

Harbor Commission Minutes

The Greater Dunkirk Area Harbor Commission meeting was held Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Stearns Building Conference Room.

Members Present: Chairman Jim Nichols ● Allan Zurawski, ● Gene Pauszek ● Kurt Warmbrodt ● Mike Rosing ● Ron Veklotz

Members Absent: Dennis Wolfe

Others Present: Patty Pleszewski, Secretary, Recreation Department ● Zen Olow Gib Snyder, Observer ● Willie Rosas, Councilman-at-Large ● Ned Devine

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Nichols. Harbor Commission members recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Gene Pauszek. Seconded by Al Zurawski. All voting aye. Carried.

Chairman Nichols welcomed Councilman-at-Large Rosas and Ned Devine to the meeting.

Chairman Nichols asked if anyone has heard of any new development on the harborfront. Commission members all agreed that the boat launch building looks good. However, Zen Olow questioned why Mr. Gambino was allowed to take the docks out of G&H and dismantle and sell them. Chairman Nichols believes that the lease expires in 2062. Commission member Gene Pauszek wondered if anything could be legally done to keep this from progressing so that this way people that are offered an option of having no electric or water they would remain at that price range. "I don't think we have anything to say in how the dock is run, Nichols said.

Zen Olow said that the boat storage was a problem including break-ins and damage. It was reported that 36 boats at the marina were broken into during the storage season.

Chairman Nichols that the parking lot looks nice but nothing else has been done. There hasn't been any new development. In the early stages the plans were about a restaurant with an outdoor cabana. Everyone was on board and the patiently listened to Mr. Gambino's plans at numerous meetings. The Commission approved all the plans brought before the Commission. Commission members do not feel that Mr. Gambino is fulfilling has part of the bargain. If this waits a few more months, there may be no time left. Commission member Kurt Warmbrodt made a motion that Chairman Nichols represent the Harbor Commission in a meeting with the mayor concerning the docks being removed and sold as well as the building gone and to have it explained or get the City Attorney involved in writing. Seconded by Al Zurawski. All voting aye. Carried.

Zen Olow reported that Mr. Gambino would not allow the Conservation Club Derby to have free launching which they have had done for the last 10 years. The reason was told because he (Mr. Gambino) lost money. Kurt Warmbrodt suggested that the Conservation Club send a letter to Mr. Gambino to see if something can be worked out for future tournaments.

The Harbor Commission also discussed the change in direction entering and existing Point Gratiot. Chairman Nichols said the Lighthouse is favor of the directional change.

Warmbrodt said the argument over the years from people on West Point Drive was the speeding traffic leaving the point. Zen Olow suggested making the exit at Oak Street with vehicles making a right turn onto Point Drive North and proceeding to the light at Route 5. Entrance into the Point could then come from the current direction of travel and the former direction part the lighthouse. It was noted that Oak Street is currently an exit route and had two-way traffic years ago. Chairman Nichols said two entrances and one exit seemed like a good idea. Rosing added that; "It would be a good thing for the Lighthouse to get the people going through there." The Harbor Commission agreed it is now up to the common council to discuss this with the police chief.

Mike Rosing noted that the DO NOT ENTER sign at Point Gratiot is covered with brush and is in need of trimming. Al Zurawski will contact DPW Director Tony Gugino regarding this matter.

Discussed was the circle on Central Ave. and Rt. 5. Warmbrodt noted that the westbound lane at the light is horrible. There is a big bump there and one of the bricks has sunken out of sight and should be addressed.

Commission members agreed that the wall on Lakefront Blvd. looks fantastic.

The next Harbor Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. at the Stearns Building Conference Room. Chairman Nichols said he is hoping to have some answers at the next meeting. Chairman Nichols thanked Councilman-at-Large Rosas and Mr. Devine for attending the meeting. Motion to adjourn by Gene Pauszek. Seconded by Mike Rosing. All voting aye. Carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted

By Patty Pleszewski
Patty Pleszewski, Secretary

*A copy of the recorded meeting (August 19, 2015) is available in the Recreation Department for review.