

ESCANABA HARBOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014: 5:00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Buckbee, Henry Cipolla, Todd Hurley, Dave Pinozek

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Ammel

OTHERS PRESENT: Larry Gravatt, Harbor Master
Cheryl Syers, Recreation Office Assistant
Patricia Baribeau, City Council Liaison

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

APPROVAL/CORRECTION(S) TO: Meeting minutes of June 10, 2014. Motion to approve as written by Robert Buckbee, seconded by Todd Hurley, unanimous.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA

None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Lake Management Plan and Weed Harvester Update.** Mr. Gravatt indicated a herbicidal weed treatment was applied last week. Floating algae plumes have been present in the harbor this season, but should abate with colder weather. Mr. Gravatt informed boaters should wash their boats with only phosphorus free soaps. Soaps containing phosphorus promote algae growth. PLM will perform a fall plant survey and will make a recommendation concerning treatment of the algae, if plumes are still present.

Mr. Gravatt informed he recently met with City Manager, Jim O'Toole, City Controller, Mike Dewar, and Director of Public Works, Bill Farrell, to discuss the monthly marina weed harvester payment expense. The City Manager agreed to reduce the monthly payment from \$500 to \$150 and required the marina to be responsible for all future repairs and maintenance. Board chair, Dave Pinozek, requested the City Controller to provide the board with an accounting concerning the weed harvester since it was purchased.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Capital Improvement Plan.** Mr. Gravatt indicated he is seeking the board's input with regard to the development of a Capital Improvement Plan for the Escanaba Municipal Marina. Each capital improvement item must have a useful life of five (5) or more years or an estimated cost in excess of \$5,000. One example would be the 120' walkway concrete replacement to the west of the main sea wall. This project would be ranked as a high priority in fiscal year 2015-16 and is anticipated to cost approximately \$20,000. Mr. Gravatt stated since this sidewalk is utilized by the public as much as boaters, he will request 50% funding from the City for replacement. Another capital improvement project would be the addition of a restroom to Pier III.

Mr. Gravatt advised he attended a Waterways Commission meeting and met with representative Paul Peterson. Mr. Peterson informed the state is giving precedence to projects costing \$300,000 (which includes \$150,00 match). Mr. Gravatt stated he would like to replace the Baraga docks with more 30' docks, add power and water, and repair the L-Dock to which the Baraga docks are attached. Board chair, Dave Pinozek, stated the marina should have an engineer estimate the remaining life of each of the docks to prioritize improvements or replacement.

2. **Marina Activities/Upcoming Events.** Mr. Gravatt informed the annual Marina Fest held on Saturday, August 9, 2014 was well attended by the public. The total cost for this event was \$2,400 which was entirely funded through sponsorships. This event will again be planned for 2015.

Recreating in the Great Outdoors took place at the marina on Saturday, August 9, 2014. Members of the Escanaba Yacht Club provided sail and pontoon boat rides to persons with disabilities.

The Bay de Noc Great Lakes Sportsfishermen held a walleye tournament at the North Shore Boat Launch on Saturday, August 9, 2014 with 100 participants.

Cabela's will be sponsoring a walleye tournament on August 29 & 30, 2014. Boats will launch from North Shore and weigh-in will take place at the Escanaba Municipal Marina.

Toyota will be sponsoring a Bass Tournament on September 18 – 21, 2014. Bass representatives recently met with City Administration and the Chamber of Commerce for event coordination. 50 anglers will participate and thousands are expected to attend this event.

MISCELLANEOUS

Board members commented they would like the scrub brush and lagoon area west of the marina cleaned up. They stated it is unsightly and would promote a better view of the marina from the west end of Ludington Park if cleaned up. Mr. Gravatt indicated some resistance may be met from the MDEQ and local outdoor enthusiasts who promote bird habitat.

Board member, Todd Hurley expressed concern regarding boat speeds causing wakes in the harbor. After some discussion, it was decided that administration would contact the Sheriff's Department to determine what enforcement measures are available.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF COMMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Robert Buckbee motioned for adjournment, seconded by Henry Cipolla. The motion carried unanimously at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Gravatt, Harbor Master

Dave Pinozek, Chairperson

Date