



## **HARBOUR COMMISSION MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 25, 2023  
Room B8, Lower Level  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

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

### **COUNCIL LIAISON**

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

### **STAFF**

SCOTT HABERLE, Fire Chief  
ERIC DIETERMAN, Marine Safety Battalion Chief  
BONNIE TO, Principal Administrative Analyst  
KEVIN JUSTEN, Senior Administrative Analyst

### **CALLED TO ORDER**

Schauppner called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Ashley Wysocki.

### **ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Vu, Wood

Staff Present: Eric McCoy, Eric Dieterman, Ashley Wysocki, Mike Bartlett, Bonnie To, Devin Michaelis, Jim Merid, Terry Tintle, Roman Altenbach, Ron West, Celina Corley

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## CONSENT ITEMS

- A) Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 27, 2023

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Vu, seconded by Milligan to approve meeting minutes dated April 27, 2023.

The motion carried by the following vote, 7-0:

AYES: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Vu, Wood

NOES: None

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Public Safety Ad Hoc Committee

Wood provided flyers for the upcoming crime watch meeting, which is anticipated to be well attended. It will be held at the Harbour View Elementary School and the facility holds 400 people.

### Waterborne Trash Capture Projects Ad Hoc Committee

Nielsen reported that the three members of the Ad Hoc Committee met with the Orange County Department of Public Works on the Bolsa Chica Channel (C02) Drainage Area Trash Special Study on May 10, 2023. Merid was also in attendance. The meeting included a report on water quality results from surveys of 78 outfalls. Nielsen summarized the results. He also said that they could be incorporated into the final report that the Ad Hoc Committee will prepare. Schauppner asked if Adopt a Channel volunteers do channel cleanups. Merid said that the County does not use volunteers for this due to access issues, but hires companies to perform the cleanups. Larkin asked Merid if it would be possible to get the involved cities to focus on common/priority issues related to waterborne trash. Merid provided a detailed explanation of how the special study group is approaching this and attempting to address the common challenges presented. Larkin asked if the City is participating in the Coastal Commission information exchange and project proposal initiative. Merid was not sure, but Larkin said he would provide additional information related to it.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

### 1. Harbour Report

Dieterman provided the Harbour Report and stated that there are no current water advisories in effect in the Harbour. He also gave an overview of the recent response to the fuel spill in the Harbour. Bartlett provided additional information on the Marine Safety Division's response and where the spilled fuel was located. Dieterman and McCoy explained how the notifications are made and what actions the other jurisdictions take. Vu asked how much fuel was spilled and questioned the source. Dieterman said that although the source was not identified, it was most likely a boat and the volume was estimated between 200-300 gallons. Schauppner asked if there was any follow-up from the Orange County Health Care Agency or the State Fish and Wildlife Department. Dieterman said that Orange County Health does not test for this type of material and Fish and Wildlife did not become involved with the incident. At this time most of the fuel has dissipated. West reported that the he Orange County Sheriff's Department took Coast

Guard representatives out to look at the incident. Wood asked what the liability would be for a boat owner who is responsible for a spill in the Harbour. West said that it could result in a criminal investigation and prosecution. Vu asked how fuel dissipates and West said that it goes away through evaporation. Larkin said that the Harbour Commissioners appreciated the timely updates when the spill occurred. To provided an overview of Harbour Commission web site updates since the April meeting.

2. Harbour Commission Strategic Plan

To provided an update on the Harbour Commission Strategic Plan.

3. Consideration of Policy Recommendation on Personal Watercraft in Small Boat Channel

Schauppner said the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for the small boat channel will be changed and Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach will be providing input on it. The Coast Guard is responsible for the CFR. He asked if the Harbour Commission wants to provide any recommendations to Huntington Beach City Council to consider regarding the use of personal watercraft in this channel. If adopted, they would then be provided to the Naval Weapons Station to consider submitting for the CFR. The Commission expressed interest in establishing an ad hoc committee to evaluate this and Wysocki advised the Commission that it would need to be returned as an agenda item to establish the Committee. This item will appear on the next Harbour Commission agenda.

## STAFF COMMENTS

Merid reported on a recent field trip to evaluate a new automated device to remove trash from the Harbour. It is currently being used in Florida to remove sargasso and other debris and he said that it costs about \$30,000. He said that it could have some potential for Huntington Harbour. Tintle provided additional details about how it operates and noted the challenges in providing staff time to operate this type of device. Corley said that OCSD staff will be engaging with Harbour residents at Sunset Aquatic Park on Sunday, May 28, 2023 and will be giving away free life jackets. West and Corley reported that the Orange County EOC had a tsunami drill on Wednesday, May 17, 2023 and OCSD staff assigned to the Harbour attended as observers. Bartlett said that he did a presentation to Coast Guard Auxiliary members at the Yacht Club on May 24, 2023. It included the rescue boat program and an overview and history of service in the Harbour.

## COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Larkin and VanVoorhis reported on the initial meeting of the flair recycling committee they serve on. Milligan gave a very positive report on the US Navy ship she and Wood toured during Fleet Week. Wood asked for clarification about when and how the Harbour Commission can be referenced on flyers, at public events, etc. Schauppner said that he recently received direction from the Fire Chief, who said that reference cannot be made to the Commission if it is not an official City sponsored event. The Commission can provide information, such as a sign with the web site QR code, or the Commission's business cards. Vu asked what it would take for Harbour related functions to be sponsored by the City. Schauppner noted that there are a number of boards, commissions and committees in the City and if resources are provided to one they would have to be provided to all that request them. He added that for an event to be officially sponsored by the City an agenda has to be published in conformance to Brown Act requirements, public comments have to be allowed, and the agenda has to be adhered to.

Wysocki suggested that Commissioners review the portion of the Municipal Code that covers the Harbour Commission for more detailed information about the role of the Commission. Schauppner asked Commissioners to review the Harbour Commission Strategic Plan before the next meeting so it can be looked at in more detail at that time. He also reported that he and Larkin attended the onboarding event the City provided for board, commission and committee members. Both Commissioners said it was a very informative and useful seminar. Schauppner noted that the City is preparing a strategic plan and it will be good for Commissioners to review the City plan in view of the Commission's evaluation of its plan. He also said that it would be good to consider a vision and mission statement for the Commission.

## ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Vu and seconded by Milligan at 6:14 p.m. to adjourn to the meeting on June 22, 2023.

The motion carried by the following vote, 7-0:

AYES: Larkin, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis, Vu, Wood

NOES: None

The next regularly meeting of the Harbour Commission will be scheduled for June 22, 2023 and will be held at a location to be announced.