



Date: March 18, 2014
To: Marine Advisory Commission
From: Elvira Hallinan, Acting Manager of Marinas and Beaches
Subject: MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2014
MARINE ADVISORY COMMISSION (MAC)

Commissioners Present

Rick DuRee, Chair
Darlene Gidley, Vice Chair
Eric Peterson
Mike Schachter
Peter Hogenson
Scott Schaidle
Ted Kuhn
David Thorn Burg
Randy Crawford

Commissioners Absent

Marine Bureau Personnel

Elvira Hallinan, Acting Manager, Marine Bureau
Vivian Crook, Secretary

City Staff

Randy Foster, Chief, Marine Safety/Lifeguards/LBFD
Michael Lewis, LBPD Sgt., Marine Patrol Detail
David Prentice, Sgt., marine Patrol Detail
Ramon Arevalo, Manager, Maint.Ops.Bureau
John Amick, Super., Marine Maintenance
Don Easterby, Ingterim.Supt.,Beach Maint.
Julie Maleki, 3rd Dist. Council

Guests

Bob Vatz, LBMBOA (Boatowner's Asso.)
Shane Scott

Chairman DuRee convened the meeting at 2:30 p.m., at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

ROLL CALL

Elvira Hallinan called the roll of commissioners.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The February 13, 2014, MAC minutes were reviewed and approved with clarification on page five under Facilities Committee to read, the Leeway Project "plans have been approved."

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Bob Vatz, LBMBOA, thanked the MAC for their support of the ABM Rebuild completion at the City Council meeting last week.
- Bob Vatz mentioned that at last month's MAC meeting Alfredo Fernandez, LBMBOA, spoke about the power plant shutting down its pumps and how this will affect the water quality of Alamitos Bay. Mr. Vatz quoted from an article regarding the Cerritos Wetlands where Applied Energy Services (AES) talks about possible plans to continue to operate their pumps after they are no longer needed for cooling. The article stated; "While clean water in ABM is a worthy goal it should not be at the expense of local marine life." Mr. Vatz said that it appears the pumps are going to shut down and Alamitos Bay will no longer have the advantage of circulation.
- Bob Vatz talked about the Panthers at Sea and their volunteer project. Panthers at Sea is a volunteer group of skippers who take students from Jordan High School out sailing for the day. Last year they took out 120 kids. He explained that this outing is an opportunity to educate kids, some of whom have never seen the ocean. He requested fees be waived for approximately 15 participating vessels.

Elvira Hallinan explained that approximately a year and a half ago a directive was sent from the City Manager's office informing departments that fees for service would no longer be waived, and that it would be up to the City Council to decide weather or not to waive fees for this event. Chairman DuRee added that it is not up to the MAC to waive the fees, but that if he wanted to file a letter with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine and request the fee be waved, he could do so. Chairman DuRee commented that a problem occurs when fees are waived for City expenses of any kind, weather it is for profit or not for profit. He explained that when fees are waived for a particular organization, others want the same consideration. It becomes a snowball that has a trickle down effect of other people/organizations wanting their fees waived.

It was moved by Commissioner Hogenson and seconded by Commissioner Thornburg that the MAC support the request by the Panthers at Sea to have the City Council waive guest end-tie fees for their event. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

- Elvira Hallinan reviewed the ABM Rebuild. She said regarding Basin 5 that the basin could possibly be opened up to the boatowners as soon as the ABYC finishes attaching their (launch) ramp. She said most of the permits have been signed off, but that she is waiting for the certificate of occupancy.

Elvira spoke about last month's City Council agenda item from Councilman De Long and Councilwoman Suja Lowenthal regarding needed funding for the continuation of the ABM Rebuild. The Department was given 30 days to return to Council with a proposal. Elvira has been working with the Director on various options for funding and have provided five different options to the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager for review.

Elvira explained why Bellingham Marine Industries' (BMI) bid of \$80 million in 2008, will now cost \$106 million. One reason is that at least \$11 million is escalation of costs between 2008 - 2013 for concrete and supplies, 11% - 16% depending on the commodity. Another reason the project will cost a lot more was due to items that came from the Coastal Commission, i.e.; the eel grass mitigation site (over \$1.8 million), the in-slip pumpouts (customers love them, however they are very pricey), requirements from the different City departments and the codes that changed between 2008 and 2013. She said the Department is still moving forward with the rebuild, and clarified that there are no cost overruns. Elvira stated that the Bureau has not gone over budget, and that there have been savings in Basin 1.

Chairman DuRee commented on a statement made by Councilman O'Donnell, regarding funding mechanisms and monies that were transferred from one fund to another, some 20 years ago, and the possibility of having that money repaid. He asked if the Department was looking into this.

Elvira said that the Financial Management Director has asked his staff to look into this and come back to him with a list of transfers. She explained that the Marina Fund is part of the overall Tidelands Fund, and transfers are allowed. She said that she and the Director are hopeful that they will find it and the funds will be transferred back.

Question from the audience: What will the penalties be, if any, if contractor leaves, and how does this tie into the timeline of the marina rebuild.

Elvira explained that April 1st is when BMI is scheduled to leave, and that as of April 1st they will be placed on "standby" and will be available to the Department with limited staff. BMI finished work on Basin 5 a month ahead of schedule and took this opportunity to clean up the yard and move their staff to other jobs as opposed to laying them off, only one or two of them are full-time staff the rest are hourly. She said that as soon as she gets an authorization to continue the project from the City Council, they will be back.

- Elvira Hallinan said that Commissioner Hogenson had asked her how much revenue is being lost due to slip vacancies. While the Bureau is budgeted to make \$20 million a year, she projected year to end to be \$800,000 short due to vacancies that can be attributed to the rebuild. She said that, as of the end of February, the slip fee revenue is \$8.7 million. She added that at 41% of the year we have collected 44% of our revenue.
- Elvira Hallinan reported that she had spoken briefly to Hurley Owens, Superintendent of Marine Maintenance, regarding changing out boatowner restrooms locks and keys in Basin 2 and 3. They are still reviewing options.

- Ramon Arevalo, Manager of the Maintenance Operations Bureau, reported that Hurley Owens is working with Civil Service on filling positions. Maintenance has been approved to hire a General Maintenance Supervisor and a General Maintenance Assistance. He said that by July, Maintenance should have all positions filled that have been vacant for some time.
- Elvira Hallinan reported on the ABM Fuel Dock. Anchor QEA is working with Fleet Services (Public Works) and have submitted the Coastal Commission application. She has not received an update.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report

BUREAU MANAGER'S REPORT

Marina Operations Report

- Elvira Hallinan gave the report on the slip status for the month of February
- Vice Chair Gidley wanted to know if new permittees were asked how they decided to come to Long Beach. She felt this would give a feel of the effectiveness of various approaches to filling slips.

Commissioner Peterson asked about results from the advertising campaign. Elvira Hallinan said that one 60-foot vessel came in because of the ad that was placed in the Log.

Maintenance Operations Report

John Amick, Supervisor, Marine Maintenance, gave the Marine Maintenance status report for the month of February.

- Don Easterby, Acting Supervisor, Beach Maintenance, reported that during the last storm event there was a lot of erosion on the beach, which affected the Peninsula berm and put a lot of homes on the waterfront in danger. A complete rebuild of the berm was done that Saturday and that evening at high tide there was a large surf event, also at the same time there was a south swell. This resulted in a breach at 72nd Place, which flooded the parking lot, turned left, went up to Ocean Boulevard and flooded some of the residents. He said that, in the future, when an event is projected there will not be people on standby, there will be people staffed to eliminate any time lapses between their arrival and the projected event. This will help prevent a 30-minute overlap in time.

Commissioner Schaidle said that it breached just past the rocks and wondered if more rock could be placed in that area. He commented that it rarely ever floods at 72nd Place. Don Easterby replied that this might require Coastal Commission approval.

Chief Foster reported that the surf went up in an extraordinary short window of time. He said that what happened was a freak of nature and he was very surprised that it came up at 72nd Place. He said that this incident didn't have anything to do with the rain. He commented on the hard work the Beach Maintenance crew does on the beach and mentioned they get many complaints from the residents that the berm too high and blocks their view of the ocean.

LBFD/Marine Safety Report

Randy Foster, Chief, Marine Safety/Lifeguards, gave the Marine Safety status report for the month of February.

- Chief Foster reported on the storm and said that they were prepared, however the storm event did not develop as predicted for Long Beach.
- Chief Foster again recognized the tremendous work that the beach crews do in building berms and protecting the residents in that area.
- Annual Lifeguard tryouts are being held this Saturday morning at 9 am. Approximately 100 to 200 kids will participate in a 1,000 yard swim, run-swim-run, and interview to secure one of 30 positions that will be available this summer.
- Commissioner Gidley said that she heard a local fire department would be conducting an opportunity for boaters to shoot off their old flares. She asked if this would be something that LBLGs would entertain. Chief Foster said that he did not think that LBLGs would participate in this type of program. He said that the flares need to be disposed of at a hazardous disposal site and that the instructions for use are self-explanatory. He stated that this type of event should come through the Coast Guard.

LBPD/Marine Patrol Report

David Prentice, Sergeant, Marine Patrol Detail/LBPD, gave the Marine Patrol status report for January.

- Sgt Prentice said that the Marine Patrol Division is still involved in the selection process and background check for hiring of new marine patrol officers.
- Marine Patrol is still working with Maintenance on new signage for the 72nd Place beach lot, Granada, Marine Stadium, and Basin 4.

- Sgt. Prentice reported that two days ago there was a break-in on the vessel Enterprise docked at Alamitos Bay Landing. Patrols have been increased in that area.
- Marine Patrol is still working with Coastal Boarder Patrol/Homeland Security on problems with Panga boat activity, human trafficking, and drug smuggling.
- LBPB has received complaints about transients at 8th Place and is looking at ways to handle transient problems. Sgt. Prentice said that the LBPB is looking for ways to rectify the homeless encampments. The LBPB Chief will be signing off on new operating procedures, which will not include Marine Patrol duties or their 4-wheel drive vehicles. The last warm Saturday night there were a lot of transients, a lot of drinking and smoking marijuana. LBPB will have to come up with a plan for enforcement and routine patrol at GG-Dock in LBSM.
- Sgt Prentice reported that LBPB cameras are still being installed throughout the LBSM are and RBH area.

Executive MAC

All items covered.

Operations Committee

No meeting held.

Facilities Committee

No meeting held.

Finance Committee

No meeting – postponed – waiting for information

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m. The next meeting is set for May 9, 2014, at 2:30 p.m. at the Long Beach Yacht Club.

cc: George Chapjian, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
City Clerk