

City of Clearwater

*City Hall
112 S. Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33756*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

8:00 AM

Council Chambers

Marine Advisory Board

Roll Call

Present 5 - Acting Chair Michael Grohman, Board Member Kevin Laughlin, Board Member Ken Marlow, Board Member Wade Carlisle, Board Member Michael Mack, and Board Member Empty Seat

Absent 2 - Chair Edward O'Brien Jr., and Board Member Eric Spaulding

Also Present - Ed Chesney, P.E. – Marine & Aviation Department Director, Michael MacDonald - Marine & Aviation Operations Manager, Patricia O. Sullivan – Board Reporter

Awaiting approval

1. Call To Order

The Acting Chair called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall.

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approve June 13, 2018 Marine Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Member Laughlin moved to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2018 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: None.

4. New Business Items

4.1 Elect Vice Chair

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

4.2 Wave Attenuator / Fishing Pier Replacement Update

Marine & Aviation Department Director Ed Chesney said the contractor selected to replace the Clearwater Harbor North Basin wave attenuator and fishing pier backed out due to their equipment's inability to perform the work. Most contractors were rebuilding hurricane damaged marinas in the Caribbean. This small job made mobilization difficult and was unattractive to busy contractors. The new wave attenuator was designed and in queue for fabrication. The project should be under contract by next week and ready for installation by late October. The contractor selected for installation was

responsible for ordering and installing all materials.

4.3 Reservation System for Transient Boaters

Mr. Chesney reviewed the Marina's new reservation system for transient boaters. The smart phone application "Dockwa," a web-based reservation system preferred by area customers, provided information on City marina amenities, rates, and transient slip availability, required users to create a profile with the boat owner's name, size of boat, credit card and insurance information and allowed registered boaters to book a slip with a 1 night deposit subject to a 24-hour cancellation policy. City confirmation was required; transient vessels without insurance were not accepted. Reservations then populated the marina maps allowing staff to monitor slip availability. No-shows forfeited the 1-night deposit. Staff steered phone queries to the ap, allowing them to provide the same service to all boaters. The ap limited how far in advance boaters could book, important during high volume events such as Jazz Holiday. The City paid a 3.5% reservation fee, which was the same as the credit card fee paid previously.

4.4 Coast Guard Station Sand Key Towing of Vessels in Distress

Marine & Aviation Operations Manager Michael MacDonald said the Coast Guard towed boats in distress, dropped many of them at the Downtown Harbor Marina, and left. Staff often spent days, weeks, and even months tracking down owners. Boats with problems became the marina's problems and worthless boats had to be towed away. Staff recently scheduled a meeting with the Coast Guard.

City marinas agreed to accept only seaworthy vessels from the Coast Guard and to provide 24-hour refuge for these boats, charging slip rent after that. The Coast Guard agreed to provide the marina with owner names and contact information for each boat.

Mr. Chesney said the Coast Guard's practice of towing boats in distress to the closest safe place was done for years without an Interlocal Agreement; one was being drafted. For marine salvage, the City used Triton Marine, which filed all necessary paperwork, informed the Police Department, and contacted the owner.

5. Director's Report

Mr. Chesney reviewed City and County efforts to remove tons of dead fish killed by red tide from area beaches, marinas, waterways, and the gulf. Pinellas County Economic Development offered State bridge loans to impacted businesses. The red tide bloom, off Florida's west coast since November 2017, arrived in Clearwater in September. It was not known when the deadly algae bloom would dissipate.

6. Board Members to be Heard

Acting Chair Grohman said fewer abandoned boats were in City waters. Mr. Chesney said FWC (Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission) efforts had helped, especially vessel checks for operable sanitary systems which pressured many boats to leave. Removal of a beach marina floating fuel dock had helped too; transient boaters once tied dinghies and other small vessels to the dock all day. Mr. MacDonald said 6 of 10 abandoned boats were gone.

In response to a question, Mr. MacDonald said a federal project was operating a small dredge in the Intracoastal Channel to remove a long abandoned 12-inch pipe. The pipe had not been mapped and was uncovered during a recent dredging operation.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Attest:

Chair - Marine Advisory Board

Board Reporter