

**PORT & HARBORS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
DATE: November 14, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Port & Harbors Advisory Board regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., at City Council Chambers, in Ketchikan, Alaska.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Mark Flora	(Chairman/Council member)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tim Hemme	(Vice-Chairman)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Lee Bethel	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jim Castle	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Russell Cockrum	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Lunde	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jay Rhodes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Steve Wilsie	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Excused

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Mark Flora	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tim Hemme	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Lee Bethel	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jim Castle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Russell Cockrum	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Lunde	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jay Rhodes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Steve Wilsie	<input type="checkbox"/>

Harbor Staff Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Dan Berg
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ms. May Caguiat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Craig Bisson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. James Wilson

CHANGES TO AGENDA:

None

MINUTES: **MOTION** was made by Mr. Castle to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of the Port and Harbors Advisory Board from October 17, 2023. **MOTION SECONDED** by Mr. Hemme. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Ty Walker addressed harbor fees specifically the launch permit. He mentioned that he never saw a nickel put in on any improvements and he paid fees but does not get any service.

Bob Sivertsen said that he is not oppose to rate increase but he would like to see apples to apples when raising rates. He also mentioned that if we continue with the rate increase, we will be the most expensive harbors in the State of Alaska.

Aron Marsden concerned of his home, he lives on his boat, stated that raising rates every year is unreasonable. Wanted a rate increase that is fair.

Melody Scott felt that her fixed monthly income will not be sufficient to sustain the proposed rate increase. She asked if the harbor department is ready to step up as the best harbors in the State of Alaska.

Verg Scott mentioned that he is opposed to a complete rate increase as presented and wanted the City of Ketchikan Port & Harbors to come up with a better solution.

Don Petrey agreed to a rate increase but not a lot. He requested for more security like key cards and gates for the harbors.

Robert McRoberts likes to enjoy his boat but worried about the rates being raise on a community that is getting hurt really hard. Proposed a five percent rate increase.

Dave Hashagen said that getting public input before making a recommendation for rate increase is the right thing to do. He also suggested to look at other ways to get federal grants to help with capital projects. He would like to see a small rate increase. Mr. Hashagen suggested to use some of the City of Ketchikan Port head tax for the harbors.

Jay Creasy is very happy with the service that he gets from the harbors. He questioned why all of a sudden after a fairly steady rates, we are raising rates so high.

Ronald McKinley and Trygve Westergard questioned the harbor rate study. He said that the survey is misleading and inaccurate at best. He suggested to increase rates for summertime people that travels through Ketchikan and figure out how to utilize the City of Ketchikan Port head tax.

Anthony Knuteson mentioned that there is a lot of ways we can try and do before raising harbor rates.

Peter Neville-Johnson discussed how other Alaska harbors uses moorage permits and compared three months permit to reserve moorage. His personal response to the rate increase is to move his commercial fishing somewhere in Alaska.

Nathaniel Currall recommended to look at other ways to increase harbor revenue. He mentioned that Ketchikan harbor is still the most affordable in Southeast Alaska.

Clark Slanaker expressed that he is against the proposed rate increase and agreed with other speakers about looking at other ways to generate revenue for the harbors.

ReAnn Johnson compared Ketchikan harbor rate to other Southeast Alaska harbors. She particularly mentioned how the harbor rate study focused on open and reserve moorage.

Jeremy Bynum stated that the survey is merely for gathering information from the area and how the survey showed a gap between operational revenue and operating cost. Mr. Bynum proposed to extend the reserve moorage rates for people on the waitlist and he would like to see people that pays for premium moorage to get the space and services that they pay for.

Delise Olmstead can't afford to pay moorage if the rates go up sixty to seventy percent. She suggested a different rate for transient boat owners from out of state.

Norman Jackson does not like comparing Ketchikan to other Southeast town. He does not want to see boat owners moved out of town due to higher rates.

Rodney Burba discussed how dive fisheries got hit this year. He talked about head tax revenue to be used in lieu of raising rates and questioned why there is a need to hike up harbor rates.

Charlie Piercy thinks commercial fleet will leave Ketchikan if we pursue rate increase. He would like to take in consideration all boat users that utilize transient moorage.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Harbor Rate Increase

Director Berg conferred that the harbor is operating on a shortfall and the harbor

needed funds to do CIP projects in order to continue to offer moorage and services. Harbors Coordinator Wilson said that all comments regarding rate increase will be taken into consideration when revising the proposed rate increase.

City of Ketchikan Manager Walsh stated that there is a necessity for rate increase and how the harbor is not meeting operational and capital improvements needs. Manager Walsh mentioned the harbor is set up to operate on special services fund and not supported by other taxes. She also commented that everyone's input and suggestions about the proposed rate increase will be taken into considerations.

Chairman Flora proposed to review the study for flaws and see what holes is in the study and he also recommended to look at available federal grants that do not require matching funds and to do the same with community wide funding.

Board member Wilsie agreed to thoroughly explore the harbor rate study and locate any inadequacies.

Board member Lunde would like to see reasonable moorage rate for people on the waitlist and for people that utilizes ninety day permit.

Board member Hemme believed that community wide discussion is very important and hoped for a better outcome that makes a sensible path for everyone.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Security Gate at Top of Ramps

Director Berg talked about the need for security gates at top of the ramps. He explained some logistical and operational concerns for harbor staff with putting gates at top of the ramps.

Discussion was held. Some board members voiced concern on discussing an issue that has not happened. Stating that placing gates at top of the ramps should not be a priority in the discussion. Several people had approached board members to expressed their concerned for security at the harbor. There is also a great deal of interest in having gates at top of the ramps due to increased thefts at Bar Harbor.

2. Parking at Port & Harbors Office

Parking lot at the harbor is under Public Works. Harbor department does not have any jurisdiction on those parking spaces. Director Berg reiterated that it is a public parking lot and anyone can utilize it.

3. Bar Harbor Building Update

Bar Harbor building is not on the National Historic registry. Public works department is in charge of the building.

4. Crossing Guards

There was a huge concern about crossing guards getting treated unfairly by cruise ship passengers. Question arise if crossing guards have any legal authority. Director Berg said that crossing guards does not have any authority to issue tickets for any violation.

5. Vehicle/Buses Traffic Revision

Director Berg stated that the City of Ketchikan Public Works department has worked on a traffic plan. Port & Harbors is not involved in traffic management planning and it has no jurisdiction once the issue is off the Port.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Berg reviewed the report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

2024 Cruise Ship Berthing Calendar

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

1. Mr. Lee Bethel it's great that everybody turned out and speak their mind and have input.

2. Mr. Jim Castle I am glad with the public that showed up. It would be nice if the public would feel a little more involved. It was good that everyone came and shared their thoughts. I appreciate all the public comments.

3. Mr. Steve Wilsie Thank you for all the people that came and made comments and as always thank to all staff for getting us all the info we need.

4. Mr. James Rhodes Thanks for the public turn out. We got a lot of comments and a lot of good points brought out tonight that we need to dig into and digest. Thank you all for coming out and thank you Manager Delilah for being here.

5. Mr. Tim Hemme Good to be working with all of you. Really glad I was able to make it this evening. Thank you staff.

6. Mr. Eric Lunde Thank you everyone in the public that show up tonight. It's really good that people from the public came to this meeting. Thank you staff. Thank you May.


7. Mr. Russell Cockrum I would like to thank the staff, there is a lot that goes on that people don't see. I would like the public to know that you are heard. All we can be as an advisory board, we pass our thoughts to the City Council and they make the decision.

8. Chairman Mark Flora Because of the City Council meeting on the twelve of December, would everyone be amenable to moving the PHAB meeting on the fifth of

December? Everyone agreed. This board will meet on the fifth of December. Staff will bring back where they're at with the harbor rate proposal based upon public input and surveys. I will deliver what this board decides on harbor rates to the City Council. Thanks to everybody for coming out tonight appreciate it.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION TO ADJOURN was made by Mr. Castle **MOTION SECONDED** by Mr. Wilsie
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Castle', written over a horizontal line.

Chair/Vice Chair Signature

A handwritten date '12/5/2020' in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Date