

# **PIERS, HARBORS & LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE**

## **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M.**

### **CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A**

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

**Roll Call.** Present: Aldermen Skates, Hedlund, Howell, and Kordus. Absent: Alderman Chappell. Also Present: Mayor Kupsik, City Administrator Oborn, Harbormaster Gray.

**Kordus/Hedlund motion to approve Minutes from July 28, 2016 as prepared and distributed.** Motion carried unanimously.

**Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes.** None.

#### **Harbormaster's Report**

Harbormaster Gray noted the boat launch is still in and will be for a couple of weeks. It will not be staffed but the honor box will be there. Gage Marine will pull it a few weeks from now. The Riviera bookings are still way off. Last year at this time for 2016, we had 58 bookings. Currently there are 33 for next year. Mr. Kordus asked if it is the pricing or the advertising that is causing this. Mr. Gray said he feels it is a combination of a lot of things. He thinks it is the rate with the 33% increase and the advertising may have hurt a little bit. The fact that the building was all torn up most of the summer hurt as well. There are also issues with the facility itself. Mr. Kordus asked what the rate has been raised from. Mr. Gray stated it went from \$2,000 to \$3,000 and for residents \$1,500 to \$2,500. Mr. Howell asked how much money it would take to fix the blemishes. Mr. Oborn interjected it is a matter of getting the staff to do it, so he will be working on that. The committee then discussed a number of items that need to be repaired on the building.

#### **Consideration/Discussion/Recommendation on Boat Launch Issues with DNR representative**

Alderman Skates noted the traffic coming down Wrigley Drive gets stopped back to the bridge while someone is trying to launch. Jim Ritchie with the Wisconsin DNR questioned if there is an Attendant on duty at the launch. Mr. Gray noted there is one but not at all times. It is staffed weekends when the fishing season opens through Memorial Day, and it is staffed daily from Memorial Day through Labor Day weather permitting. Mr. Oborn added to charge the highest fee we have to have an Attendant. Whenever it is raised, we raise our fee as well. We round it down to the even dollar. It is currently at the maximum rate. The boat launch generates \$10,000 to \$15,000 after the attendants are paid. It is really not a money maker. It accommodates people who use our slips and buoys but it is not accommodating to people going out on the lake. Mr. Gray thinks the lot filled up twice this season and it was only for about 20 minutes. Mr. Ritchie said the City owns it so they can't say no, but there are state rules about access that say they have to be open during normal operating hours consistent with the City's other parks. Mr. Oborn said the normal park operating hours are sunrise to sunset. Mr. Ritchie said there is a footnote as well that says if the boat launch is during those hours you have to allow them to come off the lake even if it is later than that. Generally the response is it is a public access facility and should be kept open.

Mr. Oborn went over State Administrative Code NR1.91 which establishes public access for public lakes and waterways in Wisconsin. It is based on the size of the lake. You can't regulate the number of boats on the lake. The standard is aimed at the number of trailer parking stalls at public launches. Collectively, when that standard is applied there needs to be at least 100 trailer parking stalls. The importance of that is then the DNR can come in and provide natural resource enhancement services. Mr. Ritchie also pointed out it is unusual that a public launch as busy as this one that there hasn't been any grant funds. Alderman Howell questioned what the DNR can do to help relieve the traffic problem. Mr. Ritchie said anything would be minimal unless the streets are rerouted or the launch is moved. Mr. Kordus stated it doesn't buy us anything to close for certain hours since people would still have to egress. Mr. Skates added if the City closed from 10:00-2:00, a gap would be helpful. Mr. Gray said the peak is around 11:00 and staying busy until 2:00 and then people start to come off. He doesn't see any advantage to closing, it will just upset people. He feels we should launch people until the lot is full, and chain it off when the lot is full

until someone goes out. Mr. Ritchie asked if car trailer parking is restricted in the launch vicinity. The City has authority to regulate parking. He has seen many communities restrict parking to specific lots. Mr. Gray said he doesn't think that is an issue. Mr. Kordus said if we don't allow the trailers to wait they will just drive around in circles. Mr. Skates suggested a paging system like what is done at restaurants. Mr. Hedlund stated he doesn't think the parking is the issue. Mr. Howell asked if there is a way to route non-boat traffic elsewhere. Mr. Oborn said you'd have to close Wrigley Drive. Mayor Kupsik asked if the City has any authority to shut the boat launch down in a safety issue. Mr. Ritchie answered municipalities can pass ordinances to restrict vehicle traffic on a lake on the ice. The only issue is that all municipalities on the lake have to adopt the same ordinance. There was discussion on moving the launch to the state park.

#### **Update/Discussion/Recommendation on Riviera grounds brick maintenance**

Mr. Oborn stated the bricks were not put in very well. They are looking at one bid because this is the person who can do it right. The bid includes pulling out all of the bricks and putting them back correctly. The bid does not include drainage in that area. Director of Public Works Earle is working on estimates for drainage. Mr. Kordus asked if anything can be done without the drainage number. Mr. Oborn said this would come out of the Lakefront Fund. Mr. Hedlund suggested taking them out and replacing with concrete. Mayor Kupsik stated the money should be used addressing safety issues at the Riviera such as the stairs or railings. Mr. Skates said he would like to see pricing on drainage.

Kordus/Howell motion to continue this item to the next meeting. Unanimously carried.

#### **Update/Discussion/Recommendation on Elmer's winter aerating for ice damage prevention**

Kordus/Skates motion to put the two aerators in at \$600 each for a total of \$1,200 and the electrical costs.

Unanimously carried.

#### **Update/Discussion/Recommendation on Riviera Ballroom Fees**

Kordus/Kupsik motion to leave the fees as they are. Mr. Skates stated he was told that during the week he doesn't think the \$500 doesn't even cover our costs. Mr. Gray said he feels we do. Mr. Hedlund feels it was caused by all of the work that was being done on the building. Unanimously carried.

#### **Update/Discussion/Recommendation on Water Safety Patrol Lifeguard Services Agreement for the 2017 Summer Season**

Mr. Oborn said option 1 was what was done last year. He explained a former Council member recommended that we stay open continuously from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Option 2 is what we did in previous years where we are closed the weekdays before Labor Day. Mr. Gray stated the reason they closed after Memorial Day was because the schools were still in session and there was no one down there.

Howell/Kordus motion to do Option 2. Unanimously carried.

#### **Agenda items for next meeting**

Mayor Kupsik requested someone make a list of the items that have to get done at the Riviera. Alderman Skates requested Director of Public Works Earle be present at the meeting. The committee decided to have their next meeting on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

#### **Adjournment**

Kordus/Hedlund motion to adjourn at 7:04pm. Motion carried unanimously.

/s/ Stephanie Gunderson, Assistant City Clerk

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