

Date: April 24, 2024

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager *T.M.*

From: Brent Dennis, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine *BD*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Marine Advisory Commission 2023 Annual Report**

In accordance with City of Long Beach, Marine Advisory Commission (Commission), By-Laws, Article VIII, Section 1, Report to the City, the Commission shall present an annual written report of its activities for the past year to the Mayor and City Council. The report is complete, thorough, and attached for information.

If you have any questions, please contact Brent Dennis, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, at (562) 570-3170 or Brent.Dennis@longbeach.gov.

ATTACHMENT

CC: DAWN MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
APRIL WALKER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
MEREDITH REYNOLDS, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
GRACE YOON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TYLER BONANNO-CURLEY, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS
TODD LELAND, MARINE BUREAU MANAGER

2023

Marine Advisory Commission Annual Report



CITY OF
LONG BEACH

**Marine Advisory Commission
2023
Annual Report**

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PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE

Statement of Possibility and Goals

Statement of Possibility

We make our parks and beaches safe, welcoming spaces for all residents and visitors, putting people at the center of all that we do – including our marina users, partners, and team members – to create inclusive, enriching, healthy communities for all to thrive.

Goals

- Provide safe, accessible public spaces.
- Offer meaningful recreational programming and events.
- Prioritize health equity across the City.
- Ensure a diverse and dynamic workforce.
- Build innovative and lasting partnerships.
- Establish an environmentally sustainable marina ecosystem.
- Connect clearly and transparently internally, and with the community.
- Create a financially secure and resilient operation.

MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Mission

To enhance and preserve the beaches, waterways, and adjoining facilities of the City of Long Beach.

MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Membership

The Marine Advisory Commission was established by the City Council by minute order on May 1, 1956, LBMC Chapter 2.48.

- ❖ Commission members serving in calendar year January – December 2023:

Liz Carlin
Colin Kelly
Elizabeth Lambe

Bruce Mac Rae
Theresa Marino
Jo Murray

- ❖ Commission member serving in calendar year from March - December 2023:

Sabrina Zavala

- ❖ Commission members serving in calendar year from June - December 2023:

Avis Atkins

Gordana Kajer

Powers and Duties of the Commission

The duties and responsibilities of the Marine Advisory Commission are as follows:

- To consult with and advise the City Council and/or City staff on matters in formulating City policies regarding marinas, beaches, waterways, near shore areas adjacent thereto and facilities thereon.
- To study and analyze problems referred to by the City Council and/or City staff, for the purpose of evaluation and recommendation of policy to the City.
- To perform such other functions as are specifically conferred on the Commission by the City Council.
- To conduct hearings of appeal of any cancellation of a permit issued pursuant to Chapter 16.08 of the Municipal Code 16.08.330.
- To analyze requests of groups or individuals, and make recommendations designed to ensure that areas within the Marine Bureau's jurisdiction provide the widest possible benefits to the greatest number of people.

FORMAL ACTIONS OF THE MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023

January 12, 2023

- A motion was made by Commissioner Marino, seconded by Chair Kelly, to approve recommendation to receive and file the committee report from Vice Chair Murray and Commissioner Mac Rae on the status of the meeting with Partners of Parks regarding funding for the Trees in the Bay. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

February 9, 2023

- A motion was made by Commissioner Lambe, seconded by Vice Chair Murray, to approve recommendation to receive and file a presentation about SB 11137 and effect on Tidelands. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Carlin, seconded by Commissioner Marino to approve recommendation to receive and file an update on the AES Generating Station pump project by Public Works. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

March 9, 2023

- A motion was made by Commissioner Mac Rae, seconded by Vice Chair Murray, to approve recommendation to endorse the submission to City Council to approve a fee waiver for the Long Beach Yacht Club, in an amount not to exceed \$8,250.00, for use of dock space in Alamitos Bay Marina for visiting/participating vessels during the 2023 Ficker and Congressional Cups for the period of April 13 - April 22, 2023 and the United States Open Sailing Series for the period of July 14 - 16, 2023. (District 3) The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Mac Rae, seconded by Vice Chair Murray, to approve recommendation to endorse submission to City Council to approve a fee waiver for the Seal Beach Yacht Club (SLBYC), in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00, for use of dock space in Alamitos Bay Marina for visiting/participating vessels for Opening Day festivities on May 6, 2023; the Seal Beach to Dana Point Regatta on July 8, 2023 and during the 2023 Marina Del Rey "Outlaw" Regatta on September 2, 2023. (District 3) The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

- A motion was made by Commissioner Mac Rae, seconded by Vice Chair Murray, to approve recommendation to endorse submission to City Council to approve a fee waiver for the Navy Yacht Club - Long Beach, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000, for use of dock space in Alamitos Bay Marina for veteran honoring, racing and cruise celebrations, for the period of April 2023 through December 2023. (District 3) The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Mac Rae, seconded by Vice Chair Murray, to approve recommendation to endorse submission to City Council to execute a grant agreement, and any necessary documents, to accept and expend grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000, with the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterways, for the Davies Boat Launching Facility project, for the period of February 1, 2023, through February 1, 2026; and,

Increase appropriations in the Tidelands Operating Fund Group in the Public Works Department by \$6,000,000, offset by grant revenue. (District 3) The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

April 13, 2023

- A motion was made by Vice Chair Murray, seconded by Chair Kelly, to approve recommendation with corrections for submission to City Council the Marine Advisory Commission Annual Report for 2022. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Mac Rae, seconded by Commissioner Carlin to approve recommendation to endorse the submission to City Council to approve a fee waiver for the Long Beach Rowing Association (LBRA), in an amount not to exceed \$696.25, for use of Marine Stadium in Alamitos Bay Marina for five Row the Stadium events in July 2023 and August 2023. (District 3) The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Carlin, seconded by Vice Chair Murray, to approve recommendation to endorse the submission to City Council to approve a fee waiver for the Little Ships Fleet Yacht Club, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000, for use of dock space in Alamitos Bay Marina for racing and cruise celebrations for the period of April 29, 2023 through August 5, 2023. (District 3) The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

June 8, 2023

- A motion was made by Commissioner Mac Rae, seconded by Vice Chair Murray to approve recommendation on the replacement of a memorial bench in Basin 4 of Alamitos Bay Marina to honor Casey Richard Clark. (District 3) The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Chair Kelly, seconded by Vice Chair Murray to approve recommendation to endorse submission to City Council to approve a fee waiver in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00, for use of dock space in Alamitos Bay Marina for visiting/participating vessels during the 2023 Ullman Sails Long Beach Race Week, for period of June 22 - June 26, 2023. (District 3) The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

July 13, 2023

- A motion was made by Chair Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Mac Rae to approve recommendation to receive and file a presentation on City of Long Beach Local Coastal Development Plan and California Coastal Development Permit processes: Maryanne Cronin, Planner V, Development Services The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

August 10, 2023

- A motion was made by Commissioner Kajer, seconded by Commissioner Mac Rae, to approve recommendation to receive and file a presentation from Heather Van Wijk, Ethics Officer, Office of the City Manager, on the City's Ethics Program, including the training and helpline. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Carlin, seconded by Vice Chair Murray to approve recommendation to endorse submission to City Council to approve a fee waiver for the Seal Beach Yacht Club (SLBYC), in an amount not to exceed \$2,160.00, for use of 108 parking spaces in Alamitos Bay Marina for The Charity Regatta Swap Meet on September 16, 2023. (District 3) The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Carlin, seconded by Vice Chair Murray to approve recommendation to receive and file the Commission's Ad hoc committee letter regarding SB 1137 and its impact on Tidelands and related projects. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

September 14, 2023

- MA- Agenda Item was laid over.
Recommendation to receive and file a presentation by Alejandro Sanchez-Lopez, Advanced Planning Officer; Long Beach Development Services, to introduce and discuss the Downtown Shoreline Vision Plan.
- A motion was made by Vice Chair Murray, seconded by Chair Kelly to approve recommendation to support the proposed FY24 Slip Fee Increase in accordance with the City Council Action of May 5, 2015, related to the issuance of the Marina Revenue Bonds, Series 2015. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

October 12, 2023

- A motion was made by Commissioner Kajer, seconded by Commissioner Carlin to approve recommendation to receive and file a presentation by Long Beach Development Services, to introduce and discuss the Downtown Shoreline Vision Plan. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

November 9, 2023

- A motion was made by Commissioner Mac Rae, seconded by Vice Chair Murray, to approve recommendation to receive and file the Beach Maintenance , Queens Way Bay Employee Recognition presentation. The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Mac Rae, seconded by Vice Chair Murray, to approve recommendation to uphold June 8, 2023 Marine Advisory Commission approval of the replacement bench in Basin 4 of Alamitos Bay Marina to honor Casey Richard Clark. (District 3) The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.
- A motion was made by Vice Chair Murray, seconded by Commissioner Mac Rae, to approve recommendation of the placement of a new memorial bench in Overlook Park to honor Theresa, John, and Corinne Revill. (District 3) The motion carried by the following vote: Unanimous.

The Marine Advisory Commission did not conduct any public hearings in 2023.

MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION

ATTENDANCE RECORD – 2023

Commissioner	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Present	Absent
Avis Atkins					Meeting Canceled	X	X	A	X	X	X	X Training Closed session	6	1
Liz Carlin	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	X	A	X	X	X	10	1
Gordana Kajer						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	7	0
Colin Kelly	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	X	X	A	X	X	10	1
Elizabeth Lambe	X	X	X	A	0	A	X	A	X	A	X	X	7	4
Bruce Mac Rae	X	A	X	X	0	X	X	X	A	A	X	X	8	3
Theresa Marino	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	10	1
Jo Murray	X	X	X	X	0	X	A	X	X	A	X	X	9	2
Sabrina Zavala			X	A	0	X	A	X	X	X	A	X	6	3

Note:

X = Present

A = Absent

0 = A meeting was not held

The Marine Advisory Commission meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

CITY PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION:

Brent Dennis, Director, Parks, Recreation & Marine Department

Todd Leland, Bureau Manager, Marinas & Beaches

Cory Forrester, Superintendent, Beach Maintenance

Eric Woodson, Superintendent, Marine Maintenance

Moria Khou, Administrative Analyst, Marine Bureau

Portia Smith, Administrative Analyst, Marine Bureau

Tamalyn Sayre, Secretary, Marine Bureau

Keisha Sanker, Clerk Typist, Beach Maintenance

Marie Mendez, Clerk Typist, Marine Maintenance

Stacey Freeman, Clerk Typist, Beach Maintenance

Lori Craig, PRM, Business Operations, Analyst

Anita Lakhani, Deputy City Attorney, COLB

James Smigla, Sergeant, LBPD/Marine Patrol Unit

Michael Jbeili, Special Services Officer, Marine Patrol

Gonzalo Medina, Marine Safety Chief, LBFD/Marine Safety Division

Cameron Abel, Safety Captain, LBFD/Marine Safety Division

Maryann Cronin, Planner, LB Community Development Services

Charlene Angsuco, Project Management Officer, Public Works

Colin Averill, Civil Engineer, Public Works

Amelia Bodek, Capital Projects Coordinator, Public Works

MARINE BUREAU – STRATEGIC PLAN

(Adopted in 1999)

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the City's Marinas to enhance the quality of life of users of the City's beach and marine environment through continuous, cost efficient and effective delivery of needed services as characterized by safe, clean, well-maintained, attractive, and secure beach and marine facilities.

Goals and Objectives

Goal #1 – To ensure both short- and long-term financial stability of the City's Marinas through the use of competitive fees and charges supplemented by other needed revenues to support operating expenditures and capital.

Objective 1 – Identify the three Marina facilities: Shoreline, Alamitos Bay and Rainbow Marina, as three separate cost and revenue centers within the overall framework of the City's Marina Enterprise Fund.

Objective 2 – Identify the City's beaches and other marine environment as independent cost and revenue centers within the City's Beaches and Waterways Fund.

Objective 3 – Maintain a minimum occupancy rate of (October 1, 1998) 85% for available slips at the Downtown Marina and 93% at Alamitos Bay.

Objective 4 – Identify and allocate support services costs, including administration, police, fire, and maintenance to the Bureau's four cost centers.

Objective 5 – Establish user fees and charges at the three facilities that cover the costs reasonably born by the City and Bureau in providing desired services while maintaining competitive position in private marketplace.

Goal #2 – To ensure desired amenities are made available to the Marina's users.

Objective 6 – Develop a Master Plan for the Shoreline and Alamitos Bay facilities that will guide current and future infrastructure renewal and expansion for 1999-2020.

Objective 7 – Secure needed funding for implementing adopted Master Plans at both Shoreline and Alamitos Bay facilities.

Goal #3 – To provide outstanding (quality) services to Marina users.

Objective 8 – Conduct customer services training for Marine Bureau staff.

Goal #4 – To provide for the safety and well being of users at the City's Marina facilities.

Objective 9 – Establish a Trust Fund to support needed capital improvements to eliminate current and future deferred maintenance of an annual appropriation of 10% of gross income.

Objective 10 – Maintain minimum staffing levels for police and fire services to ensure timely response to calls for service at Marina facilities.

COMMISSION COMMITTEES

Marine and Beach Maintenance / Operations Sub-Committee

The Committee met in February, August, and November prior to the Marine Advisory Commission (MAC) meetings. The Committee reviewed the MAC agenda items and discussed maintenance and operational issues impacting the marinas and beaches.

The Committee discussed the following topics:

- Peninsula berm updates
- King Tides updates
- Christmas trees in the bay
- Solar panel Christmas tree
- Metal doors installation in downtown marina bathrooms
- Slip occupancy rates.
- Upcoming Special events
- Fire suppression review
- Beach raking update
- Homeless encampments
- Boat auction – Review
- Tree Trimming and wildlife nesting patterns.

Tidelands Capital Projects Sub-Committee

The Tidelands Capital Projects Committee met in March, June, and September, and followed the progress on a variety of projects as reported in Committee meetings with City staff. During each meeting, Committee members made suggestions and recommendations related to several projects.

Specific projects reviewed by the Committee during the year included the following:

- Beach Concessionaires
- Colorado Lagoon Open Channel Phase 2A
- Junior Lifeguard facility
- Davies Launch Ramp
- Belmont Pier Vision
- Belmont Beach Aquatic Center (Belmont Pool)
- Junipero Beach Sports Courts and Roller Skate Area
- Alamos Bay Water Quality Enhancement / Pumps Project
- Bayshore Concession Access Lift
- Pride Tower Placemaking Node
- Naples Comprehensive Seawalls Assessment Update
- Rainbow Lagoon Curb/ Coping Assessment and Repair
- Convention Center Promenade and Bridge to Rainbow Harbor
- Peninsula Beach Boardwalk Repairs
- Marina Green Parking Lot Rehabilitation
- Entrance Channel Dredge Permitting and Sediment Characterization

Finance Sub-Committee

The MAC Finance Subcommittee met quarterly in 2023 with the Acting Marine Bureau Manager, the newly hired Bureau Financial Administrative Analyst and other staff from the Marine Bureau to learn of the ongoing annual Revenue, Expenses, Debt Service Percentages and Debt Service Expenses for Fiscal Year 2023.

The primary revenue generators for the Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Department Marine Bureau are the three Marinas: Alamitos Bay, Shoreline and Rainbow, along with the non-marina Tidelands areas, leases and programs.

With the Covid threat again lessened to the public compared to previous years 2020 and 2021, fiscal years 2022 and 2023 experienced a slight drop in the usage of the waterways, bays, public launch ramps and Tidelands areas as many other forms of recreation were available on land. But there was still a significant popular usage and revenue realized. FY 2023 was a banner year for the marinas with 94.5% occupancy. Slip revenues from the marinas comprised 85% of the total Marina Fund. The marinas generated \$30,140,926 in gross revenue for 2023 which was \$2 million more than the \$28 million from 2022. While total expenses for the marinas in 2023 were \$18,819,147, \$1.8 million more than 2022's total expenses at \$16,948,956, net revenues for the marinas were \$11,321,779. The Debt Service Payment for the Alamitos Bay Bonds for 2023 was \$7,342,963. The Net Revenue after Debt Service for 2023 was \$3,978,816 which will be reinvested as capital improvements to the marinas such as boat owners' restrooms, guest dock repairs, facilities repairs and other improvements.

The City of Long Beach requires that the Marina Fund be maintained in sound fiscal condition with a minimum debt service coverage ratio of 1.25. In order to meet this obligation, the City Council has authorized an annual slip rental increase of 2% for the duration of the bond debt. The MAC was notified by the Marine Bureau Manager that for FY 2023 the slip fees would have a 3% increase instead of the 2%. Fitch Rating Inc. reaffirmed the "BBB" rating for the bonds thereby maintaining the current bond rates.

All divisions of the Marine Bureau kept costs down especially with respect for overtime being used only when necessary. Overall, in 2023 the Long Beach Marina Fund was well managed with a Net Revenue after Debt Service Payment of \$3,978,816 which will be reinvested into the marinas as necessary improvements to facilities and docks.

MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Marine Advisory Commission (MAC) met in January - April, and June – December. The April meeting was held at the Seal Beach Yacht Club. The MAC meetings are frequently attended by area residents with an interest in issues that impact the beaches, the marinas, and the housing communities surrounding these areas and depend on this forum to have their voices/opinions heard.

The MAC has provided an opportunity for residents and other stakeholders to voice their positions on agenda items on which the Commission is making recommendations to the City and Marine Bureau. For marina slip permittees, the MAC provides an appeal mechanism for decisions of the Marine Bureau against the permittee.

It is recommended to continue the Marine Advisory Commission.

A total of \$287.53 was spent for lunch in support of a Marine Advisory Commission training meeting held on December 14, 2023.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHAIR

The Marine Advisory Commission (MAC) convenes nine dedicated Long Beach residents on a monthly basis to provide counsel to the City Council and Marine Bureau Staff regarding City policies concerning marinas, beaches, waterways, and near shore areas. The MAC meets for in-person public meetings at the Long Beach Yacht Club every second Thursday of the month at 2:30 pm. We extend an open invitation to members of the public to join our meetings and engage with Marine Bureau Staff presentations and updates from Long Beach law enforcement regarding issues pertinent to our beaches and waterways. The MAC is committed to serving the residents and users of Long Beach's marinas and coastal areas by staying attuned to their actual needs.

Throughout 2023, the MAC welcomed its newest batch of energetic commissioners, including Commissioners Avis Atkins McPhail, Gordana Kajer, and Sabrina Zavala all of whom contributed significantly to the MAC's mission with their insightful contributions and dedication. Furthermore, the Marine Bureau welcomed Todd Leland as its new Manager. Mr. Leland has extensive experience at the Marine Bureau and before the MAC. All MAC Commissioners appreciate Mr. Leland's commitment to the Marine Bureau, MAC, and people of Long Beach.

In fulfilling its mandate, the MAC diligently monitored the financial aspects of various City budgets that form the core of the Marine Bureau's operational funding, ensuring responsible expenditure and maintenance of funds. We are pleased with the Marine Bureau's financial standing and foresee a positive outlook for the coming years. Long Beach boasts the nation's largest municipally owned marina, and the Marine Bureau, alongside other City staff, prioritizes professional operation with a focus on infrastructure upgrades, maintenance, access enhancements, and quality customer service. Notable investments along the beachfront include renovated buildings and improved vendor services and dining options, repaved coastal parking lots and the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, and restoration of a portion of coastal bluff near the Belmont Pier. Each project resulted in improved conditions along Long Beach's coastline.

In 2023, the MAC focused on strengthening Long Beach's locally famous "Trees-in-the-Bay" program. For decades, Long Beach's Marine Bureau staff have constructed, maintained, and floated 8ft x 8ft platforms with 16ft wooden frames covered with holiday lights. These festive floating Christmas trees are found seasonally in Alamitos Bay, El Dorado Park, Rainbow Lagoon, Naples Canal and elsewhere. In previous decades, this program was largely supported by private donations. In 2023, at the suggestion of the MAC, the Marine Bureau began tracking the time spent supporting "Trees-in-the-Bay." That information will be used by the MAC to propose a sponsorship program allowing supporters (e.g., residents, fans, and businesses) to sponsor individual trees for the season. Working with Partners & Parks and the Marine Bureau, the MAC seeks to identify a program that would secure the financial health of the program, while allowing the public a greater opportunity to better connect with this iconic seasonal event. The additional funding would allow for environmental upgrades, including converting the trees to longer-lasting and more efficient LED lights which will reduce expenses related to installation, breakdown, and copper-theft over time.

As the departing MAC Chair, I continue to be impressed by the professionalism exhibited by my fellow Commissioners and the Marine Bureau staff. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on the MAC and reflect on my tenure with satisfaction and gratitude.

Sincerely,

Colin Kelly MAC Chair

MARINE FACILITIES

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine oversees the operation and maintenance of all Long Beach waterfront public recreational facilities, including:

- ◆ 6.5 miles of beaches, parks and open spaces
- ◆ Three marinas, with a combined 3,368 boat slips -- The largest municipal operated marina system in the nation (Alamitos Bay Marina, Shoreline Marina, and Rainbow Marina).
- ◆ Rainbow Harbor, with a combined 2,100 feet of commercial dock space
- ◆ Marine Stadium (rowing, water-skiing and special event facility north of Alamitos Bay)
- ◆ Rainbow Lagoon (non-swimming recreation lagoon adjacent to the Hyatt Hotel in Downtown)
- ◆ Colorado Lagoon (swimming recreational lagoon north of Marine Stadium)
- ◆ Leeway Sailing Center
- ◆ Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier
- ◆ Belmont Pool