

# City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers  
100 N. Osceola Avenue  
Clearwater, FL 33755*



## Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

**8:00 AM**

**Main Library - Council Chambers**

## **Marine Advisory Board**

## Roll Call

**Present** 7 - Chair Michael Grohman, Vice Chair Kevin Laughlin, Board Member Wade Carlisle, Board Member Deena Stanley, and Board Member Maranda Douglas

**Absent** 1 - Ex Officio Phil Henderson, Board Member Steven Voras, and Board Member Julie Battaglia,

**Also Present** – Eric Gandy - Marine & Aviation Director, Michael MacDonald - Marine & Aviation Operations Manager, William Hodgson - Marine & Aviation Assistant Director, and Nicole Sprague – Deputy City Clerk

### 1. Call To Order

*The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Main Library.*

### 2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of December 14, 2022, Marine Advisory Board Meeting Minutes.

*Member Carlisle moved to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022 Marine Advisory Board meeting as submitted in written summation. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.*

### 3. Citizens to be Heard Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

*Stephan Wiley said LED light pollution near waterways is detrimental to humans and marine life and requested staff investigate environmentally friendly lighting, especially around marinas. He said LED can be modified to a cooler temperature.*

*Todd Henkle said new construction near water can create LED light pollution which has an environmental impact and inquired if the city has guidelines or codes in place to address the issue.*

*Marine and Aviation Director Eric Gandy said he will speak to the design team regarding marine lighting.*

### 4. New Business Items

4.1 Elect 2023 Chair and Vice Chair.

*Member Carlisle moved to appoint Michael Grohman as Chair. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.*

*Member Carlisle moved to appoint Kevin Laughlin as Vice Chair. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.*

## **5. Old Business Items**

### **5.1 Beach Marina Update**

*Mr. Gandy said the design should remain consistent since the federal channel issue has been resolved. The construction manager and design team will attend the next meeting. He said they will provide a guaranteed maximum price for the project by the end of the month. The commercial fleet will have a permanent structure and the recreation fleet will have a floating dock system. He has informed tenants of the potential time frame for development to give them opportunity to find another location to dock their boat. The City has no additional capacity and other marinas in the area are near or at capacity. Current tenants will be given priority to rent slips once the construction is complete. The project has a significant impact on the departmental financials, there will be no rent collected during construction and when it is time to do the fuel dock, no fuel will be sold. The marina is an enterprise fund and cutting any revenue stream is impactful. He said the garage project is tracking along and options are being explored for the commercial fleet's upland storage.*

### **5.2 Seminole Docks Update**

*Mr. Gandy said there were failures at the docks and a pier was condemned. The floating dock portion was removed and the gangway was blocked off for safety. He said the design work is done and the structure will look the same. Public Works is in the process of finding a contractor to perform the work. He said a phased construction approach has been requested because of how busy it gets. This is a time-consuming process, but the facility will be safe.*

### **5.3 Harbor Wave Attenuators Update**

*Mr. Gandy said Council approved replacement of the failed attenuators last year for the SW corner of the south basin and they are currently being manufactured. The attenuators are shored up and are not accessible. He said he hopes the construction will be done by the height of hurricane season. Three additional attenuators were damaged in Hurricane Ian and staff is working with FEMA to hopefully receive a refund for some of the replacement cost. The design team is working on a comprehensive maintenance master plan for that marina. The facility is almost 12 years old. He said he is hopeful that the marina will be fully*

*activated when Coachman Park opens this summer, and it will be a desirable place to be for concerts. Side tie and transient slips will be available.*

#### **5.4 Stevenson Creek Wake Zone Update**

*Mr. Gandy said the permit for markers have been applied for and should be complete in six months. The consultant is working through the process and responding to the regulatory bodies. Staff is looking at locations, placements, getting supplies and looking for contractors should one be needed to install the pilings. The City's barge and tugboat are too big to get into that area. He said there is a possibility that they would have to deploy buoys, which is not ideal, but staff must work with what is there.*

### **6. Director's Report**

#### **6.1 Director's Verbal Report**

*Mr. Gandy said the department has been working in collaboration with water way management to address derelict vessel issues. The State Legislature preempted the City's ordinance related to anchoring limitations as they wanted uniform regulations throughout the state. He said the unintended consequence is people using the areas for free storage or they are renting out the vessel as an Airbnb. The Police Department is the enforcement arm of derelict vessels and Marina staff is working with them on different approaches to enforce anchoring violations and sunken vessels. The City has been removing vessels at the City's expense. He said there is a meeting with the county this month to address anchoring limitation issues.*

*Mr. Gandy said the grand opening of Coachman Park is scheduled for July 4, 2023 with planned events leading up to it. He said parking has been an issue for harbor marina tenants and those using the ferry find it difficult to navigate the downtown area because map apps don't recognize the construction. Staff is working on installing wayfinding signs. He said two parking passes will be provided to harbor marina tenants and parking will be on a first come, first served basis. He is working with the Police Department to provide hang tags to allow tenants marina access when streets are closed for events.*

*Mr. Gandy said the marina access project is underway. The marina will utilize a hotel proximity key system. Keys will be issued to tenants and there will be a fee to replace lost keys. Staff will have remote access to the keys and they can be programmed to automatically shut off when a*

*tenant or transient customer leaves. The previous access system, VIZpin, is a phone app and was not accessible on all types of mobile phones and had spotty service. VIZpin has been deactivated.*

*Mr. Gandy said a marina newsletter has been developed for better communication with tenants. The newsletter is emailed to tenants and is posted on the City's website. He said he is aiming to push the newsletter out monthly and will add the advisory board members to the distribution list.*

## **7. Board Members to be Heard**

*In response to a citizen's question, Mr. Gandy said his department does not staff all facilities and the Seminole Boat Ramp is under Parks & Recreation's purview. Marina staff maintains the ramps and cleans the restroom facility at the Seminole Ramp. He said commercial activity at Seminole Boat Ramp is hard to monitor but the police department is made aware of ordinance violations. He said only the recreational fleet will be displaced during the beach marina construction; the commercial fleet will continue to operate in place through construction.*

## **8. Adjourn**

*The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.*

Attest:

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Chair, Marine Advisory Board

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Board Reporter