

PIERS, HARBORS & LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2012 AT 5:00 P.M.

CITY HALL, CONFERENCE ROOM 2A

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wall at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Kehoe, Tolar, Mott, Hougen and Wall. Others in attendance: Mayor Connors, Administrator Jordan, Police Chief Rasmussen and Harbormaster Gray.

Approval of Minutes of March 29, 2012 committee meeting

Kehoe/Hougen motion to approve minutes from the March 29, 2012 committee meetings, as prepared. Motion carried by vote of 4 to 0, Alderman Mott abstained.

Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes

Casey Schiche, 231 Ridge Road, Lake Geneva, commented on Item #11, signage for swimmers and dogs swimming outside the designated areas. He talked about a problem of people using the boat launch area as a beach. Mr. Schiche referenced the municipal code which states that swimming is only permitted along private property or within the designated beach area. He urged better signage and enforcement. Mr. Schiche also said the ordinances relating to obstruction of docks need to be better enforced.

Don Heise, 549 Franklin Avenue, Lake Geneva, said he agreed with Mr. Schiche's comments. He said the launch area has virtually become a dog park. Mr. Heise said the City is liable for the individuals who swim off of the public piers. It is a major safety issue. He said that both signage and enforcement is needed.

Richard Malmin, N1991 S. Lakeshore Drive, Town of Linn, spoke about Item #6, expressing concern with the current beach collection procedures. He said that the beach attendants should be issuing receipts for the transactions that take place there. Mr. Malmin urged the Committee to get involved with writing an ordinance that will improve the beach collection process, while protecting the reputation of the attendants.

Discussion/Review of waiting list for buoys and slips

Harbormaster Gray reported there are currently 14 individuals on the resident property owner waiting list for buoys and slips. He said the City gets about one person added to this waiting list per month. He asked the Committee for direction on what to do once the resident property owner waiting list is exhausted. Mr. Gray said the City could place ads in the newspaper indicating that the City is looking for resident property owners to sign up for the waiting list. Another option might be to make additional buoys and slips available to non-resident property owners. He said the waiting list for non-resident property owners is currently at about 75-100. It is the current policy to make 85% of the buoys and slips available to resident property owners and 15% of them available to nonresident property owners.

Chairman Wall acknowledged an e-mail he received from a non-resident property owner with the suggestion of increasing the number of buoys and slips available to non-resident property owners by 50%. The e-mailer also suggested moving non-resident property owners to the resident waiting list after five years and making buoys available to non-resident property owners once the resident property owner waiting list has been exhausted.

Mott/Hougen motion to continue to the next meeting so the Committee could review more information about this issue. Alderman Mott said he would like the Committee to have the exact numbers on the number of buoys and slips available and their current usage. Administrator Jordan said it is an issue of whether the Committee wishes to change its policy on the percentage of buoys and slips are available to nonresident property owners. Unanimously carried.

Discussion/Recommendation on beach attendant collection operations

Administrator Jordan described the current procedures for issuing beach pass wristbands to beach users. He said a variety of colors of bracelets are used for the beach; only the City Treasurer and beach attendants know the colors that will be used on a particular day. The City Treasurer is able to balance the cash drawers with the number of bracelets that were or were not issued. Mr. Jordan said the next step may be to implement a point-of-sale system. He said the City's auditor

came last weekend to observe the beach collection operations and is going to be submitting recommendations on improving the processes.

Beach Attendant Joe Clifford addressed the Committee to comment on the beach collection operations. He said they record the wristband number at the beginning and end of each day and reconcile the number of wristbands sold with the cash received. He added that the beach attendants have kept records of attendance and revenues since 1980. Mr. Clifford asked if they could increase the change bank from \$1,000 to \$2,000 so they wouldn't have to contact the police or City Treasurer to get more change on the weekend. He also asked why the wristbands need to be kept at City Hall.

Chairman Wall asked how often deposits are made. Mr. Clifford said the beach attendants bring cash to the police station at the end of each day. He said the beach attendants only carry about \$35 to \$50 on hand to make change and keep the rest of their cash in the vault. He said they do not use the cash register for transactions because it would be too difficult for dealing with changes during a transaction, such as someone buying a wristband for a child but then realizing the child is under six and doesn't require one. Chairman Wall said perhaps a newer cash register should be used so that transactions could easily be changed or voided. Alderman Mott said the beach attendants currently only use one side of the building for admissions and use the other side for storage. He suggested the attendants use both sides for admissions to help alleviate long lines on busy days. Alderman Kehoe agreed.

Mayor Connors said the City's annual audits often identify the beach as a potential problem area. He said it's not because anyone necessarily is doing anything wrong, but it is always identified as an area needing improvement. Mr. Connors said the City's auditor will be issuing a report to the City soon with recommendations for continuous improvements at the beach. He commented that he supported having two lines at the beach, especially on weekends and holidays. He suggested that one line be for people with beach tags and people with passes purchased at the kiosks. The other line would be for cash admissions. He said we should encourage as many credit cards transactions as possible to limit the amount of cash being handled. Mayor Connors further stated that wristbands are kept at City Hall to help control the number of wristbands given to the beach and to oversee that the right wristband numbers are being accounted for.

Tolar/Kehoe motion to continue this item until the next meeting so they can review the recommendations from the auditor's review of the beach operations. Unanimously carried.

Discussion/Recommendation on beach water advisory posting procedures

Administrator Jordan said the City has had two high readings this year and the beach staff have posted advisory signs until the lower readings came in. He commented that current procedures seem to be working well. Mayor Connors said we only have one sign at the moment and we probably need one or two more signs to put up in the event of a beach water advisory to improve visibility. Chairman Wall said the City should have received two sets of signs. Administrator Jordan said we should check if we have more than the one sign being stored at the beach building. Alderman Tolar stated the signs should be visible before people enter the beach area so they can determine whether they still want to use the beach. No action taken.

Discussion/Recommendation on dinghys near beach

Alderman Hougen said he received a complaint from a resident who saw nine dinghys stacked up near the west end of the beach and thought it was an eyesore. He said the resident suggested they be moved to the far west end of the City park. Administrator Jordan said the dinghys were originally allowed in that location for individuals to be closer to their buoys on the east end. Mayor Connors suggested the Committee consolidate the dinghys on the west end of the beach and look for a more isolated location for the kayaks. He further encouraged asking the City Attorney if the kayaks could be stored in Baker Park.

Mott/Wall motion to only allow seven dinghys on the east end pad and to build shrubbery around it to aesthetically enhance that area. Administrator Jordan cautioned that people might eventually complain about shrubbery blocking the view of the lake. Motion failed by vote of 2 to 2, with Aldermen Kehoe and Hougen opposed and Alderman Tolar abstained.

Hougen/Kehoe motion to relocate all the dinghys to the west end of Library Park and relocate the kayaks and future paddle-board storage to Baker Park if the City Attorney says that location is okay. Motion carried by vote of 4 to 1, with Chairman Wall opposed.

Discussion/Recommendation on replacement of lookout tables and chairs

Chairman Wall noted there are currently no tables and chairs at the lookout the location. Administrator Jordan said he talked to DPW Winkler and Street Superintendent Carstensen and it was suggested that the City purchase tables and chairs composed of recycled materials and bolt them to the ground. He said the cost would be cheaper than the concrete furniture.

Kehoe/Hougen motion to purchase tables and chairs composed of recycled materials to place at the lookout location. Unanimously carried.

Discussion/Recommendation on cleaning the lagoon

Chairman Wall commented on the condition of the lagoon, noting that it was full of seaweed and needed cleaning. He suggested it be cleaned when other areas of the lakefront are contracted for cleaning. Administrator Jordan agreed the lagoon needs to be dredged a bit to remove the seaweed. He said he will contact the DNR to see what type of dredging would be allowed and what kind of permits would be required. Alderman Mott asked how it would be funded. Administrator Jordan said from the Lakefront fund.

Mott/Wall motion to continue until the next meeting. Unanimously carried.

Discussion/Recommendation on signage regarding swimmers and dogs swimming outside of designated swimming areas

Administrator Jordan said the City will need to erect more substantial signage. In order to limit the number of signs, he suggested putting two messages on one sign. One message would be to reiterate no swimming in undesignated swimming areas. Secondly, that dogs have to be on a leash of five feet or less. Mayor Connors said the signage would be the first step, but enforcement of the signs would need to also take place. Alderman Hougen commented that dog fetching is becoming a popular sport nationally and the City should not be discouraging this type of activity.

Kehoe/Mott motion to direct staff to erect signage near Library Park at least two entrances, and that they are big enough to contain information about the swimming and dog leash ordinances, and that they reference the appropriate ordinance numbers. Motion carried by vote of 4 to 1, with Alderman Hougen opposed.

Harbormaster's Report

Harbormaster Gray reported that boat launch revenue is up 33% over last year, from \$15,300 last year to \$20,324 this year. Beach revenue is also up 30%, from about \$200,000 at this time last year to \$258,700 currently. Mr. Gray said Riviera bookings are up this year. At this time last year, we had 35 bookings for 2012. He said we currently have 45 bookings for 2013. He added that staff is currently taking reservations for June 2014.

Discussion of agenda items for next meeting

No additional agenda items were suggested.

Adjournment

Kehoe/Tolar motion to adjourn. Unanimously carried.

Transcribed from audio recording.

/s/ Michael Hawes, City Clerk

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BY THE PIERS, HARBORS AND LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE**