

PIERS, HARBORS & LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2013 AT 6:00 P.M.

CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Lyon, Taggart, Kehoe and Wall. Absent (excused): Alderman Mott. Others in attendance: Mayor Connors, Alderman Hougen, Administrator Jordan, Harbormaster Gray and City Clerk Hawes.

Approval of Minutes from January 24, 2013 meeting as distributed

Wall/Kehoe motion to approve. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes

Gary Hougen, 1311 W. Main St., Lake Geneva, spoke as First District Alderman to express support for installing paddle-board storage racks near the west end pier. Mr. Hougen said he was contacted by various residents requesting this amenity. He suggested the racks could be arranged vertically or horizontally and the City could charge a similar fee as the kayak racks.

Constance Kosowski, 1023 Lake Geneva Blvd. Lake Geneva, asked for the Committee's support for installing paddle-boarding racks at the lakefront. She suggested it would help encourage another recreational opportunity at the lake.

Chairman Wall asked that Item #8 be considered next.

Updates on dredging of lagoon

Administrator Jordan said due to the spawning season the DNR has limited the timeframe for the City to complete the lagoon dredging from May 16 to May 30. However, the Geneva Lake Level Corporation indicated they would not lower the lake to the spillway level to help facilitate the dredging during that period. Mr. Jordan said there are two options. The City can proceed with having the Center St. end of the lagoon dredged right now and do the rest of the lagoon in the Fall. The other option would be to dredge all of it in the Fall. There would be an additional cost of \$3,500.00 for doing part of the lagoon now and the rest in the Fall.

Chairman Wall suggested saving the \$3,500.00 and dredging the entire lagoon in the Fall. Administrator Jordan said he will proceed with that option and he will update the lagoon slip users. Harbormaster Gray noted lagoon slip holders will need to have their boats out by October 15.

Chairman Wall asked that item #6 be considered next.

Discussion/Recommendation on beach collections policy

Administrator Jordan said he recently met with the beach managers and they have committed to making the new beach collections procedures work with the pay stations. He said the new process will address the auditors' concerns about cash handling at the beach. Mr. Jordan said he will help hire beach attendants to assist customers at the pay stations.

Chairperson Wall said staff needed direction on whether to continue renting rafts and cabanas at the beach. Harbormaster Gray said these rentals account for a small percentage of the overall beach revenue. Alderman Kehoe expressed support for ending the rental items at the beach, stating the cabanas take up space and beach users could always bring their own.

Kehoe/Lyon motion to discontinue raft and cabana rentals at the beach. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Gray reported there are currently five open lagoon slips, 16 buoys and five kayak racks available for the upcoming season. He said all other slips are leased out. Mr. Gray also reported that every Friday and Saturday is booked at the Riviera from now until November. He added that every Saturday from April 26 to October 18 in 2014 is reserved.

Discussion/Recommendation on stand-up paddle boarding racks

Alderman Taggart expressed concern that property owners near the lakefront are generally opposed to adding anything that would obstruct the view of the lake. After discussion, there was a consensus among the Committee that more information was needed to consider the request. Harbormaster Gray suggested that the current kayak racks be used to serve both kayaks and paddle boards.

Taggart/Kehoe motion to continue the item to the next meeting on May 23, 2013. Alderman Taggart asked that the proponents of the paddle boarding racks bring forth a more detailed plan and sketch of how the racks might be laid out at the lakefront. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Discussion of agenda items for next meeting

Chairman Wall said the stand-up paddle boarding rack request will be revisited at the next meeting. Mayor Connors suggested the Committee discuss an ordinance change to allow buoys and slips to be offered to more non-residents if residents who are on the waiting list decline an available buoy or slip. Alderman Kehoe said she would like to discuss potential safety issues near the west end pier. Alderman Taggart said he would like the Committee to discuss the problem of nails sticking up on the Gage pier deck board that cause a tripping hazard.

Adjournment

Kehoe/Lyon motion to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. Unanimously carried.

/s/ Michael Hawes, City Clerk

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BY THE PIERS, HARBORS AND LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE**