

**PIERS, HARBORS & LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2011 – 5:00PM
City Hall, Conference Room 2A**

Chairman Marsala called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.

Roll Call. Present: Aldermen Kehoe, Hartz, Krause, and Marsala. Alderman Mott arrived at 5:20pm. Others in attendance: Harbormaster Gray and City Clerk Reale

Kehoe/Hartz motion to approve Minutes from the January 27, 2011 Committee Meeting. Unanimously Carried.

Comments from the Public. None. Chairman Marsala distributed copies of a letter from Gary Miller regarding individuals without boats subletting slips at the west pier. He noted that the Harbormaster was aware of the correspondence and had addressed the issue.

Updates from Harbormaster:

A. Change of Due Date

It was reported that some Committee members had been contacted by residents inquiring as to why renewal notices for slips and buoys had been sent earlier than in previous years. Harbormaster Gray explained that this was due to the fact that the Council had established the 2011 rates in November, which was considerably earlier than rates had been set in previous years. He added that early notices would make it easier to get to people on the lists before it got too far into the season. He stated that there was no standard date or procedure currently in place to govern the sending of notices. Alderman Hartz suggested that the Committee should discuss establishing a uniform notice date at its next meeting.

B. Riviera

Harbormaster Gray reported on the progress of the remodeling project. Among the project items noted were: the addition of four new furnace and air conditioning units, ceiling replacement, polishing of brass rails, upgraded sound system and projection screen, and the demolition of the two existing bar areas which were to be replaced with one larger bar area on the lake side of the facility. He also stated that new tables had been ordered, with the purchase of new chairs awaiting final recommendation from Public Works and approval by Council. Harbormaster Gray reported that much of the interior work was expected to be completed by mid-March, with the exterior portions of the project anticipated for a mid-May completion, weather permitting. He added that the contractor had already begun some of the exterior brick work. He noted that the project had not negatively impacted rentals of the facility, as the Riviera was presently booked for every Saturday date from May through August of 2012. It was mentioned that many of these bookings were for out-of-area individuals, and Harbormaster Gray suggested that this may be due to the fact that the Riviera had a variety of exposures in publications and from Internet searches. Alderman Krause asked how rental rates were handled for these advance rentals, as the rates for 2012 had yet to be approved by Council. Harbormaster Gray responded that any advance bookings are grandfathered under the current rates. Chairman Marsala added that he did not foresee any increase in the rental fees for the upcoming year, as the existing rates were considered competitive.

C. Kayak Racks

Chairman Marsala noted that the Committee had previously recommended a policy of numbering the racks and issuing on a first-come, first-served basis. It was reported that Harbormaster Gray had already addressed the issue by numbering the racks and assigning them to individuals through the renewal process, taking into account any location preferences that had been expressed by the renters. He noted that if a number was to become available through turnover, he would first contact other renters to determine if they would be interested in a reassignment. Therefore, new renters would be assigned any remaining numbers.

Harbormaster Gray also reported that Administrator Jordan had asked him to convey to the Committee that the City's insurance would cover the costs of rebuilding the guard towers that had been damaged during high winds in the previous autumn. It was recommended that the towers be rebuilt on concrete pads for greater stability, with the cost expected to be approximately \$1,500.00 to \$1,600.00. This item was to be placed upon the next agenda for further discussion and possible recommendation.

Discussion/Recommendation on dogs swimming off piers

Chairman Marsala noted that this item had been referred back to the Committee for further discussion, as the leash requirements in the existing ordinance already addressed these concerns. He stated that this was largely a safety concern designed to prevent dogs from swimming in the paths of incoming boats where they could easily be harmed. The consensus of the Committee was that signage should be added at the pier to notify individuals that all dogs must be leashed, with a maximum leash length of five feet.

Alderman Mott suggested that signage would have very little value without making an effort to better enforce the ordinance. Alderman Krause replied that it was likely that individuals renting spaces at the pier would help with enforcement by reminding violators of the leash requirements. He believed that signage would help in those efforts as well.

Hartz/Mott motion to recommend installation of an additional sign at the west end pier, containing verbiage that would be consistent with other signage at the lakefront regarding dog regulations. Unanimously carried. Alderman Hartz also suggested that the Harbormaster could prepare a memorandum regarding these regulations that would be included with renewal notices.

Discussion/Recommendation on "Tourist Friendly Signs" (Alderman Krause)

Alderman Krause reintroduced the concept of installing some type of signage to welcome tourists and visitors to the lakefront area. It was noted that this idea had first been addressed by the Committee at a meeting in the summer of 2010, with Alderman Krause having provided suggested language for the sign at that time. The exact language was to be verified from the meeting minutes.

Chairman Marsala noted that there were instances of conflicting language on signs around the lakefront and park areas with respect to dogs. Alderman Mott suggested that it might be more efficient to incorporate both a welcoming message and specific regulations into one larger sign, rather than cluttering the lakefront area with signage. Alderman Hartz recommended that the issue of signage in general should be placed upon the next agenda for further discussion. He added that the Committee needed to have an inventory of signage currently in place so it could develop a plan for the proper location of any signs.

Discussion/Recommendation Chapter 4 (Lakefront) of the City Policy Manual

Chairman Marsala noted that the Harbormaster had reviewed the policy and the previous recommendations from the Committee, and had no additional suggested modifications. He stated that the policy should specify that the Harbormaster and/or City Administrator shall oversee the Lakefront policies. He also mentioned that nothing in the existing policy referenced kayaks or dinghy pads, adding that he would work with Administrator Jordan and City Attorney Draper to incorporate some language regarding those items into the chapter. This item would be continued for further discussion and recommendation at the next meeting.

Items for next meeting agenda

Establishing a uniform notice date for renewals

Discussion/Recommendation on signage in the lakefront area

Discussion/Recommendation on Chapter 4 of the City Policy Manual

Mott/Kehoe motion to adjourn at 5:49pm. Unanimously Carried.

/s/ Jeremy A. Reale, City Clerk

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BY THE PIERS, HARBORS & LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE**