

**HARBOR COMMISSION**  
**Wednesday, October 25th, 2023 @ 4:30 P.M.**  
City Hall in the Council Chambers

***The mission of the Harbor Commission Committee is to promote the use of the harbor and its facilities, maintain the public harbor facilities, and plan for harbor improvements.***

- 1.) Commission President Viestenz called the meeting to order.
- 2.) **Roll Call:** Dick Olson, Steve Stock, Todd Trepanier, Jim Viestenz, and non-voting member Paul Lukas **EXCUSED:** Nancy Rhode **ALSO Present:** Mayor Panetti, Director of Park, Rec., and Forestry John Bostedt
- 3.) **With the typographical error in 7.) h.) from intending to extending, Stock called motion for approval of Agenda; Olson issued a second. (4 Ayes)**
- 4.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 9/20/2023 with the addition of Steve Stock being Excused was placed by Olson with a Trepanier second. (4 Ayes)**

5.) **Public Input:** Lucas posted a survey on Facebook and @ his bait shop receiving 92 responses that these individuals would utilize a dock facility in open water until not able to get out due to ice. Olson noted that it is a nuisance to see that parking is occupied by guides: winter months =. G.B. (\$15) as well as other harbors charge a fee for guide parking.

6.) **Correspondence:** Live Harbor Cam Views – September 20th to October 19th (4,983 views) ... it was not functioning for 4 days. Leaving in a dock was announced on the website.

**7.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:**

a.) *Future Dredging/ **Interceptor (South shore break wall): Remove from the agenda.*** The Mayor discovered the interceptor is no longer favored by the DNR. The Commission stated the needed dredging area is by the old hospital bridge. Al Stranz suggested that we work with the County Land Service. Viestenz stated, “WE have to deal with it.”

b.) *Grants for Dredging* have had no addition: we anticipate a report from Administrator Burrue.

c.) *Grant Writer*– Stock brought it up to the Council as we are in Budget mode. Viestenz does not see it as an expense: Stock says that it would be a savings. Director Bostedt will contact Tabbi (grant writer from the Fire Dept.) about dredging grants.

d.) *2023 Slip Rentals/ Payments*– We are waiting for 2: by the end of the month.

e.) *2023 Seasonal Passes Sold @ North Shore Bait Company* the Last Month– None.

f.) *Reserved parking spaces/ Reserved parking signs & wording*– This issue remains on the Agenda to be discussed in spring.

g.) *Leaving in 1 launch dock/ Aerator (throughout the 2023-2024 Winter)* Viestenz was concerned with the liability of open water: the City ordinances in conjunction with the DNR may require a permit. The area would have to be barricaded. It was

determined that revenue will not increase. (Fishermen don't pay if there is no dock in.) Director Bostedt contacted the Street Dept. who convinced him to take out the dock when the season is freezing. The responsibility of leaving it beyond the river mouth freezing is a massive legal undertaking. **Viestenz motioned that we leave 1 dock in until at the discretion of the Park and Rec. Director's safety inspection and reinstall it with a Harbor Master on duty @ ice-out-stage or when weather permits. Olson called second. (M/C)**

h.) *2024 Harbor Masters* (intending 2024 work to start earlier) Monthly launches of April, '23 (1,866); we sold 280 daily passes: not including seasonals, stated the Mayor. Director Bostedt verbalized the work-extension potential with the present Harbor Masters who stated that they will be available the day we drop the ramps/dock. Bostedt noted that lawn and bathrooms add to hours extended; however Harbor Masters have been, and continue to be generous on their beyond hours. Mayor Panetti had statistics that we need Masters less time during June and more in the extended months. Bostedt stated that Masters do cut back when not needed: lousy weather, lower clientele: they are aware that their time is flexible accordingly. Bostedt is called when Master's find the activity changing. Bostedt reported that the pay is low: we need to respect and work with the 2 continuing men who are dependable and honest in such a low paying job. **Stock called motion to raise 2024 Harbor Master pay \$1. Viestenz placed second. (4 Ayes)**

i.) *Professional dock installation/removal* has circumvented back to the City crew. Director Bostedt sought information from 2 nearby sources: Note the verbal phone quote and handout giving quotes for -both researched as reliable- installation and removal from Pier and Waterfront Solutions. Even with time invested by City crews, it is the better choice. Concern remains in our equipment and manpower needed. **Stock motioned to continue using the City's equipment and labor for yearly installation and removal of docks. Olson called second. (M/C)**

j.) *2024 Harbor Budget*– Results of the Council will come next week which will call for Director Bostedt's report @ the next meeting.

## 8.) **Board Report:**

a.) *Marketing & Advertisement*– Bostedt is working on articles for the 2024 Discovery Guide.

b.) *City Boat Ramps*– All have been removed/no damages. He looked into a potential 2nd hand dock: the owner was not yet ready to sell. Mayor Panetti had a second contact which he will check out. Coastal Management has a Grant for Holtwood (with an unknown %age): Bostedt is in contact with Tabbi. c.) *Fishing Tournaments/Special Events*– AIM, NWT, and Sheboygan Walleye are on the 2024 books. The Elks are meeting about Waterfest. We do not have confirmation on Joe Last's Escape Reality tournament.

d.) *Park(s) Inspection Report* [John Bostedt] The new fence is sealed. The slow non-wake buoys have been removed/solar lights are off... Nov. the Danger and Red Buoys will be pulled. The 3 oldest buoys (west in the river) need replacement.

\*Oconto has been chosen, as Bird City, to have a commercial tracking system of banded birds: Note courtesy of Vanden Heuvel's Bird City Leadership. It has been

placed on the Harbor Master building. We will also receive 10 WI native trees to be planted. Emphasis on finding a new leader for Bird City was reported.

9.) Olson called motion for approval of **Accounts Payable** from September 16th, 2023 through October 20th, 2023 in the amount of \$2,741.59. Trepanier witnessed a second.

10.) **Revenue & Expenditure Guidelines from 2023** were viewed. A thank you will be written to the Oconto Representatives who attended the Oconto County Administrators Committee pertaining to funding supporting Fishing Tournaments. In the end this Committee voted unanimously to fund \$15,000 toward Bay of Green Bay /Oconto County Tournaments: Oconto County benefit determined worth the funding. The Commission thanked Lucas and the Mayor for their outstanding job. Also attending were Boucher and Administrator Burrue. Note: handout.

11.) **Next Meeting Date/Time:** Wednesday, Nov. 29 @ 4:30 p.m.

12.) **Stock summoned adjournment @ 6:40 p.m. Trepanier motioned the close of secession. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by  
Susan K. Seidl