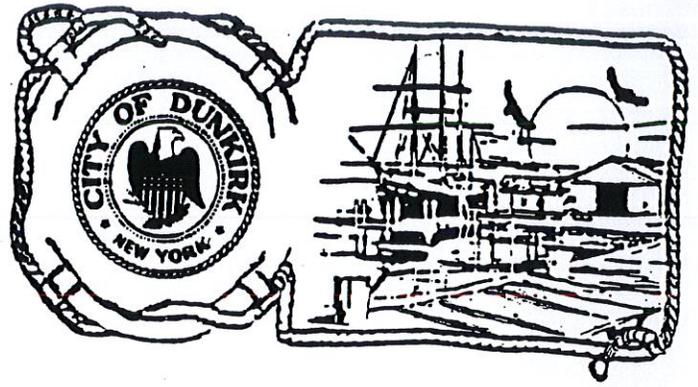


**The
GREATER DUNKIRK AREA
HARBOR COMMISSION**



October 12, 2016

TO MEMBERS OF THE GREATER DUNKIRK AREA HARBOR COMMISSION:

Dear Members:

Please be advised that a Harbor Commission meeting has been scheduled for:

Wednesday, October 19, 2016
6:00 P.M.
Stearns Building (next to City Hall)
Second Floor

Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you are unable to do so, please contact Patty in the Recreation Office at 366-9885. Thank you for your attention regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Nichols, pp

Jim Nichols
Chairman

JN/ppj

cc: Mayor
Common Council
News Media

Greater Dunkirk Area Harbor Commission
Wednesday, October 19, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.
Stearns Building (next to City Hall)
Second Floor

- A G E N D A -

- I. **Approval of September 21, 2016 minutes**

- II. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a.) **Review of business sign located at 43 Lake Shore Drive E.**

- III. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- IV. **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- V. **ADJOURN**

Harbor Commission Minutes

The Greater Dunkirk Area Harbor Commission meeting was held Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Conference Room – City Hall

Members Present: Chairman Jim Nichols ● Allan Zurawski, ● Gene Pauszek ● Dennis Wolfe ● Mike Rosing

Members Absent: Ron Veklotz

Others Present: Patty Pleszewski, Secretary, Recreation Department ● Mayor Willie Rosas ● Don Williams, First Ward Councilman ● Rebecca Yanus, Director of Planning and Development ● Nicole Waite, Deputy Director of Planning & Development ● Zen Olow

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Nichols.

New Business:

Rebecca Yanus Director of Planning & Development for the City of Dunkirk and Nicole Waite, Deputy Director presented the Harbor Commission with a slide presentation of a **City Pier Recreation Enhancement Project**. Ms. Yanus explained to the Commission that the City has applied for grant funds through the Consolidated Funding Application. (CFA). Specifically, it is through the Environmental Protection Fund: Parks, Preservation and Heritage Grant. This is a competitive grant application that was submitted in late July of 2016. OPRHP has dedicated up to \$20 million to parks, historic preservation and heritage areas. The City is applying for a \$108,000 grant. Total project cost is \$144,000 which will include in-kind services, donations and the city's cash match which would be \$11,000. Announcements will be made at the end of December or January to see if the city is awarded the proposed project grant. Specifically if funds were awarded it would be used to purchase moveable equipment that would enhance the end of the pier and create a fun and inviting atmosphere for all ages. This project site is specific to the end of the pier and these moveable items will not affect the boat launch area, the fish cleaning station, fishing along the sides or a large amount of the parking. The purpose is to draw more visitors, residents and tourists to spend more time in our City and enjoy the beautiful waterfront.

Planning & Development Director Yanus noted that this plan is not set in stone. The ideas in the grant application are only suggestions. If awarded, the public and the Harbor Commission would be asked to give ideas and input on what they would like to see at the pier. By designating the pier as a park, it will keep the pier public and prevent any future government administration from selling it to a private developer.

Possible ideas for the pier are Fishing Amenities such as poll holders, additional moveable seating, and informational signage to show what kinds of fish are in Lake Erie or posting of Rules & Regulations. These grant amenities that can improve the fishing atmosphere. There was also a thought for Recreational Amenities such as large-scale games, site seeing, picnic areas and Adirondack seating. These items would be moveable items that would be stored in the winter and brought out for the summer events. Signage & safety would also be incorporated which could include a new entranceway, city banners and suggestions and support of this project from the Harbor Commission.

Commission member Allan Zurawski expressed his concern that it's a harbor of refuge. Whether it is still designated or not, if you are coming in off the lake and the lake is rough and you are traveling the Great Lakes, this is one harbor that you should come in to and have *safe harbor*. Zurawski noted that by having these railings and trying to moor boats, along with other vessels such as the dredging operations, bouys tendor is a cause for concern. Deputy Director Nicole Waite explained that the picture was misleading saying it was supposed to represent the "planters" as natural barriers.

Mayor Rosas said he would be in contact with the city attorney regarding any legal issues pertaining to the pier.

Commission members also expressed concern over parking especially during seasonal fishing tournaments. "It's been an issue with the fishermen that it seems they are being pushed out", and we don't want them to feel that way, explained Zurawski.

Commission member Gene Pauszek said he did have some concerns over the moveable recreational games and the possibility of children not paying attention to the moving traffic. Pauszek suggested the possibility of putting the games into Memorial Park. However, under this particular application it could not be moved to the park. Chairman Jim Nichols also mentioned a concern regarding ice fishing in the harbor. Nichols said if the harbor freezes this year there will be at least 100 fishermen on the ice fishing.

Zen Olow said that he, Gene Pauszek and Lance Ehrhardt attended an Erie County Fish Advisory Board Meeting. Plans are to have a 3 day bass tournament, 125 teams and they estimate on launching out of the small boat harbor. Their economic impact is supposed to be 3.2 million dollars.

Commission member Gene Pauszek noted to Development Director Yanus, that if there is any consideration to add ladders to the pier, they should be able to be extended. This way they can be raised or lowered according to the water level.

Zurawski asked if floating docks could be included in this grant. Development Director Yanus said it could not be added in this grant but that it could be looked into for the future.

Chairman Nichols thanked Development Director Yanus and Nicole Waite, Deputy Director for attending the Harbor Commission meeting.

Commission member Gene Pauszek suggested to the Mayor that the Harbor Commission be informed when events are planned on the city pier. This is to avoid any conflicts with the busy fishing season and other summer events on the pier.

Commission member Mike Rosing expressed his concerns regarding the several dead trees at Pt. Gratiot that need to be removed. Rosing also discussed the walkway from Main Street to the breakwall that is overgrown with weeds and is poorly maintained. First Ward Councilman Don Williams told the Commission that there is now a new DPW Director in place and that the message will be related to Mr. Bankoski at the DPW Committee meeting scheduled Wednesday, September 28.

Commission member Mike Rosing noted that Point Gratiot was maintained very well this summer. The grass was cut and trimmed and trash picked up daily.

Old Business:

Zen Olow asked Chairman Nichols if he has heard anything about the Great Lakes Experience for 2017. Chairman Nichols said phone calls were made and he is expecting to hear something by December.

General Discussion:

The next Harbor Commission meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the STEARNS BLDG. (Second Floor) next to City Hall.

Motion to adjourn by Al Zurawski. Seconded by Gene Pauszek. All voting aye. Carried.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted

By *Patty Pleszewski*
Patty Pleszewski, Secretary

*A copy of the recorded meeting (September 21, 2016) is available in the Recreation Department for review.