



Date: August 18, 2009
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF August 13, 2009
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

Bradley Whyte, Chairman
Randy Crawford
Scott Schaidle
Peter Hogenson
Mike Schachter
Ben Goldberg

Commissioners Absent

Harry Hutton, Vice Chair
Darlene Gidley
Eric Peterson

Marine Bureau Personnel

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

City Staff

Paul Wawrzynski, Chief, Marine Safety/LBFD
Phil Lopez, Supt. Beach Maint. , MOB
Richard Dana, Interim Supervisor, MOB
Rob Taylor, Interim Supervisor, MOB
Dennis Sullivan, Sergeant, Marine Patrol/LBPD
Bill Money, Sergeant, Marine Patrol/LBPD
Jerry DeLeon, Sergeant, Marine Patrol/LBPD
Sandra Gonzalez, Manager, Plan.& Devel.Bureau
Chelsea Stevens, Intern, Plan.& Devel.Bureau
Julie Maleki, Field Deputy, 3rd Dist.

Guests

John Van Blom, LBRA

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 July 9, 2009, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Sergeant Dennis Sullivan, spoke to the MAC regarding the City's budget proposal and the elimination of 4.6 Marine Patrol positions funded by the Tidelands. Marine Patrol asked for the MAC's support in trying to keep these positions. These positions are an integral part of the beach operations as Marine Patrol respond and back up Marine Safety Lifeguards on the beach. Also, a budget oversight committee is proposing contracting out and privatizing Marine Patrol as part of a cost saving effort. He stated that Marine Patrol handles many police functions as part of their normal daily duties.

Mark Sandoval said that the Finance Department has directed each of the operating departments in the Tidelands to cut a certain amount of dollars from their budgets. These cuts are painful. Many things will go undone in the marinas throughout the year due to these cuts. Police and Fire are both taking real cuts. They are talking about taking out the entirety of Marine Patrol's non-marina budget. If this cut occurs he does not know how it will affect the marinas and beaches. He said that the Fire Department is looking at losing one of the rescue boats. He said that the premise is that Tidelands will not have any money in 2011 so they want the departments to start cutting now. He said that the loss of security is real on the water and the land.

Sergeant Sullivan said that they will continue to support Lifeguards on the beach until they are instructed not to. Marine Patrol is not fully staffed at this time.

Mark Sandoval said that Marine Patrol, in addition to rolling to most waterfront calls, are normally the first responders from calls through the Comm. Center. They also handle most of the opening and closings of the beach rest rooms and all of the opening and closings of the gates. If Marine Patrol loses bodies and are told they still have to continue to do these duties, then essentially the Marina Fund will be paying for the opening and closing of beach rest rooms and gates. He said that the value of Marine Patrol staff is that they stay around longer, they are part of the marina culture, the customers like them, they know the environment, and customer service will go way down without them.

- Phil Lopez stated that Beach Maintenance is responsible for the building and removal of the berms on the beach. He said that on the ocean side of the Peninsula, the residents understand very well why the berm is in place. He said he has dealt with the Peninsula groups on the bay side of the Peninsula and has informed them of the reasons why the berms have to go up. However, over the 4th of July holiday, the residents on the bay side of the Peninsula wanted the berm down because it obstructed their view. Beach Maintenance removed the berm per their request, and then they complained that there was no dry sand to lay their towels down on. He said that he is trying to educate the residents so that they understand the consequences of removing the berm. During high tides the berm holds the water back. When the berm is removed the water can go all the way up to the seawall. He explained there is either a dry place to put your towel down on with the berm up, or an unobstructed view without the berm. He also said that there is a cost to the City whenever the berm is put up and/or taken down. He said he would work with Commissioner Hogenson to help the residents better understand the issues regarding the berms.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mark Sandoval gave an update on the ABM Rebuild. He said that 90% of the Draft EIR is completed. The City Attorney and the Department of Development Services still have to review it. Once the Draft EIR goes public there is a 45-day comment period. Those comments are responded to and incorporated into the EIR. The EIR then goes to the Planning Commission for approval. Once the Planning Commission approves it and if it is appealed to the City Council, we will need to wait for City Council action. If the appeal is denied and the EIR is upheld, he will then apply for a Coastal Development Permit with the Coastal Commission. He said we should have Planning Commission action by October or November; City Council action by December or January; a Coastal Commission date in May, June or July of next year; and, hopefully, by the late or middle of next year have a Coastal Development Permit and start construction. He said that funding and mercury in Basin one are still big issues. He said \$5 million is being kept in the budget to handle the mercury issue and that this issue may be able to be solved with a Port fill project. A meeting will be held to discuss the channel between Basins 3 and 4 with the various stakeholders. He is looking at the second half of September for a public meeting.

Mark Sandoval remarked that he had spoken with the Director and the second in command at the Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW). He said they are telling him that he has to spend the approved DBW monies before they expire or they will revert back to the State. He said that by June 2011, we should be able to spend the monies. Also, there should be construction monies in the 2011 budget to help with the funding situation. He said that he just finished a detailed memo to Director Phil Hester, which will be forward to the Finance Department and possibly the City Manager's office. The letter explains that if the marina can get a \$30 million bond plus DBW monies we will be able to finish the first two phases of the project. Part of this same memo talks about the Port financing the project. He said that things are still moving.

- Mark Sandoval spoke about the Memorial Bench Project. He said that he is getting more requests for benches (with names) to be placed on the waterfront. He passed out a summary sheet and said that the tour of the Tidelands area brought up some good questions.

A discussion was held regarding how the City will determine costs, who can apply (individual, family, an event, a pet), does the individual need to be deceased, does the quality of the individual matter, how will the bench be maintained (cost), how long can the bench be in place, and where can the benches be located.

Mark Sandoval that he will summarize what was said in this discussion and will make recommendations to Operations Committee next month.

- Richard Dana of Marine Maintenance provided information on recently deceased Dennis Williams, a storekeeper with the Marine Maintenance Division for close to 32 years. Mr. Williams was known as the backbone of the Marine Maintenance Division. He was dedicated to his job, always professional, and a kind spirited man. Marine Maintenance is hoping to honor Dennis Williams by naming the greenbelt area by Station 34 for him and placing a bench there in his memory.

It was moved by Commissioner Goldberg and seconded by Commissioner Schachter that the MAC support the Maintenance Division, and that a sign be erected and a memorial bench be placed in the greenbelt area near Station 34 in honor of the late Dennis Williams.

- Mark Sandoval spoke about the Termino Drain Project. A flyer regarding a public meeting to discuss the drain project was distributed. The meeting will be held August 19, 2009, at Wilson High School. A cofferdam will be built in the stadium and a drain will be installed which will drain directly into the closed end of Marine Stadium. This project will start October 13, 2009, and will be completed before Memorial Day. This is a County run project and the County will pay for the lion-share of the cost. Construction will have a huge impact on Marine Stadium parking, but this is a great project that will make a big difference in the water quality of the Colorado Lagoon and take care of flooding problems at Termino Avenue.

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 July.

- Mark Sandoval reported that the Marine Bureau is continuing to rent slips off the Waiting List, and that boaters are still going on the Passover List. He said that at any particular point in time there will be approximately 25 to 30 slip vacancies in the marina, due to timing in getting them filled.

Maintenance Operations Report

Interim Supervisor Richard Dana gave the Marine Maintenance status report for the month of July.

- Commissioner Schachter asked about the rule regarding the use of pump out stations by commercial businesses. He said that Shoreline boats from RBH (like the Rainbow Rocket boat and the charter sailing groups by the hotel across the way) frequently use the pumpouts. The Rainbow Rocket boat is the most annoying.

Mark Sandoval said that there are no set rules regarding use of the pumpouts. He said that the pumpouts are State funded. They are provided to the public and the State maintains them.

Commissioner Schachter commented that the Oil Island boats tie-up at the dock at Shoreline Village all the time and block the pumpout from use by others.

Mark Sandoval said that he will contact the Rainbow Rocket operator, and the sailing clubs about using pumpout at Dock 4 or the Pine Avenue Pier pump out.

- Chairman Whyte asked about the Lone Sailor monument. Richard Dana said that Maintenance will be cleaning it, giving it a clear coat, and placing a fence around it for protection,
- Commissioner Schaidle thanked Maintenance staff for fixing the drinking fountain at Bayshore.

LBFD/Marine Safety Report

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

- Swimming rescues are up due to the great weather this summer.
- Ordinances and Advisals are up due to Marine Safety's revamped data collection method. Lifeguards are now capturing more information.
- Labor Day is September 7. This is the last day for non-careers staffing of the Lifeguard towers.
- The Junior Lifeguard Program had just under 500 students participating. The program is completed and was very successful.

LBPD MP Unit Report

Sergeant Dennis Sullivan gave the Marine Patrol stats for the month of June.

- Sergeant Sullivan stated that Mr. Larry Goodhue has been calling the LBPD non-stop for the last five to six weekends. Mr. Goodhue is not happy that the fence has been taken down around Marine Stadium and wants LBPD/Marine Patrol to ticket people (most of them nearby residents picnicking and wading at the shoreline) who are in the stadium without a boat.

Chief Wawrzynski stated that Rescue Boat 3, which is assigned to Marine Stadium, is very aware of the area and patrols to ensure wading does not get out of hand.

LBPD/Marine Patrol asked for the MAC's support regarding the removal of the "no wading" clause from the Municipal Code.

Mark Sandoval added that the Marine Bureau is contemplating handling three issues at one time:

1. Remove the "no wading" clause from the Municipal Code.
2. Change boating versus rowing in Marine Stadium to address some safety concerns.
3. Change the length of allowed vessels in Marine Stadium, because competition boats are getting longer. Chief Wawrzynski is still reviewing this issue.

Sergeant Sullivan spoke about another Municipal Code change that involves two new single stall rest rooms being built. The request for single stall rest rooms came from LBPD Vice years ago. Marine Patrol wants language in the Municipal Code that says that only one person can be in the rest room at a time, unless a child or handicapped individual is with an adult.

Mark Sandoval said that once the items are worked through, they will be brought back before the MAC. He only wants to go before the City Council once with these items.

Mark Sandoval spoke about a rule change to the marina rules, which will prohibit power tool use and loud maintenance work in the mornings and evenings on weekends and holidays, before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Goldberg and seconded by Commissioner Crawford that the MAC support the Marine Bureau's recommended rule change regarding prohibiting loud maintenance work before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. in the mornings and evenings on weekends and holidays. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive MAC

- Mark Sandoval announced that Chairman Whyte will be retiring and moving to the state of Washington. He will be resigning from the MAC effective October 2009.

Chairman Whyte thanked the MAC for the great time he has had working on the Commission.

Operations Committee

- All items covered.

Facilities Committee

Commissioner Hogenson gave the report.

- Restrooms on the beach are going for a plan check in October.
- The Bluff Park erosion effort will commence now that feeding boxes for feral cat are going to be installed in Bluff Park on Ocean Boulevard.
- Money has been allocated for Mother's Beach (Marine Park) playground, rest room, and concession.

Finance Committee

- Nothing to report.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- Commissioner Schaidle said that he has received positive comments regarding the chain link fence being removed at Marine Stadium.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- John Van Blom commented on the Circle Boat Races held in Marine Stadium once a year. He said that many people enjoy it and that he supports the races. He said it is something residents can deal with.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting is set for September 10, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

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