, restore the Bay, and downsize the marina.

Andy Sienkiewich wanted to make it clear that he was not proposing what the woman had just said.

AC Dupont commented that Mark Sandoval has helped by staffing the launch ramp. He said this works much better. He agreed with the statement, "Can't we just all get along?"

The comment was made that there are a number of races that the rowers have where the launch ramp does not have to be shut down and there is no revenue loss. He said that there is only one place in Long Beach where they can row, in terms of racing, and that is here.

Jim Litzinger said that during events, the City puts a guard (Marine Patrol Officer) out at the launch ramp to stop boats from launching during the race. He said the City does a good job and commended Mark Sandoval for his help in the past. The Lifeguards assist with moving the buoys.

Mark Sandoval said that the City plans the Masters with the Rowing Association. This is a big event every decade. Because this was such a big event, he went to great effort to notify (mail-outs) to Bahia Marina and Marina Pacifica to let boaters know that there will be waits of up to a half hour. He suggested they get out early or plan on coming in late, but that a window would be created for them. He said he offered to his own customers, if they wanted to get out of the racecourse, to put them up on end-ties for the weekend. There is a lot of effort put forth when a major regatta comes to town, especially with cross traffic in the channel, which does have to be controlled during a big event. He also stations a Marine Patrol officer at the launch ramp. He said he supports rowing, but that he is concerned that if more and bigger events are billed it further impacts the other stakeholders, which means that everyone else using this water space is going to be impacted more often during the year.

Dan Bogart, resident at Campo Walk and a LBRA member, commented that safety issues aren't only with large events. The kids are training all the time and they like to use the whole stadium. He felt strongly that the kids need to be considered, and that the kids of Long Beach need to be helped.

Larry Goodhue thanked the MAC. He noted that this is a volunteer commission. He stated that the Mayor hasn't filled the empty spots. He asked the people in the audience to call the Mayor and tell him to fill the spots on this commission. He said the MAC has been very supportive, they do their homework, and they need a full team.

- Mark thanked Commissioner Gidley for getting the Annual MAC Report together. He said that this was the best year with regard to the committees submitting input. He said he was looking to MAC to approve the report.

Commissioner Gidley commented that there is not a specific goal regarding the ABM rebuild. She said that the ABM rebuild is a huge project and she does not feel it is adequately reflected.

Mark Sandoval responded that Commissioner Gidley was referring to the Strategic Plan, which was done in concert with other City stakeholder groups, including boatowners. The Goals and Objectives were reproduced from that document. He said they could recreate a strategic plan, but they cannot change a goal and objective that is written in the MAC report because it is simply a reiteration of what is already in the report. He did say, looking at the Objectives and the Goals in the Strategic Plan, a lot of them are still valid and most of them have been accomplished. A lot of them call for certain things to be done. One thing that has not been done is the setting aside of 10 per cent of revenue in a reserve fund. This has not been done because any excess is being used for the rebuild. He said if something is going to be changed, maybe another business plan could be done, but that he would like to get the rebuild going first.

It was moved by Commissioner Gidley and seconded by Commissioner Hutton that the MAC approve the Annual Report as written, and review the goals and determine weather they need to be updated. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark said that he would scan the Strategic Plan document and send it to the MAC members for their review. He could also provide hard copies.

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 February.

- Mark Sandoval reported that there is still a demand for slips. He also said that there are slips being held open for the rebuild.
- Commissioner Crawford asked how the transfer list works. Mark Sandoval explained that when there are open slips in ABM, slip transfers within the ABM are made first; then transfers from LBSM to ABM; then the empty slips that are left in LBSM are filled from the waiting list. He said that the slips filled by Temporary Assignment (TA) grow in the summer and slow in the winter. He said that people who meet the marina requirements are not being turned away, and that some of the TAs are also on the waiting list.

Maintenance Operations Report

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

- Commissioner Schaidle said that he saw a sign stating that the rest room at Gangway 26/28 in ABM does not work.

Ramon Arevalo answered that the pictures he saw are old pictures and that the problem has been taken care of.

- Commissioner Crawford acknowledged the clean up of the maintenance dock.

Mark Sandoval pointed out that a lot of what was on that dock is reflective of finger failures in the marina. Old fingers are put on that dock until they are disposed of. He said that Marine Maintenance needs a working dock to fix and repair the fingers/docks in the marinas.

- Commissioner Hogenson remarked that LBSM should be less troublesome than ABM because it is a brand new marina, however, most of the issues in the Maintenance report are for LBSM than for ABM.

Phil Lopez responded that a bit of a spike might be seen in the numbers for LBSM because there is now a permanent preventive maintenance crew in LBSM, and they are catching more issues walking the docks and inspecting on a daily basis.

Mark Sandoval said that the LBSM is no longer a brand new marina. It was completed two years ago and the rebuild started two years before that. The age of some docks in the marina are going on five years old. He said that when it was a brand new marina Maintenance stepped back and focused on ABM. Now that LBSM is showing some signs of age, Maintenance is going back to LBSM and focusing on issues there.

Phil Lopez said that the report does not distinguish the type of work that is being done, but that the type of work being done in LBSM is minor as compared to work being done in ABM.

Vice Chairman Hutton asked if the Maintenance report could reflect the hours involved on a particular project. Phil Lopez responded that this could be done.

Ramon Arevalo stated that Mark Sandoval was instrumental in putting into the contract for LBSM, a 10-year maintenance warranty. The preventative maintenance team is keeping that warranty viable.

Mark Sandoval said that with the ABM rebuild, Bellingham will provide a 10-year warranty on the docks and Bellingham will maintain the docks. ABM will be maintenance free with regard to the docks.

Commissioner Schaidle asked how much will be spent in maintenance costs for ABM if the rebuild has to be delayed.

Mark Sandoval responded that so far maintenance costs have not been raised; however, when failures occur they are major.

Commissioner Schaidle remarked that delay (with the rebuild) could possibly cost half a million dollars a year in maintenance costs for ABM. This money could go towards other issues.

Mark Sandoval agreed. Phil Lopez stated that the longer the delay, more money will be needed to maintain ABM.

- Commissioner Hogenson asked if City staff will be used to maintain the beach on the peninsula, or will a contractor be hired.

Phil Lopez responded that MOB has contracted with a company and is in the process of getting the final stamp of approval. He said that they are a little behind schedule, but he is working on moving this along. He said that with the reorganization of the MOB, he will move to the Beach Maintenance side, but that he will continue to work closely with new supervisor of Marine Maintenance. The position of Manager of MOB has not been determined.

Marine Safety Report

Chief Paul Wawrzynski gave the Marine Safety status report for the month of February.

- Marine Safety has changed their uniforms to a darker color. They will now wear navy colored shirts and shorts. This will give a cleaner look.
- The Ocean Lifeguard test for non-career Lifeguards is coming up in April. Marine Safety anticipates a fairly large turnout.

- The two new rescue boats are working great. The crew likes them. The fleet is real healthy right now.

LBPDP MP Unit Report

Mark Sandoval reported on Marine Patrol stats for the month of January and activities for the month of February.

- LBPDP Sergeant Jeff Garcia had to go back in for minor surgery (clean-up work) on his back. Sergeant Sullivan will be covering for Sergeant Garcia while he is out.
- There was a murder in the Pike parking structure. Apparently two nightclubs let out at same time, a fight broke out and resulted in the death of one of the patrons.

Executive MAC

- All items covered.

Operations Committee

- Sandra Gonzalez reported that the consultants that are working on the EIR should have the Notice of Preparation ready for the City Attorney's approval in about two weeks. After that, they will set a scoping meeting. This meeting will be noticed to the public.

Facilities Committee

- All items covered.

Finance Committee

- None

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- None

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m. The next meeting is set for April 9, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

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