

**PIERS, HARBORS & LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011 – 5:00PM
City Hall, Conference Room 2A**

Chairman Marsala called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Kehoe, Krause, Mott, Hartz and Marsala.

Approval of Minutes from September 30, 2010 Committee Meeting

Hartz/Kehoe motion to approve Minutes from October 28, 2010 Committee Meeting.
Unanimously carried.

Comments from the Public

Don Kolseth, 1737 Miller Road explained his problems last year with someone taking his chained kayak spot. He would like a guaranteed rack this year. Chairman Marsala said they probably will be assigning numbers this year. He also commented on dinghies being too close to the kayak racks and brush growing up too close to the racks; he questioned why they had to pay for the rack in addition to a launch fee. Discussion followed on finding a way to enforce kayak launching fees and make equitable kayak rack assignments. Alderman Kehoe asked where a dump station is on the lake. Chairman Marsala said we don't have one and dumping in the lake is a serious DNR issue.

Updates from Harbormaster

Harbormaster Gray was not able to attend the meeting; Chairman Marsala reported that the Riviera remodeling is in progress. The ceiling is done, the insulation is up, the toilets are in, and they are making good progress.

Discussion/Recommendation on policy to clarify Dinghy Pad use

Chairman Marsala explained there was a problem that developed last year when kayakers would leave their scooters on the pads while they had their kayaks off. There were enough of them that it came to the attention of someone. Another issue was someone putting his kayak on the ground and whether we are going to allow that. The question is whether we want to add other restrictions on our policy other than the 10' length restriction. Alderman Hartz felt the dinghy pads should be used just for dinghies, unless they are using kayaks to get to their boats. Chairman Marsala explained we had more dinghy pads last year than we had need for; Aldermen Krause and Hartz felt we should restrict dinghy pad use to those renting buoys, even if we have a few empty ones we don't rent out, and keep the 10' rule. Hartz/Krause motion to restrict the use of a dinghy pad to people renting buoys. Unanimously carried. Alderman Krause expressed concern over the safety factor of scooters parked on the dinghy pads; they can tip over if someone else is trying to get his kayak off the rack or if children play around them. He does not want to discourage people from riding scooters down; however, we may need to have a special area where they can park scooters. Alderman Mott said these issues all seem to relate to enforcement issues. Chairman Marsala suggested we not allow scooters on the pads, but wait to see if the scooters become a problem in other areas. Hartz/Krause motion to restrict dinghy pad use to dinghies only. Unanimously carried.

Discussion/Recommendation on Kayak Rack selection policy

Chairman Marsala said he and the harbormaster had discussed how to approach this. They suggested numbering the racks, take the twelve numbers and pull the names out of a hat for this first time around. If there are any issues, we can work them out after that. Krause/Kehoe motion to number the racks and issue them on a first-come first-served basis. (No vote taken.)

Discussion/Recommendation on Waiting List and Fees

Chairman Marsala explained this came up at budget time. Right now, we charge a five dollar fee to be put on the waiting list. He wondered if this committee would like to raise the amount. Kehoe made a motion to change it \$10. No second. Chairman Marsala said Williams Bay charges \$50 which is applied toward the slip rental when they obtain a slip. Alderman Krause suggested that whatever amount we set, we make it non-refundable as it is now. The advantage to charging a higher amount is that it would insure that people are really serious about wanting a mooring. Kehoe/Krause motion to raise the waiting list fee to \$50 which will be applied to their first rental. Alderman Krause clarified that this would be non-refundable if they decline a mooring when it is offered to them. Those currently on the list are grand-fathered. Unanimously carried.

Discussion/Recommendation on request to waive fees for the use of Riviera by the League of Municipalities.

Chairman Marsala said the Mayor received a request for this. It would showcase our city by having it there. It would be during the week and they would pay the minimum fee for clean-up. Krause/Kehoe motion to waive the regular fees for the use of the Riviera by the League of Municipalities on a week day, date to yet be determined. Unanimously carried.

Discussion/Recommendation on dogs swimming at the West End Pier

Alderman Kehoe said she talked with one of her constituents who regularly takes his dog down there and asked how he felt about whether his dog would enjoy swimming there. Usually they swim on the west side of the pier. He agrees with her that dogs must be tagged. She asked him about the cleanliness of the area and he said they could clean some of the weeds out of there. One thing he was not happy with is dogs climbing all over the rocks to get into the water or dogs running and swimming in the beach water as soon as the beach closes. There are diseases that can be transmitted to humans by dogs. Chairman Marsala said he had someone with a buoy complain about it because he was afraid he would accidentally hit a dog. Alderman Krause said he is often down there early in the morning and that is usually when the bulk of the dogs are there. He is surprised we haven't had complaints because they make a lot of noise with barking and even dog fights. He also feels we have to restrict the activity of the dogs using the pier like a runway to run down the pier and jump into the water. Chairman Marsala said dogs swimming off the pier is the issue that was brought to him. Alderman Kehoe said her personal observation was that people bring their dogs to the park and slip off their dogs' leashes to exercise the dogs in the water. Frequently in the evening, they are swimming off the beach. Alderman Marsala said once again this comes down to enforcement; we have an ordinance that says dogs are not allowed on the beach, but how far do you want to go to enforce it. Discussion followed on how best to enforce rules at the waterfront, the shortage of manpower to enforce everything and more frequent testing of the water. Krause/Hartz motion to restrict dogs from the west end pier with the exception of those boarding boats with their owners. Unanimously carried.

Discussion/Recommendation on Chapter 4 (Lakefront) of the City Policy Manual.

Chairman Marsala opened the floor to discussion on Chapter 4 of the City's Policy Manual, as referred from the Ad Hoc Committee on Policy and Procedure. The Committee discussed several minor technical modifications that needed to be made to the policy to make language consistent from section to section, to standardize terms, and to update references to any fees as needed.

Alderman Kehoe left at 6:04pm.

There was considerable discussion on Section 4.3 regarding the collection of coins from the Riviera fountain. As drafted, the policy specified that the City Treasurer and Harbormaster would be responsible for removing the coins from the fountain. It was recommended that the policy be amended to state that the City Treasurer and/or Harbormaster would supervise the collection of coins from the fountain. Alderman Hartz noted that the logic behind having the Treasurer take possession of the coins was that the Treasurer was bonded, whereas the Harbormaster or other personnel would not be. He suggested that the policy should stipulate that the Treasurer must be present for the collection. He further noted that the policy should include a statement that the Treasurer would be responsible for depositing any coins collected after they are delivered to City Hall.

Hartz/Krause motion to continue discussion on the remainder of Chapter 4 to the next Committee meeting. Unanimously carried.

Items for next agenda.

Alderman Krause stated that he would like to open a dialogue on the enforcement of lakefront ordinances at the next meeting. He added that the Committee should also review signage in the lakefront area to ensure consistency.

Chairman Marsala announced that the Harbormaster had received notice that the Riviera Ballroom had been selected as a 2011 recipient of the Bride's Choice Award. The award recognizes the top five percent of local wedding professionals who demonstrate quality and service excellence in the wedding industry.

Krause/Hartz motion to adjourn at 6:25pm. Unanimously carried.

Minutes transcribed from audiotape.
/s/ Artis M. Roenspies, Deputy City Clerk

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THE PIERS, HARBORS & LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE**