

AGENDA NO: A-2

MEETING DATE: September 3, 2020

MINUTES-MORRO BAY HARBOR ADVISORY
BOARD MEETING – March 5, 2020
VETERAN'S MEMORIAL HALL – 5:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Ron Reisner Chair
Gene Doughty Member
Jeremiah O'Brien Member
Cherise Hansson Member
Lynn Meissen Member

ABSENT: Mark Blackford Vice-Chair
Dana McClish Member

STAFF: Eric Endersby Harbor Director
Lori Stilts Harbor Business Coordinator

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

https://youtu.be/ws_KWpsOSyM?t=17

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m., with a quorum present.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIR AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER, LIAISON ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

https://youtu.be/ws_KWpsOSyM?t=612

The public comment period was opened and closed with no comments.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

https://youtu.be/ws_KWpsOSyM?t=634

Unless an item is pulled for separate action by the Board, the following actions are approved without discussion. The public was provided an opportunity to comment on consent agenda items.

A-1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 5, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as submitted.

A-2 HARBOR DEPARTMENT STATUS REPORT.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file report.

MOTION: Board Member Meissen moved approval of item A-1 and A-2. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Doughty and carried unanimously, 5-0.

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

https://youtu.be/ws_KWpsOSyM?t=678

B-1 UPDATE FROM THE BOATYARD/MARINE SERVICES FACILITY AD-HOC COMMITTEE

ON COMMITTEE'S RECENT ACTIVITIES

Director Endersby reminded the Board of the committee's recent meeting with John DiNunzio from San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) to discuss possible grant funding available for the boatyard marine services facility feasibility study.

B-2 UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE & BUDGET AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE'S RECENT ACTIVITIES

https://youtu.be/ws_KWpsOSyM?t=813

Board Chair Reisner requested the status on the City's annual budget process and asked if the Harbor budget spreadsheets have been updated and available for viewing.

Director Endersby stated the first FY 20/21 budget public study session is tentatively set for May 12 at 3:30 pm and staff should have draft budget spreadsheets for the Finance Committee prior to the first meeting.

B-3 UPDATE FROM THE EELGRASS AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE'S RECENT ACTIVITIES

https://youtu.be/ws_KWpsOSyM?t=1012

Committee Chair Meissen stated the Eelgrass Committee is basically inactive and until there are major changes and the City allocating funds towards a mitigation plan, suggests disbanding the Ad-hoc committee.

MOTION: Board Member Meissen moved the Eelgrass Ad-hoc Committee to be disbanded. The Motion was seconded by Board Member Doughty.

Following Board discussion on lack of funding for a plan, regulatory agencies input and impacts on development, the motion carried 5-0.

B-4 UPDATE ON HARBOR DEPARTMENT LEASE MANAGEMENT POLICY UPDATE PROCESS

https://youtu.be/ws_KWpsOSyM?t=1713

Board Member Hansson provided a brief background on the Lease Policy working Group and the current conveyance letter drafted for City Council.

Board Chair Reisner states a few members from the working group are currently working on developing a license agreement program for the non-brick and mortar business wanting to operate on the Embarcadero.

B-5 PRIORITIZE FINDINGS OF HARBOR DEPARTMENT STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS ("SWOT") ANALYSIS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ACTION PLANS TO ASSIST IN ACHIEVING CITY COUNCIL GOALS

https://youtu.be/ws_KWpsOSyM?t=2118

Director Endersby presented the staff report for item B-5 and requested the Board to review the SWOT findings provided and agree on the top two SWOT items from each goal item, then assemble working groups to develop action plan ideas using the top two items. The working group assignments be based on the outstanding/continuing goal/action items relative to the Harbor and Harbor Department.

There was Board consensus to keep the following top two SWOT items for each goal item.

Council Goal No. 1 – Achieve Economic and Fiscal Sustainability

Strengths:

D. Tidelands Trust lease sites, and the Tidelands Trust Act requirement that revenues derived from Tidelands Trust Lands go to the Harbor Fund.

E. The City's historic image as a quaint fishing village, and the continued presence of a commercial fishing small boat fleet.

Weaknesses:

A. Lack of a strategic long-term plan, including its capital component, relative to maintaining and augmenting existing sources of Harbor revenue.

G. Morro Bay's aging commercial fishing fleet in terms of its operators, as well as increasing limitations on West Coast commercial fishing opportunities.

Opportunities:

A. To implement a long-term strategic plan for the Harbor, which would include planning for national and/or regional economic downturns.

D. Provide a range of waterfront services that optimizes local and visitor interest and utilization.

Threats:

F. The General Fund extracting funds from the Harbor Fund.

I. Losing sight of small-town Morro Bay, and becoming a Pismo Beach in a desire for revenue and profits.

Council Goal No. 2 – Improve Public Infrastructure

Strengths:

B. The City's knowledge of the history and needs of Harbor infrastructure.

C. The ongoing capital needs projections for Harbor infrastructure as generated by the Harbor Department.

Weaknesses:

B. A lack of dedicated funding for Harbor infrastructure maintenance, repair and replacement (the City's waterfront bathrooms being widely criticized, etc.).

C. A lack of effective and consistent coordination between the Harbor Department and Public Works, as it relates to Harbor infrastructure maintenance, repair and replacement.

Opportunities:

B. Establishing a defined process for City departments to execute Harbor related infrastructure projects.

C. Establishing a City staff resource whose sole responsibility is to pursue public and private funding for Harbor infrastructure maintenance, repair and improvement- including rehabilitation of the Harbor Office.

Threats:

A. Aging useful life of Harbor infrastructure elements, as identified in the Harbor Department's capital projections.

C. Lack of effective City action regarding infrastructure needs.

Council Goal No. 3 – Complete Updates to City Land Use Plans and Zoning Policies, and Address Affordable Housing Issues

Strengths:

A. An engaged and passionate citizenry.

B. The City's current commitment to updating the General Plan and Local Coastal Plan.

Weaknesses:

- B. Moving targets in terms of City development and construction-planning and guidelines being reactionary, rather than proactive.
- D. Lack of an effective eelgrass mitigation program.

Opportunities:

- B. Zoning and waterfront development guidelines being more flexible regarding alternative designs.
- D. The City committing to an effective eelgrass mitigation program.

Threats:

- B. City inaction concerning the needs of the Harbor, and the opportunities it affords.
- D. The lack of an effective City eelgrass mitigation program.

Council Goal No. 4 – Improve Communication and Engagement with Community

Strengths:

- B. The Harbor Department's practice of being open to public engagement.
- C. The Harbor Department staff's knowledge of and experience with Harbor related matters and concerns.

Weaknesses:

- A. The City Council not focusing on Harbor related issues.
- B. A lack of effective City initiative in engaging waterfront lessees and businesses to improve the City's understanding of the needs and concerns of those leases and businesses.

Opportunities:

- B. Utilizing social media and other electronic media as an effective tool in communicating with waterfront lessees and businesses.
- D. Improving and enhancing Council 's utilization of the Harbor Advisory Board as a means to: provide public input regarding Harbor related matters; assess Harbor related environmental issues; serve as a sounding board relative to potential new Harbor initiatives and business ventures; annually review and report on the state of the Harbor.

Threats:

- A. Council, City staff and/or citizenry unwillingness to consider options, opinions and viewpoints as expressed by others, which effectively shuts down thoughtful engagement regarding the Harbor.
- B. A lack of meaningful City and public dialogue concerning what is working for the Harbor, and what is not.
- D. Harbor Patrol personnel not being recognized (as a resource) to serve as good will ambassadors for Morro Bay and the Harbor.

Board Member working groups were assigned as follows:

- A. Goal #1, Action Item #1 – Member O'Brien
- B. Goal #1, Action Item #5 – Member Blackford & Hansson
- C. Goal #1, Action Item #6 – Chair Reisner & Member Hansson
- D. Goal #1, Action Item #9 – Member Doughty
- E. Goal #1, Action Item #10 – Member Hansson
- F. Goal #2, Action Item #3 – Member O'Brien
- G. Goal #2, Action Item #4 – Chair Reisner & Member Hansson
- H. Goal #3, Action Item #1 – Member McClish
- I. Goal #4, Action Item # 1 – Member Meissen

J. Goal #4, Action Item # 1 – Member Doughty

There was Board consensus to set a deadline of thirty days to turn in work product.

B-6 PRESENTATION ON “JOIN THE CONVERSATION” COMMUNITY OUTREACH

https://youtu.be/ws_KWpsOSyM?t=5554

MOTION: Board Member Reisner moved to continue this item. The Motion was seconded by Board Member O’Brien and carried unanimously, 5-0.

D. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

https://youtu.be/ws_KWpsOSyM?t=5609

Pending items previously declared:

- Goals and Objectives – Working Waterfront Designation
- Measure D
- Explore Benefits of Becoming a Harbor or Port District
- Wind Energy Generation off the Coast of Morro Bay
- Creation of an Embarcadero Business District to Fund Harbor Infrastructure
- Review of TBID Assessment funding
- Identify/review responsible parties for cleanliness of waterfront ground lease sites, public restrooms, light posts, and concern for public safety
- Eelgrass Committee to propose an action plan to be included in the GP/LCP update
- Allocating Board Members to specific areas to increase public engagement
- Discussion of the Castle Wind Community Benefit funds
- HAB’s future Meeting Schedule

D. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m. The next Regular Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Veteran’s Memorial Hall located at 209 Surf Street, Morro Bay, California.

Recorded by,

Lori Stilts
Harbor Business Coordinator