



Date: April 9, 2009
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2009
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Absent

Bradley Whyte, Chairman

Marine Bureau Personnel

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

City Staff

Grant Jefferies, Marine Safety/LBFD
Ramon Arevalo, Acting Manager, MOB
Hurley Owens, Interim Superintendent, MOB

Guests

John Van Blom, LBRA
Keith Johnson, LBRA, Jr. Crew
Jeff Jones

Vice Chairman Hutton 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 March 12, 2009, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

OLD BUSINESS

- None.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mark Sandoval gave a brief review of the 2009 Marina Survey. He explained that the survey covers marinas from the Mexican boarder to Santa Barbara and includes information on slip fees and amenities. He said that the survey keeps track of what other marinas are doing in the industry. The survey is well received and the Marina offers it to others upon request. The survey asks for slip fee information by slip size. He said that our slip fees are all over the map in comparison to other marinas. In the 20-foot slip range the Long Beach marina fees are 30% below the market, and in the 80-foot slip range the Long Beach marina fees are above the market. He said Long Beach marina fees are below the market in the smaller slip sizes. He said it appears the industry has not changed and still has smaller slips subsidizing larger slips. He recommended that the MAC receive and file the survey.

It was moved by Commissioner Gidley and seconded by Commissioner Hogenson that the MAC receive and file the 2009 Marina Survey. All were in favor. The motion passed.

- Mark Sandoval said, regarding the budget, that the drop in oil prices did have an effect on the General Fund, but not the Marina Fund. The City Manager will present the budget to the Mayor at the beginning of June. He said that there is not a lot to discuss right now, however it will need to be acted on soon. The MAC will need a recommendation to act on by May. He said that the current Marina Slip Pricing Policy is still in effect.

Vice Chairman Hutton said that the Ad Hoc Committee is in place and will be prepared to make a recommendation.

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 March.

- Mark Sandoval reported that there is still a Waiting List for slips, and that slips are still being filled from the Waiting List. He said that the Waiting List is headed downward and that some boaters when contacted are turning down slips, some due to cost. The Marina Agents are noticing that boaters contacted from the Waiting List are taking longer to decide to take a slip. He said that the 30-foot slip market is softening. Empty slips held open for the rebuild are being filled on a temporary basis. They are being billed at TA rates (higher than regular rates).

Maintenance Operations Report

Interim Superintendent Hurley Owens gave the Marine Maintenance status report for the month of March.

- Interim Manager Ramon Arevalo introduced Hurley Owens as being an easygoing guy. He said that Hurley will make a huge difference in the marinas with his efficient and customer friendly manner.

Mark Sandoval echoed Ramon's sentiments and said a fresh set of eyes will be of benefit. He said that Maintenance has been meeting with BOA monthly and that some changes in procedure are due to this meeting.

Hurley Owens said that he is ready for challenges and is looking forward to working with MAC .

- Commissioner Schaidle asked about weed abatement along the peninsula (?).

Ramon Arevalo responded that there is a contract in place for that area, and that they are looking at applying the correct herbicide for that area.

- There was a question asked about the Maintenance dock and the items stored on it.

Hurley Owens responded that almost all of the items on that dock have been removed, and that Maintenance is taking an active roll in keeping that dock in better condition.

Mark Sandoval stated that ABM is an old marina and is in a constant state of disrepair. He said that the Maintenance dock at times might hold broken docks until they can be removed. He stated that this dock is an active maintenance dock.

Marine Safety Report

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

- The recurrent Lifeguard exam was held this past Sunday. Captain Jefferies said the turnout was mediocre. He said he thought the turnout would be better, considering the current economy. He stated that he sat on the interview board and was happy with the selection. Twenty-one individuals were chosen and they will start the academy in May.
- Marine Safety will staff Grand Prix with two rescue boats and one Lifeguard unit. The evacuation plan will be expanded to include a water evacuation plan.
- Lifeguards supported Opening Day Ceremonies for the Bahia Marina Yacht Club. Marine Safety also supported the Shoreline and Navy Yacht Club Opening Day Ceremonies.

LBDP MP Unit Report

Sergeant Bill Money reported on Marine Patrol stats for the month of February and activities for the month of March.

- Marine Patrol is gearing up with staff and equipment for the upcoming Grand Prix. There will be no changes in traffic control procedures.
- The Marine Patrol Division is almost fully staffed.
- A Marine Patrol Officer was involved in the capture of an attempted murder suspect in the Rainbow Harbor area.
- Marine Patrol, Lifeguards, USCG and Haz Mat staff were involved in a fuel spill in a boat slip in ABM.
- Appian Way was shut down last week when a high performance jet ski went out of control after it was launched from the Davis Launch Ramp. The Jet Ski went through the fence at the Girl Scout compound, across the street divider under the Appian Way Bridge, and hit the wall abutment under the bridge. No one was injured.

Executive MAC

- Vice Chairman Hutton stated that the committee met and reassembled the Ad Hoc Slip Fee Committee. Commissioner Crawford, and former MAC Commissioner Mike Malbon (who was part of the original committee) will sit on the committee. He said they should be producing results shortly.

Operations Committee

- Commissioner Gidley said that the committee discussed the delay in setting the public hearings regarding the ABM Rebuild.

Mark Sandoval commented that the meetings have been delayed in order to give time to meet with other stakeholders. The public meetings are tentatively set for 6 p.m. at the City Council Chambers on May 26, and Lowell Elementary on May 27. The commissioners present stated that they could make those meeting dates.

Facilities Committee

- Commissioner Hogenson spoke about the ABM Rebuild and said that there are four problems that need to be addressed: 1) the Bond, 2) the eel grass, 3) review of the footprint, 4) mercury in Basin 1 (Basin 1 was found to have more than expected mercury levels and may require a different method of disposal, which will cost ten times more to dispose of if it cannot be disposed of in the ocean).
- Construction on the Belmont Pier Aqua Link and dinghy dock will start in September.
- The Breakwater feasibility study will be presented to the City Council in June.
- The Belmont Pool project has been put on hold.
- Four beach restrooms are on target to be replaced this summer.
- A public meeting to discuss the Leeway Sailing Revitalization Project will be held on May 6, at 6 p.m., at the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club.

Finance Committee

- None

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Mark Sandoval stated that Chairman Whyte sent a letter to the Mayor regarding the filling of empty positions on the MAC. He also said that he was contacted by Councilperson Suja Lowenthal's office and was asked if he had any recommendations to fill the empty spots on the MAC.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- Keith Johnson of the LBRA Jr. Crew reported that Long Beach was represented with eight rowers at the rowing regatta in San Diego. He said that the women's varsity lightweight rowing crew finished with a gold medal and were also cup winners. The Long Beach Junior mixed media regatta will be held next week. Marine Stadium has been reserved for this event and 21 clubs will be participating with 1,100 juniors racing. He invited the MAC to attend. He said that extra safety measures would be taken for this event. Racing will come to the end of its season in May.

Commissioner Crawford commented that he attended the last event and that he saw only two, 13-foot whalers in place to keep people from coming into the raceway. He said that they had no identification on their vessel. He said that the LBRA has recently brought up the issue of safety, and that he felt signs should be made for better identification. He added that in the 46 years that he has been in the ABM area he has never heard of anyone getting hurt, however, since the LBRA mentioned their concern for safety, he felt they should provide better signage.

Commissioner Gidley said that she also attended last week's event. She said that the rowers were helpful and informative and that she gained some insight into the sport of rowing.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m. The next meeting is set for May 14, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

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