

MINUTES
HARBOR COMMISSION/ROAD ENDS COMMITTEE
COMBINED WORKING SESSION
Monday, June 8th, 2015

Harbor Commission began at 5:07 pm and were joined by Road Ends Committee at 5:30 pm.

Present:

Harbor Commissioners: Chair Bob Wise, John Brownlow, Samantha Everett, Tom Hudson, Frank Ostrander, Elise Wright **Harbor Stewards:** Mark Leese, Jerry Lane
Road Ends Committee: Chair Bitsy Ostenson, Marci Burkel, Don Fisher, Vince Larson, Greg Spils
City Council Liaison: Mayor Anne Blair **Harbormaster:** Tami Allen

Harbor Commission issues:

- I. The HC minutes of May 11, 2015 were approved for posting. There were no declarations of conflict of interest and no public comment.

- II. Tami submitted the Harbor Master's report for May 11 – June 8, 2015. Steward Mark Leese asked if YTD revenues were higher than last year, and was happy to learn they are. He asked if regular moorage fees go into maintenance of the Open Water Marina and was told they do not.

- III. Harbor Management Plan – Samantha and Frank have done a preliminary review of the HMP, but decided to hold off until it is clear that the new Public Water Access Committee will be responsible for completing a revised plan. Frank also noted that the HMP will also be part of the Comprehensive Plan currently under revision by the City, so some coordination is likely to be necessary.

- IV. City Dock: John Brownlow approached BI Rotary to assist in funding the City Dock, but received a note from Don Marino advising that Rotary does not fund government projects. Bob asked about a bond. Anne responded that a councilmanic bond is one option; that this week's Council Agenda will be packed with bonding options. John asked if the City should be charging the Police Department, BI Rowing and the Park District for their use of the dock. Regarding the RCO Grant, Dave Kircher, Mark Leese & Bob Wise made contact with and lobbied RCO in the initial stages of dock design. Anne believes a presentation could/should be made again. Public Works' Barry Loveless and Mark Epstein will make a presentation for the B.I.G. grant. Tami asked that the presenters do a dry run with HC/RE members. John will look at B.I.G. requirements to see how/if committee members can help.

At 5:30 Road Ends Committee members joined the meeting.

Joint Issues:

V. Outreach: Marci reported on the “Spring Fling” on June 1st at five road ends: Olallie, Morgan, Fairy Dell Trail, Beach Street and Foster (at Olympus Beach). All had been spruced up for the event. Vince noted that the tower stairs at Olympus Beach were originally built by the community decades ago, and the wet, muddy upper portion of the trail had been improved with wood chips for the event, also by community members.

VI. Public Access:

Report from Morgan Smith:

1. The design for Fletcher Landing is 90% complete, 4 permit applications remain to be completed.
2. The GIS Map of Road Ends is complete, ready to replace the Google map on June 30th. Road Enders need to review the map and provide any info they have on amenities (views, shore access, benches, etc.) Marci and Elise agreed to undertake this task.
3. Elise reported that the City Council voted to approve the final designs for both the Manitou Beach Drive project and Waterfront Park at their June 2nd Study Session.

VII. Ways to Work Together:

1. Role of Stewards: Greg asked if Harbor and Road End Stewards can use social media such as Go Bainbridge, Squeaky Wheels, etc., separate from the COBI, for publicity. Vince noted we’ve had volunteers as stewards; someone needs the authority to be public, and to coordinate Stewards’ activities. Bill McCoy volunteered to build the stewards program. Discussion ensued about how the Harbor Stewards and Road Ends Stewards responsibilities differ and overlap. Tom Hudson noted that Harbor Stewards have been primarily concerned with safety on the water and at anchor. Road end stewards’ responsibilities are to note safety issues *to* the water, encroachments on public access, and adequate, accurate signage. Samantha expressed concern that, with 50 road ends providing access to the water, we will need to increase the number of stewards significantly.

2. Ordinance 2015-13: It was noted that while the committees have been exploring ways to work together at three joint meetings, Council’s scheduled adoption of Ord 2015-13 on the following evening, June 9th, struck some as precipitous.

A spirited discussion followed with reservations raised regarding the reduced number of committee members (from 14 to 11 this year, to 7 in July of 2016), differing core goals and loss of focus on road ends and on the City Dock. Two members, one from each committee, suggested asking City Council to table the ordinance for one year.

Two members, one from each committee, had been working together for at least 6 months, and pointed out the joint goals of public access to the water via road ends and harbors. Mayor Blair offered to remove the ordinance from the June 9th consent agenda if the committees could propose changes they would accept by mid - September. Samantha called for a vote requesting that "Council postpone consideration of Ordinance 2015-13 until after the October 2015 regularly scheduled committee meetings." The move was seconded and passed. Greg Spils, John Brownlow and Elise Wright volunteered to form a sub-committee to review each committee's work plans and see how they could fit together.

3. The next joint meeting was set for July 13th at a time and place to be determined.

At 7:10 pm Bob Wise left the meeting, and was thanked for his service. At 7:25 Harbor Commission Members departed the meeting, except for HC liaison to the Road Ends Committee, Elise Wright.

Road Ends Issues:

- VIII. Road Ends May meeting minutes were approved.
- IX. Road End site visits: Greg reported no additional visits had been made in the past month. Elise noted that signs at the head of #42 (Beach) indicate No Parking, although there is a wide single space available. Vince reported that new signs are needed at Morgan & Foster. Mutt mitts are available at only 7 road ends, but with concerns for water quality more should probably be added.
- X. Morgan Smith provided a written update regarding historic signs/plaques. Historic Markers: Wording for signs has been approved by the BI Historic Preservation Committee for South Beach and one other location. In future, requests for historic signs at road ends will go to the HPC first for approval before being brought to the road ends committee.
- XI. Vince Larson and Don Fisher, founding Road Ends Committee members, will be retiring after this meeting. They were recognized for their decade's long commitment and their outstanding contributions to the success of the committee in achieving and maintaining public access to road ends all over the island, and encouraged to return as Stewards.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Elise Wright 7/13/15
Chair Date