

City of Clearwater

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

8:00 AM

Main Library - Council Chambers

Marine Advisory Board

Roll Call

Present 8 - Chair Michael Grohman, Vice Chair Kevin Laughlin, Board Member Deena Stanley, Board Member Francis Bugaj, Ex Officio Phil Henderson, Board Member Phillip Rugari, and Board Member Rick Broom

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

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approval of September 13, 2023, Marine Advisory Board Meeting Minutes.

Member Laughlin moved to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2023 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

Members Laughlin and Henderson expressed concerns regarding the lack of information provided to the Board regarding the new marina project.

4. New Business Items

4.1 Advisory Board Presentation to Council Availability.

Discuss availability of board members to see when the advisory board can do the presentation to Council.

Chair Grohman said he can provide the Board update at the February 15, 2024 Council meeting.

4.2 Advisory Board Discussion on Beach Marina Replacement Final Design Presentation.

Discuss and comment on the Final Design Presentation for the Beach Marina Replacement Project presented to Council at the November 13, 2023 Work Session by Moffatt and Nichol.

Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of information provided to the Board regarding the new marina project. The final design presentation was provided to Council during a recent work session and a presentation

was not provided to the Board. A concern was expressed that Council may not be aware of how much the scope of the project has changed since it was first approved.

5. Old Business Items

5.1 Beach Marina Construction Update.

Provide an update on the Beach Marina construction.

Marine and Aviation Director Michael MacDonald said the next steps in the project is to finalize the design, the presentation provided to Council was the design at 90% complete. He said bid packets will be issued in January and a contractor should be selected with Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) available in March or April with construction starting in June.

In response to questions, Mr. MacDonald said the construction will take place in two phases, split between the east and west side of the marina, each side taking approximately 12 months to complete.

Two individuals spoke in opposition and expressed concerns regarding parking, upland storage, and ice availability for commercial tenants.

One individual said single engine boats will have a difficult time docking due to lack of clearances and that there is currently no foot traffic in the area the fishing fleet will be moved to.

One individual said no opportunity was given to tenants to provide feedback.

One individual said they purchased their fishing vessel because of its location in the marina; they would not have purchased it knowing the location would change.

Discussion ensued with comments made that solutions to the issues raised are doable and reasonable.

One individual presented the city with a "Save the Manatee" sign.

One individual said all the details need to be worked out so the businesses can remain functional.

Mr. MacDonald said the design is complete and construction may be tweaked but no major changes will occur.

5.2 Seminole Docks Maintenance and Replacement Update.

Provide updates on the Seminole Docks maintenance and replacement.

Mr. MacDonald said two ramps have been out of commission for about a year with a permit tied up with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. He said the city will have to conduct a survey of the property. Funding for the project is available and a contractor is set to begin work once the permit is issued.

5.3 Harbor Marina Wave Attenuator Update.

Provide updates on the Harbor Marina Wave Attenuator project.

Marine and Aviation Manager Bill Hodgson said the south basin project has started. The tenants on the dock were moved and the utilities have been removed. The contractors are on track to complete the installation in January. The dock will remain tethered to the structure for the entire project.

5.4 Anchoring Limitation Area in Mandalay Channel Update.

Provide updates on the anchoring limitation area in Mandalay Channel.

Mr. Hodgson said a recently passed legislative bill allows counties in Florida to establish an anchoring limitation area. The city requested the county to designate 92 acres of Mandalay Channel as an anchoring limitation area. An anchoring limitation area restricts the amount of days a vessel may be anchored in a designated area. He said Pinellas County is ranked second in Florida in terms of number of vessels.

In response to questions, Mr. Hodgson said a survey of Mandalay Channel will be conducted and signage will be installed. The limitation area encompasses most of Mandalay Channel. Vessels may anchor up to 45 days in a six-month period. He said Pinellas County is also designating an anchoring limitation area south of Belleair Causeway.

6. Director's Report

7. Board Members to be Heard

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Chair, Marine Advisory Board

Attest:

Board Reporter