

**PIERS, HARBORS & LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 2010 – 4:00 P.M.
City Hall, Conference Room 2A**

Chairman Marsala calls the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Marsala, Mott, Tolar, Krohn and Roehrer. Also present: Harbormaster Gray, Deputy Clerk Roenspies.

Approval of Minutes.

Approval of Minutes of the February 28, 2010 meeting. Minutes were not available; to be approved at next meeting.

Comments from the Public limited to 5 minutes.

Casey Schiche commented on the commercial slips and buoys leased by Marina Bay, Lake Geneva Boat Lines and Gage Marine. He feels the negotiations aren't in the best interest of the City. Gage Marine is the only one of the three who has a business license. Even though Marina Bay is a leased operation, he feels they should have a business license along with Pete Mulligan and Lake Geneva Boat Line. He also said we are going to have a problem at Library Park if the kayak rack and launch site is located there; it is at the head of the lake path and there is a safety factor. Keep it at the boat launch.

Marsala addressed the issue of the business licenses, saying it is just an oversight that these businesses don't have licenses and it will be addressed by license renewal time this June. There was discussion on whether the Harbormaster, Treasurer or City Clerk needs to do this. Marsala said these businesses do pay personal property taxes.

Bill Trester, 520 Madison, said we have been subsidizing all these businesses; he wants that given back to the city. Williams Bay did it several years ago and it is working well. Regarding launching kayaks, he said the DNR decides how much we can charge but we decide where they can launch. He wants the Harbormaster to have ticket-writing capabilities.

Discussion/Recommendation on commercial slips and buoys for Marina Bay, Lake Geneva Boat Line, and Gage Marine.

Roehrer said she is still in favor of the 1-year lease. We have been talking about taking over the buoys for years; a 1-year lease gives them a year to plan. We need this money coming back into the City. Marsala said tourists come to use this lake and we would be saying they can't use the lake if they don't have a boat. Roehrer said you aren't cutting off the businesses and all the boat rentals down there. Mott said a lot of people in his district have told him we should not discourage our business owners. Krohn suggested a 3-year lease with a 3% increase each year and a new lease with a 60-day cancellation notice. Tolar said it needs to be in the lease that this is the last time they will have this lease. Harbormaster Gray suggested, if they are giving them a 3-year lease, they need to begin to bring the rate up to the non-resident fee charged for the City's buoys & slips. A lengthy discussion followed and the meeting was paused while the Harbormaster left to run the numbers. The Mayor joined the meeting. Gray reported that the charge for buoys for last year was \$944.80 and slips \$1883.11; Marina Bay has ten buoys, Lake Geneva Boat Line has ten buoys and four slips, and Gage Marine has four buoys and ten slips.

Krohn wondered how we can issue a license to Marina Bay when they are suing us. Marsala replied that it hasn't been settled yet. Roehrer thought these should be handled separately; Gray said for consistency purposes, they all need to be the same. Tolar had to leave the meeting for a previous appointment. Roehrer/Mott motion that all buoys and slips commercially leased by Marina Bay, Lake Geneva Boat Lines, and Gage Marine be at the non-resident rate with a 3-year lease that can be terminated at the end of any of the years with a 60-day notice prior to November 1 each year. Unanimously carried.

Discussion/Recommendation on establishing official launch site for Kayaks and Canoes.

Roehrer still feels we need something other than Center Street, and thinks kayaks and canoes are not that obtrusive. She understands the Bosworth's objections, but she thinks the east and west dinghy pads should be additional areas and we should enforce the rate for launching. Mott doesn't like to see people dragging boats along the lakefront with constant launching and breaking up the lakefront views. His constituents have indicated they would like one at the Lagoon and one on the West end. Kayakers will launch at quiet times when there won't be as much traffic so more spaces will be available for parking. Roehrer said that is exactly the reason she feels they should launch in Library Park. Marsala allowed Schiche to speak. He wondered what gives kayakers rights that other boats don't have. Additional discussion followed. Mott asked the Mayor to comment. He said there is no one to enforce it. Do we want to deputize the Harbormaster to write tickets. He can't be there 24 hours a day to enforce. Designating two launch areas may be a better choice. Marsala allowed Gary Swantz, Water Street, to speak. He feels people should be able to just slip their kayaks and small boats in wherever they want like the Indians did; nobody is going to complain. Mott explained the reality of that is just not going to happen. Gray mentioned that everyone around the lake has only one designated launch site per municipality. He advised just trying a place to place the rack and change it if it doesn't work. Mott commented that we have a much longer shoreline area than the other towns. All agreed that if the rack is located at the West end, everyone will want to launch from there.

Mott/Krohn motion for recommendation to forward to Council without recommendation.

Everyone agreed this is not going to be resolved there either and it will be sent back.

Roehrer/Marsala made a substitute motion to allow launching at the two dinghy ramps, the one by the beach and the center one, on a trial basis. Discussion followed. Motion failed, 2 to 2.

Roehrer/Marsala motion to make the launch site at the west end of the beach only. Motion failed, 2 to 2.

Mott /Krohn motion to make the launch site at the Lagoon. Motion failed, 2 to 2.

Marsala allowed Trester to speak. Why not let the rack people launch by wherever the rack is placed, but have the general public launch at the regular boat launch. More discussion followed.

Krohn/Mott motion to send to Council without recommendation. Carries 3 to one, Marsala opposing.

Marsala mentioned that the racks will be made of wood instead of metal; the committee discussed the pros and cons of wood, metal and PVC racks.

Roehrer/Mott motion to add to the last motion that the launch be located at the rack location.

Unanimously carried.

Mott/Krohn motion to adjourn at 5:40pm. Unanimously carried.

/s/ Artis M. Roenspies, Deputy Clerk