



HARBOUR COMMISSION MINUTES

**Thursday, September 25, 2025
Meeting Room B-8
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

CHRIS NIELSEN, Chair
VAN VU, Vice Chair
WILLIAM LARKIN, Board Member
KIMBERLEY MILLIGAN, Board Member
CRAIG SCHAUPPNER, Board Member
MEL WILLIAMS, Board Member
DIANE WOOD, Board Member

COUNCIL LIAISONS

PAT BURNS, Councilmember Liaison
GRACEY VAN DER MARK, Councilwoman Liaison

STAFF

ERIC MCCOY, Fire Chief
ERIC DIETERMAN, Marine Safety Division Chief
KEVIN JUSTEN, Senior Management Analyst

CALLED TO ORDER

Nielsen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Nielsen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Larkin, Nielsen, Schauppner, Vu, Williams, Wood

Commissioner Absent: Milligan

Staff Present: Justen, McDonald, Ortiz

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was one public comment: Amory Hanson reiterated his support for the Harbour Commission's proposed revisions to *Municipal Code Chapters 13.32, 13.36, 13.40, 13.44* as currently written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2025

MOTION: A motion was made by Vu, seconded by Schauppner, to approve the August 28, 2025, meeting minutes.

The motion carried by the following vote, 6-0:

AYES: Larkin, Nielsen, Schauppner, Vu, Williams, Wood

NOES: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. *Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee*

Vu reported that the Infrastructure Ad Hoc Committee has not met but is scheduled to do so.

1. *Vessels and Watercraft Ad Hoc Committee*

Williams reported that the Vessels and Watercraft Ad Hoc Committee has not met but said that they would be doing a walking tour of the areas where standup paddleboard and kayak rentals take place to obtain a greater understanding of related issues.

1. *Water Quality Ad Hoc Committee*

Nelson provided a staff report on debris collection in the Harbour. Committee members evaluated information provided by the Public Works Department and other information and recommended that the report, which includes a recommendation for a cut out basin to divert debris from flowing into the Harbour, be provided to the Public Works Department. They also recommended that only one standardized measure for recording the amount of trash collected be used, which would make evaluation of data easier. Currently the three entities providing reports on the amount of refuse they collect use three different measures.

Recommendations to the Public Works Department

MOTION: A motion was made by Schauppner, seconded by Williams, to recommend the following to the Public Works Department:

1. That a cut out basin be considered as a trash diversion measure for the Harbour and that this be coordinated with the County of Orange; and
2. That one standardized measure be used by the three debris collection contractors operating in the Harbour

The motion carried by the following vote, 6-0:

AYES: Larkin, Nielsen, Schauppner, Vu, Williams, Wood

NOES: None

Justen said that he would provide the Public Works Department with the staff report prepared by the ad hoc committee and all attachments, along with the recommendations adopted by the Commission.

STAFF COMMENTS

McDonald reported on a minor oil spill in the Harbour near Bimini Lane. It was quickly mitigated by City staff. He also said that Marine Safety staff are busy preparing for the upcoming air show. Justen reported that the Harbour Commission's recommendations for revisions to the Municipal Code have been reviewed by the Director of Library and Community Services and will next go to the Fire Chief for review.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Wood said that he joined the FireMed Program and is encouraging others to join. Ortiz provided an overview of the program. Vu mentioned that a number of Harbour Commissioners will be attending the Mayor's Ball on November 11, 2025. He also said that there will be an attempt to have the world's largest picnic at Mile Square Park on September 28, 2025, and encouraged others to attend. Schauppner reported that the shell string program will close on September 28, 2025, and he was interviewed regarding it by two news sources, including NPR. He will be providing a water quality presentation to the Sunset Homeowners Association on October 2, 2025. Vu asked about the results of the shell string program and Schauppner said that many strings had a good number of oysters, and the program ultimately results in cleaner water and better circulation in the Harbour. Nielsen expressed concern about bridge jumping in the Harbour and asked about the possibility of using Police Department drones for enforcement. He asked about including this on the October Harbour Commission agenda for discussion. McDonald explained how the Marine Safety Division responds to complaints regarding bridge jumping but said that any use of drones for this purpose would need approval by the Police Department. Ortiz said that of the three drones currently in operation at this time none would be able to reach the Harbour area. Justen said that he spoke with Police Services Manager Reynolds about this and she said that it could be a potential usage but at this time the program is in its infancy, and they are still developing response procedures, protocols and determining how public safety risk priorities will be established. McDonald also said that there is great potential for use of drones for Marine Safety activities. Vu reported that on the previous weekend the Friends of Bolsa Chica hosted an event that included 130 volunteers, who collected 250 pounds of trash from the wetlands.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion was made by Vu, seconded by Schauppner, at 6:00 p.m. to adjourn to the October 23, 2025, meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote, 6-0:

AYES: Larkin, Nielsen, Schauppner, Vu, Williams, Wood

NOES: None

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harbour Commission will be on October 23, 2025, at a time and location to be announced.