



MINUTES

HARBOR COMMISSION

**Thursday, August 22, 2019
Room B7, Lower Level
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

WILLIAM LARKIN, Chair
MICHAEL VAN VOORHIS, Vice Chair
ALFRED BALITZER, Board Member
RENEE HUNTER, Board Member
KIMBERLEY MILLIGAN, Board Member
JOHN OCHS, Board Member
CRAIG SCHAUPPNER, Board Member

STAFF

ERIK PETERSON, Councilmember Liaison
LYN SEMETA Councilmember Liaison
MARIE KNIGHT, Community Services Director
CHRIS SLAMA, Community Services Manager
CHARLENE GOMEZ, Administrative Secretary

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PUBLIC COMMENTS: To address the legislative body on items of interest not scheduled for public hearing, *Request to Speak* forms will be made available at the meeting and are collected by the staff or Sergeant at Arms. Some legislative bodies may provide different *Request to Speak* forms for public hearing items.

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CALLED TO ORDER – Chair Larkin called the meeting to order 5:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Chair Larkin

ROLL CALL

Present: Balitzer, Hunter, Larkin, Milligan, Ochs, Schauppner, Van Voorhis

Staff Liaisons: Peterson, Semeta

Staff Present: Knight, Slama, Gomez, Herbel, Hoang, Officer Reilly

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Doug Misterly inquired about the inoperable clubhouse pump.

CONSENT ITEMS

A) Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Chair Larkin motioned to deferred the approval of the July 25, 2019 meeting minutes to the September meeting, pending corrections. Balitzer seconded.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Balitzer, Hunter, Larkin, Milligan, Ochs, Schauppner and Van Voorhis

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

B) Commission Chair Appointment until 2020 – A short discussion on the Chair remaining in place until December 2020.

MOTION: Van Voorhis motioned to accept the recommendation with Balitzer seconding the motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Balitzer, Hunter, Larkin, Milligan, Ochs, Schauppner and Van Voorhis

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) Waterway Safety – Hunter, Milligan & Van Voorhis

Van Voorhis – provided handouts and a summary of the ad-hoc committee's recommendation on kayaks and standup paddleboards, stating that all businesses providing these services are not in compliance with City regulations. Committee recommends that a fee be implemented and an area of operation defined on the beaches in the harbor. Van Voorhis asked if one code enforcement officer could work weekends during the summer, since this is the business season. Hoang with Code Enforcement said that he could possibly assign an officer one or two Saturdays per month, but it would affect the overtime budget. Hoang also reported that two of the three business are now in compliance, but there are issues with the third business. Discussion ensued on business licenses and how fees could be implemented. Knight suggested the possibility of a contract like those that are in place for surf instructions with the Community Services' recreational classes. A Request for Proposal (RFP) would be created and posted for use of the beach by a business, with a separate RFP for instructional lessons. This process would help with revenue and the following of rules and regulations by the businesses. Schauppner asked about liability. Knight said that the businesses would have to go through the City's insurance process and participants would have to sign liability

waivers holding the City and its representative harmless.

Balitzer asked about public use. Herbel with Public Works responded that the beach areas are utilized by the public, however, it is difficult for the public to picnic or access the water when the beach is covered with kayaking and paddle boarding equipment.

MOTION: Chair Larkin motioned to have staff review options for an RFP and waiver process. Schauppner seconded the motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

AYES: Balitzer, Hunter, Larkin, Milligan, Ochs, Schauppner and Van Voorhis

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Additionally, Van Voorhis reported that the Committee discussed situations viewed as dangerous at the four major beaches. Situations include youth swimming without floatation gear, bridge jumping, and more. The Committee recommends lifeguards to monitor public activity and reckless behavior at each beach, with two lifeguards and a supervisor for relief at Seabridge due to the volume of beach goers. Understanding that lifeguard services will create budgetary needs, Waterway Safety Ad-Hoc Committee will review and provide more detail at future meetings.

B) General Infrastructure –Schauppner & Ochs

Larkin – Provided information on his review of SB630 for moorings and docking. Discussion began on revenue and how to bringing it back to the City.

Schauppner continued the report and information gathered from State Lands on SB630. The Committee would like to discuss SB630 with the City Attorney's Office. Knight asked Committee to draft a summary of SB630 with pros and cons prior to a meeting with the City Attorney to see what it looks like before it goes to City Council for approval.

The Committee feels that data is important to address infrastructure needs, such as inspection results for divers going down to look at bulkheads, past budgets and expenditures. Knight said she met with Herbel, Scott Smith & Tom Green to review the Committees requests. Knight reminded Commissioners that the budget includes all beaches and does not section out the harbor beaches. Knight said that Public Works will pull together information and bring it back to the next meeting.

Schauppner moved to add Larkin to the Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

Knight said that January's meeting will include a discussion on the CIP, but in November, Commission will determine items to submit to the CIP.

Herbel reported that the pump-out is unrepairable and has order a new pump-out, which is anticipated to arrive in 2 months. Herbel will have staff take a reading after the installation.

C) Water Quality – Larkin & Balitzer

Larkin – The Committee discussed how to address water issues. Discussion continued on types of water cleaning equipment, included a grant from the Ocean Protection Council for a sled to remove debris. Knight said that Toni Graham in the City Manager's Office can look into grant opportunities and staff will report back at the next Commission meeting. Herbel informed the Commission that the issue lays with the County, saying that they are not keeping up the County channels, which in turn flows to the coast. Herbel reported that in discussions with the County, they will be doubling

their booms to manage the problem. Herbel asked that Commission and staff wait six months before taking any action in order to see if the efforts made by the County will make a difference. Conversation ensued on types of trash, equipment used for cleanup, the County, homeless issues and illegal dumping. Larkin will forward the grant information to Knight and Herbel.

STAFF COMMENTS

Herbel provided an update to questions asked at the July meeting, stating that a 34' length of pump-out is large enough for 2 boats; and there are 18 trash cans located at Seabridge. Public Works has cleaned up extra trash bags and piles of trash next to cans. Herbel feels that more pickups should correct the problem instead of adding more trashcans to the beach.

Hoang reported that he is working on the amendment of the code section on abandoned vessels and will be taking it to City Council for approval. Knight asked that a draft come before the Harbor Commission for review prior to going to City Council for approval. Larkin commented on a grant that may be of assistance for this issue. Discussion ensued on abandoned vessels.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Van Voorhis is interested in developing another ad hoc committee to address entertainment in the harbor. As an example, he discussed a concert on the water that is open for all types of water vessels.

Balitzer asked about sales tax and if a report or analysis exists on the amount of revenue brought into the city by rentals. Balitzer asked that Commission keep tourism and local businesses in mind when seeking new regulations.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Larking called for adjournment at 5:55 pm with Balizar seconding the motion.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harbor Commission is on Thursday, September 26, 2019, at 5:00 PM in meeting room B-7, lower level of the Civic Center, Huntington Beach, California.

HARBOUR LIFEGUARD PROTECTION

Our Safety Committee has concluded that there is a dangerous situation currently at our four major Harbour beaches. These beaches are quite popular and many young people swim and play in the water without lifeguard protection. In addition, we have young people (and older) jumping off the Davenport, Humboldt and Trinidad bridges in numbers much higher than in the past. This combined with increased activity of kayaks, standup paddle boards & Duffys creates an environment for potential injuries. This is a topic that has been presented to us during "Public Comments" at our last several Harbor Commission meetings. It was a recent topic on the Nextdoor website and there was a large number of residents commenting on the need to correct these problems.

Our Safety Committee would like to submit a proposal to address this issue in time to be considered for next year's budget. As a one-year trial we suggest that lifeguard protection be added to our four major Harbour beaches between 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM starting Memorial weekend 2020. It would continue on the two following weekends and then it would be increased to daily thru Labor Day. We recommend that one lifeguard be assigned each to Davenport, Humboldt & Trinidad beaches. The Lifeguard Stand should be located on the sand, but as close to the three bridges as possible. The lifeguards would be able to watch the people in the water and would be able warn potential bridge jumpers that jumping is prohibited. We agree with Marine Safety Division Chief, Mike Baumgartner, that two lifeguards should be assigned to Seabridge Beach due to the size of the beach and the high number of visitors. In addition, there would be a Supervisor Patrol Unit available for relief and to be summoned if bridge jumpers ignore

lifeguard warnings. Attached is a Staffing Proposal with the associated costs. We believe this Harbour lifeguard proposal has the added benefit of taking away minor calls to the Police, leaving them available for a quicker response to emergency calls. Finally we suggest as routine replacement of Harbour bridge railings takes place, that we use the recent Edinger bridge barrier as a model.

From: Baumgartner, Mike <Mike.Baumgartner@surfcity-hb.org>
To: Mike Van Voorhis <sunsetssurfcity@aol.com>
Cc: Baumgartner, Mike <Mike.Baumgartner@surfcity-hb.org>
Subject: RE: Huntington Harbour
Date: Thu, Aug 8, 2019 3:27 pm

Mike,

Yes, I would only recommend one lifeguard at Humboldt, Trinidad, and Davenport beaches and two lifeguards at Seabridge. The supervisor would be in a patrol unit and would be responsible for relief breaks for the lifeguards and for responding to any emergencies or incidents (bridge jumping, etc.) at any of the beaches. In the past we staffed Seabridge with two lifeguards based on the size of the beach and the number of visitors and I believe that to be prudent today as well. The staffing recommendation includes 3 weekends (starting Memorial Day) before summer and then staffing 7 days per week Mid-June until Labor Day Holiday. The hours of staffing proposed would be approximately 10 AM until 5 PM; depending on weather and crowd conditions. The total estimate for staffing implementation the first year includes one-time capital costs for swim lines, lifeguard towers/chairs, etc.

Harbor Beaches - Staffing Proposal

Personnel

Patrol Unit (Supervisor)	\$46,529.40
Beach Lifeguard(s)	
1 Lifeguard (Trinidad)	\$18,795
1 Lifeguard (Davenport)	\$18,795
1 Lifeguard (Humboldt)	\$18,795
2 Lifeguards (Seabridge)	\$37,591
	\$93,976

Operating \$3,000

Capital(one time)* \$19,600

TOTAL \$163,106

* One-time Cost Estimate: Tower chairs, swim lines, anchors, channel buoys with anchor tackle

3 weekends (starting Memorial Day) before summer and then 7 days per week Mid-June until Labor Day Holiday

Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Baumgartner
Marine Safety Division Chief
Huntington Beach Fire Department
714-536-5489

