

City of Clearwater

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



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

8:00 AM

Main Library - Council Chambers

Marine Advisory Board

Roll Call

Present 5 - Vice Chair Michael Grohman, Board Member Kevin Laughlin, Board Member Maranda Douglas, Board Member Wade Carlisle , and Ex Officio Phil Henderson

Absent 3 - Chair Edward O'Brien Jr., Board Member Michael Mack, and Board Member Christina Joseph

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 Chair called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. at the Main Library.

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

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 Marine Advisory Board

Member Carlisle moved to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2020 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 Review the Powers and Duties of the Marine Advisory Board as defined by city code

Marine & Aviation Department Director Ed Chesney reviewed the Marine Advisory Board's powers and duties in the Code.

Following discussion, consensus was to recommend no changes to Code language related to the board.

4.2 Discuss the Marine Advisory Board meeting frequency

In response to a concern, Mr. Chesney said the board had not met via Zoom as the process was expensive and cumbersome.

Consensus was to that quarterly meetings suited the board's mission; special meetings could be scheduled if necessary.

4.3 Identify month for the Board's annual report to City Council

Consensus was for the Board Chair to present the board's annual report to the City Council in October 2021.

4.4 Election of Officers

Member Laughlin moved to reappoint Edward T. O'Brien Jr. as Chair. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

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

5. Old Business Items

5.1 Reaffirm the Board's recommendations from the March 2020 meeting.

At the last Board Meeting on March 11, 2020, the Board unanimously recommended both commercial and recreational slip rate increases along with a recommendation for solid waste charge backs to the commercial tenants. These recommendations are recorded in the March 11, 2020 meeting minutes.

In response to a question, Mr. Chesney said empty slips at the beach marina will not be filled immediately before construction; temporary slips at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, an accessory to the Clearwater Beach Marina, or other City facilities may be used during the project. The aquarium has leased and paid monthly rent for multiple docks behind its facility for a decade; those docks do not have adequate parking or water and electric at every slip. The City would consider temporarily relocating commercial slips behind the aquarium if sufficient City slips are not available. Commercial boats are the biggest concern as public docks could be out of commission. Creating a mooring field was being considered as an accessory use with centralized pickups; the City Council would need to adopt an Ordinance approving a mooring field and County and Army Corps of Engineers permits would be required. A mooring field would establish City control of the permitted area, prohibiting other vessels from anchoring within 300 feet.

Concern was expressed that turn around space on the east side of the marina is needed during east winds

Mr. Chesney said during the 2020 lockdown, rates were not increased. Commercial rents were deferred for April and May and tenants had until the end of the year to pay 2020 rents. While commercial rents are still below market rate, tenants paid surcharges for water and electricity. New commercial surcharges for trash will be implemented with a range of \$8.09/month for 6-packs to \$103/month for 70-plus passenger boats.

Mr. Chesney said although commercial businesses did not operate equally, previous rent increases were implemented evenly across the board. Small boats may take passengers out once a day; large dinner boats may take 3 daily trips. Rental rates have not been increased for 2 years. The City Manager had the ability to raise rates every 2 years based on rate studies. Staff was considering higher rate increases for larger boats; 5% for Tier 1 and 2 and 10% for Tier 3 and 4.

Mr. Chesney said the Clearwater Beach Marina was in a superior location with a waitlist for every slip; commercial slips had 20-year waitlists. Extending BeachWalk to the new marina has been recommended. The marina was self-sufficient and needed to maintain a minimum reserve. The General Fund only covered waterway maintenance costs outside of the marinas.

It was noted the private marina by the Seminole Boat Ramp charged \$600 a month for a 30-foot boat. Concern was expressed allowing commercial tenants to consign their slips to others created a permanent waitlist; it was noted other marinas do not permit that practice.

In response to a concern re sidewalk congestion on Coronado Drive, Mr. Chesney said County regulations will not permit ticket booths to be replaced on the new docks and a centrally located kiosk was planned.

6. Director's Report

Mr. Chesney said staff was trying to protect the fuel dock and system's footprint at the new marina. Many commercial users do not buy fuel from the marina. Marine & Aviation Operations Manager Michael MacDonald said City rates were competitive; the City made little money providing fuel services. Staff has received complaints from residents re mobile filling in waterfront neighborhoods; the City opposed offsite refills due to safety and spillage cleanup costs.

7. Board Members to be Heard

New Board Member Maranda Douglas introduced herself. The Board welcomed her

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Attest:

Chair - Marine Advisory Board

Board Reporter