

CITY OF MORRO BAY
HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD

SYNOPSIS MINUTES

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, June 1, 2006 at 7 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

I. ROLL CALL

Present	Members:	Rodger Anderson Ed Ewing Gene Doughty Don Lockwood Lynn Meissen Jim Phillips
	Staff:	Rick Algert, Harbor Director Polly Curtis, Office Assistant
	Absent:	Mandy Davis

II. MINUTES

Mr. Anderson moved the May 4, 2006 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and carried unanimously.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Nancy Castle noted that the Historical Society of Morro Bay has published a book titled, Morro Bay, which was written by Roger Castle and Gary Ream. The book is essentially a photo album of Morro Bay families of the past. She said there will be a book signing at Coalesce on July 2, 2006.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

IV-1. Sales Tax Presentation

Fire Chief Mike Pond gave a PowerPoint presentation on financial issues facing the City, and the proposed tax measure on the November ballot for a one-half-percent increase in the City of Morro Bay sales tax. Chief Pond explained the many funding needs of the Fire, Police, Recreation & Parks, Harbor and Public Services Departments in order to provide services for the public such as maintaining the city streets, restrooms, storm drainage, and facilities. He stated if the tax measure passed, an increase of approximately \$700,000 annually would be brought into the community.

Chief Pond recommended creating a community oversight committee to assist the direction of the funds, per public approval. He brought "Community Feedback Survey" forms for the Board members to fill out and return to the Fire Department or Bridgett Bauer the City Clerk. The survey asks the public to prioritize a list of items, or to write in other specific suggestions.

Chief Pond asked the Board for any comments. The Board requested clarification of several points, and also expressed their support. Mr. Algert stressed the importance of people to fill out and return the feedback forms, as the City must have input in order to address the public needs. Chairman Lockwood thanked Chief Pond for his presentation.

IV-2. Assessment of Current Harbor Services and Development of a Harbor Strategic Plan - Continued

Chairman Lockwood stated there are three possibilities for the Board to choose regarding the Strategic Plan letter: change the letter, accept the letter, or discard the letter. He asked for comments from the Board. Mr. Doughty stated that a working waterfront represents America at its core, and whatever is necessary must be done in order to continue the commercial fishing endeavor. He said that although fish stocks may have declined, it is necessary to create a win/win scenario for the parties involved; this is the vanguard for our future. He recommended bringing in an outside consultant, if necessary, and the development of a marine research facility. In regards to the current revised letter, he did not see that any changes were required.

Ms. Meissen stated she supports this second version of the letter, as it is shorter and easier to read. Mr. Phillips said the current version is fine, as it was condensed from eight pages down to two pages, which is manageable. Mr. Ewing also approved the last letter; however he asked if a new paragraph might be added regarding exemption of fuel sales tax for commercial fishermen. After discussion from the Board, Chairman Lockwood asked Mr. Algert if he would be able to have an August Agenda Item on fuels and alternatives such as bio-fuels, to which Mr. Algert agreed. Chairman Lockwood said the letter format is preferred to a memo format, and the signature can be "Harbor Advisory Board" rather than signed by each Board member.

MOTION: Mr. Doughty moved to approve the current version of the Strategic Plan letter for submittal to City Council. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

IV-3. Beach Signage

Mr. Algert stated that this item was put on the agenda by consensus of the Harbor Advisory Board at the March 2006 meeting. He reviewed the background information, stating, the City currently has a sign at the Rock Changing Station that says, "Drowning happens once in a lifetime," etc. We have a number of smaller signs notifying the public of rogue waves and beach hazards along the Rock parking lot revetment and the Pit area, which for the most part are older and need replacement. Regulatory signs are posted at the beach access at the Rock parking lot, the Pit, and at the north side of Morro Creek. Regulatory signs have been added as regulations were adopted, and could use updating and consolidation.

Mr. Algert said he is recommending that the City Council budget up to \$6000 next year for sign improvements on the waterfront. He said the concept is to leave the Changing Station sign in place, acquire new signage (similar to that recently placed on State Parks beaches by the State Parks) regarding beach and swimming hazards, and post them in approximately six locations from the Rock parking lot to the Highway 41 beach access. Mr. Algert said he would create new consolidated regulatory signs to be placed at the Rock beach access, the Pit, north and south of Morro Creek and at the Highway 41 access. He asked for comments and input from the Board.

Mr. Anderson said he was one of the "squeaky wheels" who asked State Parks to put up the beach signage at the State Parks beach regarding the dangerous ocean conditions. He said visitors are often unaware of the extreme dangers of rip currents, and supports all signage requested by the Harbor Department. Mr. Ewing, Mr. Phillips, and Ms. Meissen all voiced their support for the new signage. Mr. Doughty asked if CHPO Endersby would level the sign on the restroom changing station, as it is crooked. Chairman Lockwood discussed the dangers of having no drowning signs at the State Parks beach, and expressed his gratitude to Mr. Anderson for being the catalyst in the new signage at that location.

MOTION: Mr. Anderson moved to support the creation and improvements of beach signage, as defined by the Harbor Director in the Agenda Item. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and carried unanimously.

IV-4. FY06-07 Budget Review

Mr. Algert reviewed the FY06-07 draft budget details for the Board, stating the City Council will meet on June 12, 2006 to adopt this budget. He then asked for comments. The Board members asked for details from Mr. Algert, and discussion ensued. Mr. Algert responded to all questions, and explained in more detail several line items in the budget.

MOTION: Mr. Phillips moved that the Harbor Advisory Board supports the Harbor Department Budget for FY06-07, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ewing and carried unanimously.

IV-5. Cancellation of July 6, 2006 Meeting

MOTION: Mr. Phillips moved to cancel the July 6, 2006 Harbor Advisory Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty and carried unanimously.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

V-1. Harbor Department Status Report

Mr. Algert briefed the Board on the following items:

Back-Bay Update

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mr. Doughty asked Mr. Algert for a “downdate” on the vessel Voyager. Mr. Algert read the Back Bay Update from the current newsletter, stating that the Harbor Department will assist in the demolition and/or move of the Voyager from Windy Cove when the Fish and Game begin to remove the vessel. Chairman Lockwood said “kudos” should be given to Mr. Dean Hileman, Department of Fish & Game for his efforts in the Back Bay project. Mr. Algert agreed, and said Mr. Chuck Rawlinson, owner of Depth Perceptions Diving Services, and his Sheriff’s Dive Team have also worked very hard on the Voyager project and deserve credit.

Ms. Nancy Castle stated there will be an Ocean Protection Council meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2006, at 9:00 AM in Monterey, and information can be found at slo-span.org or slo-span.tv.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

August 3, 2006: Progress Report on the Ice Machine Project
Fuel Taxes for Fisheries

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department