



Date: September 11, 2009
To: Members of the Marine Advisory Commission
From: Mark A. Sandoval, Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2009
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

Harry Hutton, Vice Chair
Randy Crawford
Scott Schaidle
Eric Peterson
Mike Schachter
Ben Goldberg

Commissioners Absent

Bradley Whyte, Chairman
Darlene Gidley
Peter Hogenson

Marine Bureau Personnel

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

City Staff

Paul Wawrzynski, Chief, Marine Safety/LBFD
Rob Taylor, Interim Supervisor, MOB
Joe Johnson, Sergeant, Marine Patrol/LBPD
Julie Maleki, Field Deputy, 3rd Dist.
Tasha Day, Coordinator, Spec. Events & Filming
Andy Witherspoon, Special Events & Filming
Tanja Thiem, Intern, Special Events & Filming

Guests

Shawn Parker, RBO, LBLGA
Mitch Garrison, MSO, LBLGA
John Callos, LBRA
A.C. Dupont, LBRA
Keith Johnson, LBRA

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 August 13, 2009, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Marine Safety Officer (MSO) Shawn Parker of the Long Beach Lifeguard Association (LBLGA) spoke regarding the budget and funding for Rescue Boat 3 (R-3). He said that R-3 is due to be closed three days a week under the current budget proposal. He said that this is not acceptable and explained that R-3 covers the Marine Stadium area and Launch Ramp, Naples Island area, Basins 6 and 8, Davis Launch Ramp, Marina Park (Mother's Beach), the Upper Bay area, Bahia Marina area, and the Spinnaker Bay area. R-3 is also responsible for fire suppression on the water and the homes along the waterfront, rescues, medical aids, water safety education, law enforcement on the water, and is support to the other rescue boats. He told of a call a couple of weeks ago in Bahia Marina where a boat was sinking and R-3 responded. R-1 came on scene to assist and was called away to respond to another sinking boat outside the breakwater. Had R-3 not been available, R-1 would have had to make a choice on which boat they would save. R-3 has been in service for over 50 years. Marine Safety has not had an increase in their budget in 20 years. Coverage and response time will be significant if this boat is lost. He said that the LBLGA is looking for support from the MAC and asked them to contact the City Council members and the Mayor and show support as a citizen and as a Commissioner.

Commissioner Schachter asked if the LBPD has boats that can be used in place of R-3.

Mark Sandoval responded that the LBPD boats mainly focus on law enforcement and do not have the capability to dewater, suppress fires, in-water tow, or in-water rescue, and they have no EMT on board.

Commissioner Goldberg clarified that the proposed budget will carry half of the cost for R-3, and that what they want is for the LBFD to come up with the rest of the money to fund the boat.

Shawn Parker explained that Marine Safety Rescue Boat funding comes solely out of the Tidelands Fund, not the General Fund. He said that the Tidelands Fund is healthy now, but that the City has concerns looking down the road. Losing R-3 means that two Marine Safety Officers will be laid off and there will be demotions. Marine Safety is not a large division and there is no place to put these bodies. These officers have 20-plus years of experience, they are highly specialized and trained for the environment they work in, and the City has a lot invested in them. He said that 28 of the 30 Marine Safety personnel are operational, front-line responders.

John Callos, LBRA, spoke about the necessity of saving R-3. He said the rowing community has depended on R-3 for many years. He explained, using a map, which areas are covered by R-1 and which areas are covered by R-3, stating that minutes can save lives. He told the MAC members that they have the responsibility as an advisory group to speak out regarding saving R-3, and asked them to make it a point to talk to the Council people. He said that Marine Safety needs their support and asked them to please use their position to influence the Council.

Mark Sandoval said that cutting R-3 and Marine Patrol Officers out of the Tidelands Fund will have an impact in the marinas. He explained that the three rescue boats work on the water as a team, and that cutting down to two boats for any point in time means that one-third of the on-the-water resources is gone. These resources are used not just for non-marina services, but also for the marinas. The marinas will be impacted by this cut even though this cut is not truly in the marina fund. He said that a reduction in services will be felt if the hours are cut on the rescue boat. The cut in service will affect the bay, the rowers, and the boating community at large, but it will also affect the marinas.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mark Sandoval gave some background information on the Memorial Bench Process. He explained that the Parks and Recreation Commission has been approving locations for memorial benches throughout the City including the Tidelands area, and he wondered if the MAC would want to take part in the procedures. Mark felt that guidelines were needed, and sought the input of the MAC members. In conclusion he said that maybe the MAC could support general guidelines, and that the decision-making and even the policy itself could be more loose and interpreted at the staff level.

Mark recommended guidelines he thinks need to be in place, i.e., department approval or recommended change to the request for a bench depending on if the department believes the area requested is appropriate, up front payment be required to cover the cost and installation of the bench (approximately \$4,000), an annual maintenance fee be established, the number of years a bench can be in place be set at five years, at the end of the fifth year the requestor would need to purchase a new bench and the permit would start over again. He said decisions would be made jointly between himself and Marine Maintenance with the input of the Department Director, and that the Parks and Recreation Commission would formally make the approvals.

It was moved by Commissioner Crawford and seconded by Commissioner Peterson that the MAC follow Mark Sandoval's suggestion for guidelines regarding the Memorial Bench Program. All were in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- Tasha Day, Special Events and Filming Coordinator, spoke to the MAC and informed them of the permit process for Special Events and Filming. She said that companies doing feature films normally give notice two to three weeks, sometimes even months in advance. However, TV and commercial filming give 72 hours notice. Special Events and Filming staff need to coordinate all city services, notify residents, close streets, post parking signs, and issue the permit before the filming begins.

Mark Sandoval stated that Special Events has developed policies that are neighborhood friendly, and he feels an on-dock filming policy is needed. He said that marina liveaboards (LABs) are notified about filming events, but that LABs are not the only ones affected and communication is difficult with non-liveaboards. He explained the challenges and said he wants to start discussions and develop a policy regarding filming.

Commissioner Schachter talked about communication problems regarding a recent film shoot in LBSM. He agreed that a procedure needs to be established, and that there needs to be a way to get the word out to all the boaters that a film shoot is going to occur. He said that too short of a notice is given. He said that he knows that the City makes a lot of money from these film shoots.

Tasha Day stated that the City made \$20,000 on this film shoot and the Marina Fund made \$7,600.

Mark Sandoval said that the Bureau can let boaters know by email when there will be a film shoot in their area. He said that the Bureau can develop any kind of policy and that he is looking for input.

Vice Chairman Hutton gave this issue to the Operations Committee to review and respond back to MAC.

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 August.

- Mark Sandoval reported that slips were held open this month in order to relocate customers from the Rainbow Marina into the Shoreline and Alamitos Bay Marinas for the boat show, which starts today. The boat show paid \$40,000 for the use of the Rainbow Marina.
- The Waiting List is still holding. Mark Sandoval said that some Waiting List customers, when called, go on the Passover List.

Maintenance Operations Report

Interim Supervisor Rob Taylor gave the Marine Maintenance status report for the month of August.

- Rob Taylor explained that Maintenance is working on a project in front of the Marine Maintenance Yard (under the Davies Bridge) that will make room for the Maintenance workboats, because the dock is being relocated.

Mark Sandoval clarified that Marine Maintenance is preparing for the project. He said that they do not have funding to do the job yet, but that they do have the design.

- Commissioner Peterson commented on the trash in the marinas and on the beach. He asked about offset from cities up-stream that are sending refuse downstream to Long Beach.

Mark Sandoval said that for approximately the last six years the City has received about one-half million dollars from the County of LA. He said that in the LA Basin, every city seems to be in the process of putting screens on their sewer outlets, and talked about the change seen over last 10-12 years regarding the kind of trash that is washing up on the beach. He said that the lion's share of debris is the greenery that grows on the soft bottom of the river and gets washed out with the first large storm. He said that a lot less styrofoam and trash is coming down the river, and that this is in direct relationship to the upland cities installing screens on their drains.

- John Callos talked about the dock at the Rowing Center. He explained that the power plant sucks water for their engine cooling process, which causes silt to build up under the rowing dock, and at low tide the dock hits bottom.

Mark Sandoval stated that the entire basin is silting-in, and reminded Mr. Callos that the dock is the responsibility of the LBRA. The marina area will be dredged as part of the rebuild. He said he asked for funds this fiscal year to do a study and start the permitting process for dredging in the non-marina part of the Bay, however that funding was cut. He said that the Bureau needs to be pro-active and look at those areas in the Bay that are not in the marina and set a plan to get them dredged.

LBFD/Marine Safety Report

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

- Summer season ended September 7, Labor Day, and Marine Safety is back using only Rescue Boats 1, 2 and 3 for the remainder of the year.
- Paul Wawrzynski reported on a boat fire that occurred on Tuesday. The owner of a 22-foot Cabo smelled gas and opened the hatch. There was an explosion and the boat became fully engulfed. A rescue boat with one Lifeguard on board was being transported to the Port for an exercise and was the first boat on scene. The Lifeguard operated the rescue boat and pulled two men out of the water. The rescue boat was in the right place at the right time.

LBPD MP Unit Report

Sergeant Joe Johnson gave the Marine Patrol stats for the month of July.

- Mr. Larry Goodhue continues to call regarding the Marine Stadium area. He has said that he will call for a private person arrest of people wading in the water at Marine Stadium, and if Marine Patrol officers do not cooperate appropriately he will call for a private person arrest on the officer. The Department is looking into changing the Municipal Code regarding wading in this area of Marine Stadium.
- Sergeant Johnson reported on figures for crime around the Aquarium and parking structure area. He said that overall comparisons from this year to last year show that crime has gone up about 30%. This is due in part to the expanding areas covered by Marine Patrol, while the staffing levels for Marine Patrol have not grown. He stated that the Marine Patrol Division is losing four bodies due to budget constraints.

- John Callos expressed his concern that the area in Marine Stadium where people are wading will become another “Mother’s Beach.” Mark Sandoval disagreed and said that historically boaters have come down to water-ski, and that they wade in the water just to the back of the boat line. He said that it has been agreed upon by the LBPD/Marine Patrol Division, LBFD/Marine Safety Division, and the Marine Bureau that the Municipal Code regarding wading in this area should be changed.
- Commissioner Peterson spoke about recent theft activity on X and Y Docks in LBSM. He said that boaters have noticed people rowing in quietly at night and getting onto the docks. He said that bicycles and boat hardware have gone missing, and asked if any specific action is being taken.

Sergeant Johnson stated that the thefts appear to be random, but that people need to report everything that is stolen, even a \$10 item, so that it can become a statistic. He also said that boaters need to report suspicious people on the docks.

Mark Sandoval said that thefts are occurring in ABM also, and that he believes the bad economy is the cause. He said he sent a letter out to LABs to contact Marine Patrol when they see something suspicious.

- Keith Johnson, LBRA, spoke to the issue of changing the Municipal Code regarding wading in Marine Stadium. He asked if there was a clear definition of “wading,” and asked about the boats anchoring further out “Colorado River” style. He also asked how this area will be covered in the summer months if R-3 is cut.

Mark Sandoval said that his definition of wading is when you’re actually touching bottom, not swimming, and that most boaters do anchor bow out.

Chief Wawrzynski said that the rescue boats crews make contact with boaters who are anchoring out too far and impeding traffic. He said, regarding the possibility of R-3 being cut for the summer months, that Marine Safety is looking at different models in order to be able to balance everything out.

Executive MAC

- Vice Chairman Hutton reported that Chairman Whyte will be retiring and moving out of state, and that the MAC will need to elect two new officers in October.

Operations Committee

- Commissioner Crawford said that the committee reviewed issues regarding filming and special events in the marina.

Facilities Committee

Commissioner Goldberg gave the committee report.

- Commissioner Goldberg said that it looks like there may be some funding available for the ABM rebuild. There will be a public meeting held on October 8, 2009, at Wilson High School, at 6:30 p.m., and a compromise is in the works with the rowing community. Eelgrass is still an issue, with no resolution as yet, however good areas have been identified to mitigate the eelgrass. The mercury problem in Basin 1 has already been built into the cost of the rebuild. Construction on the three beach rest rooms is moving ahead (two at Marine Stadium and one at Claremont by the fishing bridge).
- The 72nd Place rest room will be retrofitted and construction will start in September.
- There is no funding source available for the rehabilitation of the Belmont Pool.
- The Bluff Park Erosion Project is moving forward. The feral cat issue has been addressed.
- The Marine Stadium Launch Ramp Project was approved by the Coastal Commission, and funding is in place. This project is being done with Grant monies from the State.
- The Marine Park (Mother's Beach) playground drawings have been approved.
- There is no funding for FY 2010 projects

Finance Committee

- Vice Chairman Hutton passed out the third quarter financial report to the commissioners for their review.

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

- None

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

- None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. The next meeting is set for October 8, 2009, at 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

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