



Date: June 11, 2009
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2009
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Absent

Marine Bureau Personnel

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

City Staff

Paul Wawrzynski, Chief, Marine Safety/LBFD
Bill Money, Sergeant, Marine Patrol/LBPD
Hurley Owens, Interim Superintendent, MOB
Julie Maleki, Field Deputy, 3rd Dist.

Guests

Eric Peterson
Mike Schachter
Ross Wallach, SCSC
John Van Blom, LBRA
Jim Morgan
Aggie Morgan
Patrick Thorpe
Karen McLure
Roger Gripe, LBMBOA
John Peoples
Gloria Peoples

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. He also introduced Benjamin Goldberg, newly confirmed MAC Commissioner; and, Eric Peterson and Michael Schachter, soon to be confirmed MAC Commissioners.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The May 14, 2009, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mark Sandoval spoke regarding the ABM Rebuild and said he is not prepared to discuss anything in detail at this time, however, a public meeting needs to be set for the near future. He suggested Wilson High School on Wednesday, July 22, at 6:30 p.m. This will give enough time to adequately notice it. A second meeting could be set if needed. No action will be taken during this meeting. It will be adgendized in the August meeting for some form of action.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Sandoval introduced Ross Wallach, President of the Southern California Speedboat Club (SCSC). He explained that Mr. Wallach comes before the MAC each year to seek a waiver to the noise variance and support for the event. Final approval for this event comes from Phil Hester, Director of PRM, however Mr. Hester looks to the MAC to support it or to alter it. The noise ordinance in Marine Stadium is 85 decibels. Mr. Wallach stated that this is the American Power Boat Association Summer National Championships for flat bottom boats. He asked for a noise variance of up to 120 decibels over an unlimited time period for both days beginning at 9 a.m. on August 8 and 9 (Saturday and Sunday), and to allow testing on Friday afternoon (approximately 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.). Mark Sandoval said that residents on the perimeter love the race because they are able to view it, and that maybe one or two complaints were received after the race last year.

It was moved by Commissioner Gidley and seconded by Commissioner Crawford that the MAC accept the Southern California Speedboat Club event to be held August 8 and 9, 2009, with a noise variance of 120 decibels over an unlimited time period both days beginning at 9 a.m., and allow testing on August 7 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 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 May.

- Mark Sandoval stated that more boats went out than came in for May. He said that boats are changing hands (selling), and that the Waiting List is healthy. He did say that people are taking longer to accept slips.

Commissioner Hutton added that the marinas are \$600,000 to \$700,000 over budget in slip fees, so despite vacancies and people leaving the marina fund is doing all right.

Maintenance Operations Report

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

LBFD/Marine Safety Report

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

- A live boat burn was completed this last week. The boat was an auction boat used for a live training scenario, which was safely monitored. Personnel were trained in a smoke filled cabin. The drill was very successful. A public safety announcement (PSA) live video was developed from this drill. The boat burn drill made the front page of the Press Telegram the next day. Marine Safety is trying to promote PSAs covering safe boating practices. They want to get the message out to the public as the boating season is just getting underway.
- This Saturday, June 13, starts the summer season. Lifeguards will add another rescue boat during the week and another boat on Saturdays and Sundays. Beach chairs will be staffed with non-career Lifeguards.
- Yesterday a water safety PSA was conducted to promote pool and beach safety, i.e., drowning prevention.
- Junior Lifeguards begins one week from this Monday with 482 participants between the ages of 9 to 16 years. Commissioner Schaidle asked about the placement of a temporary restroom at Claremont. Chief Wawrzynski responded that Lifeguards will escort the Junior Guards across the street to the Sailing Center to use the restroom.

LBPD MP Unit Report

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

- Marine Patrol still has two officers in the field-training program.
- Marine Patrol will staff the 4th of July the same as last year with Linden blocked and the four-way intersection by Shoreline Village and the entrance to the Mole Road staffed from 6 a.m. until after the fireworks show at night.

Executive MAC

- All items covered.

Operations Committee

- Commissioner Gidley reported that a concerned boatowner spoke to the MAC about the green belt area by Basin 6 adjacent to the Marina Pacifica Condominiums. His concerns were: Marina Pacifica Condominium residents were allowing their dogs off the leash in this area, the large number of dogs in this area, the placement of Marina Pacifica dumpsters on trash day, the need for more signage regarding dogs being kept on a leash and the need for owners to pick-up after their dogs, owners grooming their dogs on the picnic table, and dogs peeing on the picnic table.

Commissioner Gidley said that this area is not part of Marina Pacifica and is an open green belt area of the City, and that there are dog bags in place. She said that it did not seem like there was much the MAC could help him with. A discussion was held about the need for more signage regarding keeping dogs on leash and picking up after them. Marine Patrol spoke about the possibility of looking into limiting the length of time the dumpsters can be on the curb outside of the Marina Pacifica Condominium area.

Mark Sandoval said that Marina Pacifica has 570 units. He said originally Marina Pacifica did not allow dogs in their complex. Then they changed their policy and allowed only small dogs. The tenants sued because they felt that bigger dogs should not be discriminated against. The court voted in favor of the bigger dog. Marina Pacifica then allowed bigger dogs, but said that the tenants could not walk their dogs on Marina Pacifica property. So, the tenants began to use the 2,000 square foot turf patch for their dogs. A boatowner in Basin 6 is complaining that this area is now a "dog park." This is a public area, however the problem is that this small grass area is now being advertised on the Internet as a "dog park" and everyone is bringing their dogs to this area. Mark explained that the City had started to identify this area as a park area. We authorized a picnic bench be placed in this area, and at one point a sign was posted that read, "Marina Pacifica Park." This sign has since been removed. Mark Sandoval said that one option is to do nothing. Another option is to remove the picnic table, which he said would have to be agendized so that involved parties could attend. He said that there is a lack of consistency in that there is not picnic table at Jack Nichol Park. Also, there is no signage at the Spinnaker Bay grass area, nor is there a picnic bench. He said that most people pickup after their dogs, but that they are not abiding by the leash law and that enforcement could be enhanced. He stated that the leash law is being enforced at the Colonnade. He said that he empathized with the boatowners/liveaboards in Basin 6 South, who are not happy with the situation, and that there should be better signage in the area.

The MAC agreed that since this area is a public area there was nothing that could be done except to agree that the laws be enforced.

Facilities Committee

- The Aqua Link contract was awarded and approved by the City Council.
- Mark Sandoval reported on the issue of downsizing fishing areas at the pier. He stated that the Coastal Commission is not in favor of restricting areas from fishing. He said that the City does shut down pier fishing areas during special events, however the City would have to go for a full Coastal Permit if it wanted to shut down any part of the pier from fishing on a permanent basis. He said that there are areas of the pier that are concession areas where fishing is not allowed.
- The Marine Stadium Launch Ramp Refurbishment Project will go before the Coastal Commission at a hearing in San Luis Obispo in July. It is expected to pass.
- Mark Sandoval gave some recent news about the ABM Rebuild. He said that the rebuild has been stalled for numerous reasons, the biggest reason being financial. He said that the State loan program has been steadily drying up because funds paid by boaters have been diverted to other departments in the State. Seeing this approximately three or four years ago, he began gearing for a bond issue. He said that the City has \$21 million in funds approved by the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW), roughly \$10 million for Basin 4 and \$11 million for Basin 1, and stated that DBW has said "no" to moving funds to Basin 4 to get started.

Mark said that he received a called from Lucia Becerra, (Chief Deputy Director) of DBW. He said she asked him if he was expecting any funding in 2010/11. Mark responded yes, and said that the rebuild project is approximately \$70–80 million short, and that he would take any money available. He told her however that, due to the insignificant amount of money in the public loan program, the money would be a drop in the bucket. She then asked him how much money it would take to get Basin 4 done. He responded, \$10 million. She emailed him back and asked if she did get him the \$10 million, when would he have Basin 4 completed. He responded that he could have Basin 4 completed by mid-2011. He said he has hope because she asked the question.

Mark said that the rowing issue, the conceptual plan issue, and the eelgrass issue have pushed the rebuild back. He then said he had some good news to report regarding the eelgrass issue. He stated that as Secretary of the California Association of Harbormasters and Port Captains (CAHMPC), he drafted a letter for the president's signature addressed to NOAA (the National Marine Fisheries Services) questioning the Federal policy, which is very onerous to marina rebuilds. He said the CAHMPC received a response in January, which stated that they understand that this is an issue and that the interpretation of the policy may be too stringent in certain cases. Mark said that this indicates to him that NOAA understands what is going on and that they are seeing some pushback. He said that Basin 1 is the second phase, and that the objective right now is to get Basin 4 started.

- Commissioner Crawford reported on a project status update dated May 13, 2009, which stated that the breakwater feasibility study is underway at a cost of \$30,000. He said that this study is being done to see if there is cause for a feasibility study that will cost another \$100,000.

Mark Sandoval said spending \$100,000 for a study could look to be a waste on the surface, however, at end of the day it has gone a long way to meet the objectives of the environmentalists who continue to push to alter the breakwater. He feels this is a good investment in getting ideas out in the open and allows for a public process. He stated that the reality is that the next step will have a multi-million dollar price tag.

Finance Committee

- Nothing to report.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- None

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting is set for July 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