

**PIERS, HARBORS & LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 28, 2011 – 5:00PM
City Hall, Conference Room 2A**

Chairman Marsala called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Kehoe, Krause, and Marsala. Alderman Kupsik arrived at 5:10pm. Absent: Alderman O'Neill (excused). Others in attendance: Harbormaster Gray.

Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2011 Meeting

Krause/Kehoe motion to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2011 Committee meeting, as prepared. Unanimously Carried.

Comments from the Public None.

Updates from Harbormaster:

A. Riviera

Harbormaster Gray reported that he had thus far secured forty-one bookings for 2012, which showed an approximately thirty-seven percent increase from the booking count of thirty for the same year-to-date period in 2011. He added that he had already begun taking bookings for 2013. He also reported a year-to-date total of \$14,800.00 for the catering commission, which compared favorably to the \$11,000.00 total for the same period in 2011.

B. Launch

Harbormaster Gray reported a year-to-date total of \$16,380.00 in launch fee receipts for 2012, down roughly twenty-four percent from the comparable year-to-date total of \$21,400.00 in 2011. He noted that the decrease in launch activities was most likely attributable to the poor weather conditions during the spring months.

C. Beach

Harbormaster Gray reported total beach revenues of \$196,943.00 as of July 24, 2011, which he noted was basically even with the year-to-date total for the record-setting 2011. He commented on the fact that actual attendance figures for the beach were down thirteen percent; therefore, the difference in revenues had most likely been made up through the increase in admission fees for 2012.

Alderman Kehoe inquired as to when the sand dredging project was expected to begin. Chairman Marsala stated that dredging had been scheduled to take place during the autumn months, adding that his recollection was that this type of work had not been undertaken for at least six years.

Alderman Krause asked if the City had ever entertained the idea of offering Marina Bay Boat Rentals a per-launch fee to oversee the launch area instead of paying to have its own personnel staffing the launch. Harbormaster Gray responded that he was not certain that would be a practical solution, adding that the City's launch attendants were very conscientious of the amount of hours worked.

The committee members then turned to discussion on the hours during which City personnel staffed the beach, as it had been suggested that beach revenues might be improved if staff were on site collecting admission fees during the evening hours after 5:00pm. Chairman Marsala acknowledged that there was a good amount of activity at the beach during the evening hours,

particularly on warmer days; however, he estimated that most of the people he had seen using the beach during those times were local residents who would likely already have beach passes. Harbormaster Gray stated that there were certainly individuals without season passes who waited until after 5:00pm to gain admission to the beach without paying; however, he was uncertain as to whether there were enough of these individuals to warrant a shift in staffing hours.

Chairman Marsala also reported that beach personnel had conducted a ten-day survey of waiting line times to determine whether there might be ways to improve the access to the beach area. As a result of the survey, staff had found an average waiting time of two to three minutes, with the longest wait time having been roughly five minutes. The committee also briefly discussed the implications of using the new parking station system to sell beach admissions, as this could possibly reduce the amount of time patrons spent waiting in line to gain admission.

Discussion/Recommendation on fishing from bridge

Chairman Marsala reported that it had come to his attention that individuals had been viewed fishing from the bridge. He noted that this was seen as more of an isolated incident rather than a chronic problem at this point; however, he wanted to apprise the committee members of the situation. Should the issue become problematic, he stated that the committee might need to address the possibility of installing signage at a future date.

Items for next meeting agenda

Alderman Krause noted that the committee had previously discussed the possibility of installing more “tourist-friendly” signage in the park and lakefront areas, which would serve the dual purpose of welcoming visitors to the community while also spelling out various regulations. Alderman Kupsik suggested that he could bring this item forward to the Board of Park Commissioners for discussion, as there was a considerable amount of existing signage in the park areas that was in need of updating or replacement. Chairman Marsala stated that he would also discuss the issue of signage with Administrator Jordan and DPW Winkler.

The committee also revisited the issue of dogs swimming off the west end pier, as members felt that it had become a safety issue. Chairman Marsala noted that existing leash laws would largely address the problem; therefore, the crux of the problem was one of enforcement rather than a need for additional regulations. There was subsequent discussion on how to better enforce current regulations, including the suggestion of authorizing the Harbormaster to cite individuals for non-compliance. Chairman Marsala stated that he would follow-up with Chief Rasmussen on these enforcement issues.

Adjournment

Kehoe/Kupsik motion to adjourn at 5:35pm. Unanimously carried.

Transcribed from audio tape.
/s/ Jeremy A. Reale, City Clerk

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BY THE PIERS, HARBORS & LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE**