



## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **HARBOUR COMMISSION**

**Thursday, July 22, 2021  
Room B8, Lower Level  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

WILLIAM LARKIN, Chair  
MICHAEL VANVOORHIS, Vice Chair  
BRIAN GRILEY, Board Member  
KIMBERLEY MILLIGAN, Board Member  
CHRIS NIELSEN, Board Member  
JOHN OCHS, Board Member  
CRAIG SCHAUPPNER, Board Member

### **COUNCIL LIAISON**

ERIK PETERSON, Councilmember Liaison

### **STAFF**

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

### **CALLED TO ORDER**

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

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Nielsen

### **ROLL CALL**

Present: Larkin, Ochs, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis  
Absent: Griley, Milligan

Staff Present: Scott Haberle, Eric Dieterman, Kevin Justen, Ashley Wysocki, Jimmy Hoang, Terry Tintle, Thoby Archer, Mike Bartlett

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A public comment regarding flood zones in the Harbour area was provided by Joseph Edmonds.

**PRESENTATIONS**

There were no presentations.

**CONSENT ITEMS**

- A) Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 22, 2021

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Nielsen, seconded by VanVoorhis, to approve meeting minutes dated July 22, 2021.

The motion carried by the following vote, 5-0:

AYES: Larkin, Ochs, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis

NOES: None

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A) Presentation on Public Dock Usage, *Mike Bartlett, Marine Safety Captain*

Captain Bartlett provided a detailed PowerPoint presentation with an overview of public docks in the Harbour. It included identification of high, medium and low usage docks, types of use and current issues and challenges. Hoang added an update on code enforcement issues related to commercial activities in the Harbour area utilizing public docks. He said that the related portion of the City Code was adopted in 1979 and is in need of review and possible updating. Schauppner said the increased commercial activity in the Harbour seems to be increasing congestion. Ochs said that if fishing boat operators are taking customers out without ocean operators licenses they could be in violation of Coast Guard regulations and federal laws. Haberle said the pending report on Harbour jurisdictions and enforcement responsibilities will help to address many of these questions. Larkin asked if *Do Not Trespass* signs posted on private docks would help to deter some of violations. Archer said that this would help with deterrence and enforcement.

- B) Harbor Report

Dieterman provided the Harbour Report in a PowerPoint presentation. It included a water quality report and a Harbour activity report, which had detailed information on recent harbor incidents and rescues. Justen also provided an update on upgrades to the Harbour Commission website and a report on the status of the ten (10) presentations the Commission adopted in its strategic plan. Haberle handed out business cards with the QR code for the website and Schauppner asked that these be provided to the SUP and Kayak rental companies. Larkin asked if the fuel dock has been designated as an EMT station and Bartlett said where Fire and Marine Safety personnel respond to for medical emergencies depends upon where the boater is located. However, Haberle said that signage can be included on the fuel dock to indicate how to request this type of assistance. Larkin commented that the pump out station seems inconsistent in its operation and Tintle stated that it is not operating at this time, but staff are working to get it back in operation. They are also attempting to obtain grant funding to upgrade the station. If successful, the grant would include upgrade to a whole new system. Larkin also asked who monitors the station and how long it is anticipated to be out of service. Tintle responded that Public Works staff and the contractor monitor it and they are attempting to get it back into service next week. In the *Harbour Activity* portion of the report Dieterman referenced two incidents of illegal vending. Schauppner asked what vendors are selling and Dieterman said it is mostly food items. After the Report was presented Larkin asked how the Commission can support Marine Safety efforts in the Harbour. Haberle said general support of staff and Harbour programs goes a long way to encourage and motivate Marine Safety staff.

- C) Public Works Update

There were no Public Works updates at this time.

D) RFP Updates – SUP and Harbor Salvage

Wysocki provided an update on the Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) RFP process and Justen provided an update on the Harbour Salvage RFP. Wysocki said that contract documents have been executed for two of the three authorized vendors and she will report back when the final vendor has completed the contract. Schauppner asked Wysocki to request vendors to emphasize the rules of the road for stand up paddleboards and kayaks. Justen reported that reference checks have been completed on the two Harbour salvage vendors, Global Salvage and Diving and Perry's Truck and Equipment Repair. Both received very good references. Contract documents are now being prepared by the City Attorney's Office and should be executed by the August meeting. Larkin asked if Global was the contractor that worked on the 80 foot vessel which sunk in Sunset Beach. Justen confirmed that they were the vendor who worked on this. Ochs commented that his company has used Global for projects with very good results.

E) Projects Update - Harbour Commission Strategic Plan

Justen presented updates on Harbour Commission Strategic Plan projects related to the website and presentations.

F) Channel Closures Due to Naval Operations

Larkin said that on July 4<sup>th</sup> there were closures at the Naval Weapons station that resulted in channel congestion. He added that a boom had previously existed that assisted during such closures, but the Navy informed him that it was eliminated due to budget reductions. VanVoorhis said that it would be good if the Navy could better communicate regarding these closures, which can impact the boating community during high traffic times. Schauppner said that often these closures are due to unforeseen circumstances, which cannot be anticipated. He noted that the reconfiguration of the entrance will help to eliminate these circumstances and we can request advance notification from Navy Public Affairs Officer Gregg Smith. He will speak to Officer Smith about the status of replacing the booms. Haberle said that information regarding closures obtained from the Navy can be publicized through social media and via the Harbour Commission website.

## STAFF COMMENTS

Haberle introduced the Public Service announcement on the reconfiguration of the Harbour entrance. Commissioners expressed approval of the PSA and encouraged staff to publicize it. Haberle said he would do so, including through social media. Larkin asked that the aerial view of the new Harbour entrance be included on the website next to the PSA and Justen said he would follow-up with the Information Systems Department to make this change. Larkin asked what subject the next PSA would cover, to which Haberle responded that it would be on paddleboard and kayak safety and rules of the road. It can be a short video which can be shown to people renting paddleboards or kayaks. Schauppner recommended that in producing it Huntington Beach High School student talent be enlisted. Hoang provided an overview of the permit search portion of the City website, which is now linked from the Harbour Commission page. It includes a section on code compliance, which he highlighted. Larkin asked how Code Enforcement staff can address enforcement challenges which require access from the water. Haberle said that Marine Safety Division staff can provide this assistance. Larkin said that the permitting process for dock repair or replacement is not clear, is lengthy and asked if a workshop can be organized to better inform on this topic. Haberle said there will be an agenda item for the August meeting on *Dock*

*Repair Permitting Process.*

### **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

VanVoorhis provided eight (8) updates from Navy Public Affairs Officer Smith regarding the Harbour entrance reconfiguration project. Haberle directed Justen to email the report from Officer Smith to the Commissioners. Ochs asked if an agenda item can be included in August regarding the southeast abutment of the Pacific Coast Highway Bridge. He said there are problems with graffiti and transients at this location. Archer said that he will have Officers investigate the location this week and will report back at the next meeting. VanVoorhis referenced the invasive algae found in Newport Bay and asked how we would know if we had such a bloom in Huntington Harbour. Larkin said the City would usually know by someone reporting it. Haberle said staff will contact colleagues in Newport Beach regarding this and report back to the Commission.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Schauppner at 6:25 p.m. to adjourn to the August 26, 2021 meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote, 5-0:

AYES: Griley, Larkin, Ochs, Nielsen, Van Voorhis

NOES: None

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harbour Commission is on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 5:00 PM in meeting room B-8, lower level of the Civic Center, Huntington Beach, California.