

CITY OF MORRO BAY

HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD

SYNOPSIS MINUTES

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 6:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Present:	Members:	Alan Alward Gene Doughty Jeff Eckles Bill Luffee Dana McClish Ron Reisner
	Absent:	Lynn Meissen
	Staff:	Eric Endersby, Harbor Director Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIR AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Mr. McClish said the Morro Bay Junior Yacht Club will host the San Luis Obispo Big Brothers and Big Sisters on "Come Out and Sail" day this Sunday, May 4th. He also said the annual Marine Swap Meet will be held at the Yacht Club to benefit the Youth Program on May 31st.

Mr. Reisner said the Harbor Department is holding their new boat christening on May 17th.

Chair Eckles said the Car Show is being held this weekend, with activities beginning tonight, and he offered his wishes for a successful event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rory McClish, instructor of the Summer Sailing Program, said they will hold weekday and weekend classes with three certified instructors; there is an introductory level on rigging, seamanship, and parts of the boat. Call the MBYC at 722-3981. Mr. Alward asked if there is a minimum age and if boats are provided. Mr. McClish said the minimum age is 8, and boats from Optimum to Laser are provided. Mr. Luffee asked the fee. Mr. McClish said \$170 for ages 8-12, \$190 ages 13-17, and \$210 adults over 17 for a four-day class. He said pre-registration is required, and the e-mail address is gboatmanmb@gmail.com. Chair Eckles said there are flyers available in the mailbox in front of the Yacht Club.

Mr. Larry Newland, President and CEO of the Central Coast Maritime Museum Association, updated the Board on current activities. He said a boat display cradle for the Tug Alma will be built at the outdoor static display area. He said Mr. McClish along with volunteers will assist with labor, and the construction costs will be \$2500 for materials, \$3600 for the boat lift, and about \$2000 for barricades for Phase I of the outdoor static display area. The Maritime Museum is negotiating with the City right now on the lease of the property.

Mr. Newland said there will be an Open House on May 24th when both the submarine and the Coast Guard rescue boat will be open for visitors to go inside. The tickets are free for kids under 12, and \$5 for adults.

The Board asked Mr. Newland about the moving process of the Tug Alma from the Harbor yard to the Maritime Museum location in the parking lot on Front Street. Mr. Newland said it is a logistical problem because there are no local services with a hydraulic trailer or crane, but he is working on this with outside companies. Mr. McClish asked about the Open House and the original crew member of the Avalon who will be there. Mr. Newland said yes, Bernie Bartkowski crewed on the Avalon, and several other people connected with the vessels will be there to talk with the public. Mr. McClish said the submarine seems to be one of the most photographed objects in Morro Bay by visitors. Mr. Doughty said during the recent high winds the prop on the submarine was actually spinning.

Mr. Newland said all the contact numbers, website, and information on the Open House are located on the kiosk next to the submarine.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

A-1 MINUTES

Mr. Doughty moved the April 3, 2014 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Luffee and carried unanimously.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

B-1 Harbor Department Status Report

Mr. Endersby briefed the Board on the following topics:

North T-Pier Maintenance and Repair Project

Boat Moves Prior to T-Pier Maintenance

Lease Site News:

Gray's Inn LS63-64/63W-64W

Events:

April 5 – Recreational Salmon Season Opens

April 12 – MB NEP State of the Bay at Tidelands Park

April 12 – Emergency Vehicle Show

April 13 – Opening Day at the Yacht Club

April 19 – Miracle Mile for Kids Fun Run from Morro Rock to Cayucos Pier

April 20 – Easter Sunday Service at the Rock

April 26-27 – Morro Bay Kite Festival

April 27 – Blessing of the Fleet

May 1 – Recreational Rock Fish Opens and Commercial Salmon Season Opens

May 1-4 – Car Show

May 17 – Harbor Department Open House and New Boat Celebration

Dredging Begins May 6 for 20 days, Channel Markers are Gone

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 Marine Services Facility Ad-Hoc Committee Report and Recommendations to Harbor Advisory Board

Mr. Reisner reviewed the Ad-Hoc Committee activity for the Board regarding funding for the Market Analysis Phase 1 of the Fishing Community Sustainability Plan by Lisa Wise Consulting.

Mr. Reisner deferred to Mr. Endersby to explain the partnering process of the groups involved.

Mr. Endersby said there will be continual dialog and input among the groups, which are the Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization, Lisa Wise Consulting, the Marine Services Facility Ad-Hoc Committee, the Harbor Advisory Board, and the Harbor Director.

Mr. Endersby said Henry Pontarelli is the Project Manager who will gather information from all parties for the Market Analysis.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 Discussion and Recommendations Regarding the Need for, Location and Use of, and Interest in a Potential Dock Designated for Direct to the Public “Off the Boat” Fish Sales in Morro Bay

Mr. Endersby said at a past Harbor Advisory Board meeting, some of the commercial fishermen expressed interest in designating a dock for off-the-boat fish sales to the public. He said with the advent of the “FishLine” seafood app and other internet-based, real-time advertising, there is renewed interest in a central location in Morro Bay. This would only require a change to the Harbor Rules and Regulations.

Discussion by the Board on locations of public docks, Tidelands dock, or a dock inside the Measure D area such as where the oyster barge is located. Discussion on the importance of a one-year trial period. Mr. Alward said of the 20 respondents to their recent e-mail survey, 15 fishermen indicated they would like to try selling fish off their boats to the public at a designated dock.

Chair Eckles asked Mr. Alward if he knew of any drawbacks. Mr. Alward said some of the fish buyers thought this might mean competition to their business, but they receive large catches, whereas the public dock would be for small catches of fish. He believes this would be a benefit to the City by bringing in more tourists. This drawback could be long lines of people and the circulation of foot-traffic.

Mr. Endersby said there may be an issue with the Tidelands dock usage because it was funded by DBW as a recreational boat facility versus commercial use. He will verify. Mr. Doughty said recreational boaters do use Tidelands dock and so the entire dock should not be designated for commercial fish sales. Mr. Endersby said the street-end public docks at the Galley Restaurant, Rose’s, and Associated Pacific are centrally located which would be good for foot traffic and are not heavily used by boaters. He also stressed the regulations of the Health Department which would not allow fish processing or cleaning at the dock.

Motion: Chair Eckles moved to recommend to City Council the establishment of a temporary dock, with a duration of at least one year, to be used for direct sales of whole fish to the public by commercial fishing boats. The motion was seconded by Mr. McClish, and carried unanimously.

D-2 Discussion and Recommendations Regarding the Need for, Location and Use of, and Interest in Expanded Fish Cold Storage Capabilities in Morro Bay

Mr. Endersby said the Board had expressed interest in discussing the possibility of establishing expanded fish cold storage capabilities in Morro Bay. He said the Morro Bay Fishing Community Sustainability Plan identifies the potential need for additional refrigerator and freezer storage in Recommendation 3.

Mr. Alward said that in the e-mail survey sent out to the local fishermen, Mr. Brett Cunningham commented on the importance and value of freezer storage for many commercial fishermen due to the ability to store fish for the best market price; he said Santa Monica Seafood might be the right company to build the needed 1,000 sq ft freezer storage, as they currently have two freezer boxes on their fish dock and may be interested in upgrading.

Mr. Reisner offered the idea of creating a new Ad-Hoc Committee from the Board who would do a local poll asking fishermen the basic who, why, and what for questions. After further discussion by the Board, Chair Eckles said this project would mean capital outlay as well as probable City expenditure; so he recommended waiting to hear back from the MBCFO to see if there is a demand for cold storage prior to forming an Ad-Hoc Committee.

Further discussion. Consensus by the Board for Mr. Alward to bring back this topic to the Board after further discussions with members of the Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization, fish buyers, fish baiters, and others to clarify the needs for cold storage and freezers.

E. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

June: Harbor Department Budget

Tsunami Warning and Emergency Notification

Cancellation of the July 3, 2014 Harbor Advisory Board Meeting

Update Harbor Rules and Regulations

Future:

Water Lease Site Improvements Including Dock Configurations

Mooring Field Design and Maintenance

Slip Qualifications for Commercial Fishing Boats

Coast Guard Building Location Plans

Planning for Power Plant Property

State Park Marina Operating Agreement

**Review of Liveboard Ordinance Regarding Marine Surveyor Certification and
Standardization of Liveboard Permit Inspections**

F. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department