



MEETING MINUTES

HARBOUR COMMISSION

**Thursday, September 23, 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
DAN KALMICK, 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 5:02 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Griley

ROLL CALL

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

Councilmember Liaison Present: Kalmick

Staff Present: Scott Haberle, Eric Dieterman, Kevin Justen, Brevyn Mettler, Terry Tintle, Jimmy Hoang, Kenny Waldecker, Brevyn Mettler, Thoby Archer, Jim Merid,

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

- A) Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2021

MOTION: A motion was made by Schauppner, seconded by Griley, to approve meeting minutes dated August 26, 2021.

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

AYES: Larkin, Griley, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis

NOES: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A) Presentation on Harbour Entrance Navigation Aids, *Lieutenant Commander, Maria Wiener, Chief Petty Officers James Laughlin and David Lund, United States Coast Guard*

Justen introduced United States Coast Guard Lieutenant Commander Maria Wiener, who is the Chief of the Waterways Management Division. With her were Chief Petty Officers James Laughlin and Courtney Lund. Officer Lund provided an update on recent upgrades to the navigational aids at the entrance to Huntington Harbour. He said that permanent fixed aids will be installed once the Navy's construction project is near completion and these will provide a much more clear navigational picture. Larkin asked when this will occur and Lund said he inquired about this recently with the company performing the construction and he is still waiting for a response. It was originally anticipated for this fall. Schauppner asked if there is still confusion among private boaters traveling the channel and inadvertently going into the restricted Navy area. Lund said this can still be a challenge, especially for those not familiar with the area, but said these incidents should reduce once all aids to navigation (nautical charts, google maps, etc.) are updated. Larkin asked if additional marker buoys can be installed between the junction buoy to the end of the newly constructed jetty to assist with navigation. Lund responded by showing the Commission on the aerial view of the Harbor where the permanent buoys will be installed and said that the final plan will remove all buoys, with the exception of the large metal Navy buoys. He also described the final plan for this area and added that although he does not have the authority to approve the addition of buoys, he can request this through the Coast Guard chain of command.

- B) Harbor Report

McCoy provided the Harbour Report in a PowerPoint presentation. It included a water quality report and a Harbour activity report for August. The activity report had an overview and graphics showing things such as Harbour enforcement, preventative actions, medical aids, rescues, investigations, attendance, etc. He also informed the Commission that a number of public service announcements will be released prior to the upcoming air show on October 1st weekend. Justen provided an update on upgrades to the Harbour Commission website. One of the highlights included a history and overview of Huntington Harbour, which was recently added to the site. Commissioners and Councilmember Liaison Kalmick directed Justen to additional resources to expand and enhance the history, which he said he would pursue. Justen also mentioned that he now has editing capability for the site and no longer has to go through the Information Systems Department to make changes.

- C) Public Works Update

Tintle provided a status report on the pumpout station. He said it is currently inoperable and supply chain problems have delayed repairs. Although the pump has been rebuilt, the hose is broken and replacement parts are on order and anticipated for arrival this week or next. The contractor is on standby for installation. In addition, a grant is being pursued for replacement of the entire unit, which is a long-term solution. Haberle said he would approach the Public Works Director on the following day to see if funding can be made available to replace the entire unit at this time, eliminating the wait time for a grant award. Chairman Larkin and other Commissioners emphasized the importance of fixing or replacing the pumpout station in a timely manner and offered to assist in any way possible.

D) Harbour Commission Strategic Plan - Projects Update

Justen stated that all Harbour Commission Strategic Plan projects, except the report on Harbour jurisdictions, have been completed. He said that it will be a very detailed report and require a large effort to complete. Haberle, McCoy, Justen and Fire Department Principal Administrative Analyst Bonnie To will be meeting with the consultant to finalize the scope of work on October 4, 2021. He stated that the project is on schedule for completion during the last quarter of the calendar year.

E) Review of Tsunami Zone Maps

Emergency Operations Center Coordinator Brevyn Mettler provided a presentation on tsunami zone maps. It included a comprehensive overview of issues related to the damage that would be caused if a tsunami were to hit Huntington Beach. He also showed specific impacts related to Huntington Harbour, hazard and evacuation areas, considerations in the event of this type of emergency and how to prepare to safely leave an area before an impact. Haberle directed Justen to include the map showing tsunami evacuation routes on the Harbour Commission website. Mettler noted that it is also available on the City website.

F) Procedure and Timeframe for Appointments to the Harbour Commission

Justen provided an overview of the process and the timeframe for replacement of a Harbour Commissioner. He said that the Maddy Act specifies that openings cannot be posted until 20 days prior to a vacancy. With Commissioner Ochs resigning his position effective at the October 28, 2021 meeting, the first date it can be posted is October 8, 2021. It must also be posted within 20 days of the vacancy, which is November 17, 2021. It will be posted in the *Commissions* section of the City website and on the *Harbour Commission* page, along with the posting board outside of the City Council chambers. After a three week posting, Councilmember Liaisons Kalmick and Peterson will review applicants and recommend to the City Council who should be appointed. This should occur at the December 6th or 20th Council meeting and would normally be included on the consent agenda. Larkin asked if an ideal candidate profile can be developed and Justen said that he would prepare a draft for the Commissioners to review. It would accompany the Notice of Vacancy and after Commissioner review it would go to the Councilmember Liaisons for approval and then be posted.

STAFF COMMENTS

Haberle reported that he, McCoy and Justen met with newly appointed Harbour Commission Councilmember Liaison Kalmick on September 22, 2021 and reviewed a number of things related to the Harbour Commission, including the strategic plan. He also said that Councilmember Kalmick

recommended that the Commission consider conducting meetings at the Huntington Harbour Yacht Club. Kalmick said this will provide a meeting place closer to the Commissioners, as well as increasing opportunities for public input from those impacted by issues related to the Harbour. Haberle said staff will investigate the feasibility of doing this and Commissioner Milligan offered to assist with arrangements. Justen stated that one of the two vendors contracted for Harbour salvage services, Perry's Trucking and Equipment Repair, has increased its capacity for salvage operations and now can remove boats up to 60 feet in length, where previously they were limited to vessels up to 30 feet. He also reported that Tintle removed four abandoned boats from the Harbour this week using Public Works Department staff. He added that with the two salvage vendors and in-house staff, the overwhelming majority of the salvage needs in the Harbour can be addressed. Merid reported City staff is in preliminary talks with the County of Orange Public Works Department, which handles maintenance of all County drainage channels, regarding surveillance of channels with large amounts of debris flow, which often ends up in the Harbour. City staff would like to partner with County staff to determine which areas have a large amount of debris, in an attempt to reduce it. This effort would include review of Public Works work orders for debris removal and an emphasis would be placed on preventing the discarding of large items, which have the potential of doing significant damage. Merid said staff hopes to have something in place by November. Larkin asked if this is a similar program to the one previously reported on where upland cities evaluate their watershed in an attempt to reduce pollutants in runoff. Merid said this effort would be different in that it emphasizes reducing trash, rather than chemical pollutants.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

VanVoorhis asked if the Navy can be reminded of the upcoming airshow, in an attempt to keep the channel clear during this time. Schauppner pointed out that two weeks prior to the event is not adequate time to inform them of this since their calendar for ship arrivals and departures are set a year in advance. He also noted that at the prior meeting with the Base Captain staff and Commissioners were informed that the Navy is reluctant to provide advance notification due to operational security concerns. At a minimum, he recommended that they be informed of any major City events at least 6-9 months ahead of time. Schauppner also noted that Navy ships generally arrive on Mondays and depart on Thursdays. Larkin said that recently there a group of people occupied the public dock for several hours, even setting up chairs and a canopy. He said such incidents should be reported to Marine Safety Division Chief McCoy for follow-up enforcement. Nielson asked about fishing charters using the public dock for loading and unloading for their businesses. Staff said this is currently under review, including whether a permit for doing this should be issued.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Nielsen and seconded by Milligan at 6:24 p.m. to adjourn to the October 28, 2021 meeting.

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

AYES:	Larkin, Griley, Milligan, Nielsen, Schauppner, VanVoorhis
NOES:	None

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Harbour Commission is on Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 5:00 PM in meeting room B-8, lower lever of the Civic Center, Huntington Beach, California.