

**MICHIGAN CITY PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

July 20, 2009

TIME & ATTENDANCE

The regular meeting of the Michigan City Port Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Port Authority board room.

ATTENDANCE

President James Jaksa presided. Board members in attendance included Todd Dickard, Jonita Davis, Sam Johns and Dan Messina. Harbormaster Tim Frame and Assistant Harbormaster of Operations Dan Hoepf were also in attendance.

Board members James Cadwell and John Haynes were unable to attend this meeting.

Assistant Harbormaster of Administration Mary Ann Pawlicke was unable to attend this meeting.

Attorney Jeffrey Katz was not asked to attend this meeting.

Guest in attendance was Laurie Wink from the News Dispatch.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by Todd Dickard, seconded by Jonita Davis, the board approved the minutes to the previous meeting.

BILLS

Upon motion made by Sam Johns, seconded by Jonita Davis, the board approved payment of the bills as presented by Harbormaster Tim Frame. He did discuss the fuel and diesel costs in comparison to last year's prices as costs are down approximately one dollar (\$1.00) per gallon and informed the board *Rackham Oil Services* was doing an outstanding job in supplying fuel as requested stating they monitor the tanks and contact us as they get low; fuel is then delivered within 24 hours.

REPORT FROM HARBORMASTER

Harbormaster Tim Frame informed the board the monthly dock representative meeting was held on Saturday, July 11th. The group discussed current events and activities along with general maintenance issues.

Harbormaster Frame reported on the annual fireworks display held Sunday, July 12th, stating the weather was excellent and there were no incidents.

Harbormaster Frame informed the board Todd Dickard mentioned there was some type of hole located along the bottom of the Washington Park ramp. Apparently there is a small gap where the old and new concrete pads meet which fills with sand; however it tends to wash out when the trailers are backed down. *Tonn & Blank, Inc.* has been contacted to take a look and will apply gravel in between the concrete panels so as not to wash out as easily. Harbormaster Frame spoke with several ramp users and fortunately no one else has reported any problems when backing down.

Harbormaster Frame informed the board the next major event will be the Super Boat Grand Prix Race scheduled for August 7th, 8th & 9th. There has been no notification of blocking off the channel or outer harbor; access in and out should continue as usual.

In reference to the issue with the geese eating the dune grass, Harbormaster Frame informed the board he has discussed placing a fence along the area. In the meantime a spray repellent called 'Goose Chase', a grape concentrate derivative, has been applied to combat the problem and appears to be quite effective.

REPORT FROM ASSISTANT HARBORMASTER

Assistant Harbormaster of Operations Dan Hoepf informed the board approximately two hundred and fifty (250) boats had been launched from the Trail Creek ramp the evening of the fireworks due to both the Washington Park and Portage ramps being closed. Consequently parking was extremely over crowded.

Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf informed the board *Gallo Equipment* is in the process of servicing the two (2) fork trucks for minor repairs, i.e. changing gaskets and bearings.

Safety report: The staff has completed 406 days (4,769 hours) without an incident and 1,441 days (16,241 hours) without a lost time accident.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

On behalf of the **Budget and Financial Oversight Committee**, Todd Dickard advised the board that the finance committee engage a discussion with three (3) various trust departments to consider an option for the accounts at *Fifth / Third Bank* totaling approximately \$1,700,000.000. Mr. Dickard suggested meeting with the trust departments at *Fifth / Third Bank*, *Horizon Bank* and *LaPorte Savings Bank* for recommendations on how to keep these funds liquid and available to us and at the same time offer a return greater than the fees. Our current fees exceed what we're generating in interest.

There was no report from the **Claims and Insurance Committee**.

On behalf of the **Master Planning and Special Projects Committee**, Sam Johns had nothing new to report on the Millennium Plaza Project as this is still in the engineering phase and the NIPSCO Launch Ramp Project as this is still in the testing phase; he will keep the board informed of any new developments.

Mr. Johns mentioned the *News Dispatch* had recently reported that lake levels were up ten inches (10") which is very encouraging to recreational boating.

There was no report from the **Boater Communications and Special Events Committee**.

On behalf of the **Port Operations, Personnel and Marina Policy Committee**, Dan Messina informed the board he has visited the Trail Creek Marina and introduced himself to the staff and familiarized himself with operations. He also had the opportunity to join Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf on the skiff during the fireworks display, stating he was impressed with how well maintained the skiff was and commented on Assistant Hoepf's professionalism that evening.

Mr. Messina suggested as Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf was hired on an interim basis, he proposed the board table a motion to vote, to waive the temporary status and make his position permanent after a committee review.

Upon motion made by Dan Messina, seconded by Todd Dickard, the board approved a motion to table a vote to waive interim status for Assistant Harbormaster of Operations Dan Hoepf.

Upon motion made by Sam Johns, seconded by Jonita Davis, the board amended the previous motion to delay a vote until the next meeting.

On behalf of the **Public Relations and Advertising Committee**, Jonita Davis informed the board a booth will be set up during the In-Water Boat Show, operated with one (1) board member and one (1) staff member for two (2) hour intervals, to answer any questions people may have. An area will be set up to showcase the commercial along with the brochures and information regarding the various Port Authority projects. In preparation, Ms. Davis proposed an informational tour of both Washington Park & Trail Creek Marina to be conducted during the next two (2) board meetings, which she suggested

could begin a little earlier at 4:30 p.m. Dan Messina informed the board a route has been mapped out so they can adjourn at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Davis gave out assignments for discussion as follows:

- *Harbormaster Frame – Dune Grass & Geese*
- *Assist. Harbormaster Pawlicke – Fuel Dock Operations*
- *Assist. Harbormaster Hoepf – Trail Creek Marina Operations*
- *James Cadwell – Trail Creek Marina Operations*
- *Todd Dickard – Trail Creek Marina Operations*
- *Jonita Davis – Handicapped Lift*
- *John Haynes – Bathhouses*
- *James Jaksa – Slips on 300 Dock*
- *Sam Johns – NIPSCO Project, Ramp, North Shore*
- *Dan Messina – Fish Cleaning Station*

A signup sheet will be available prior to the boat show to allow everyone to indicate which two (2) hour shift they would like to work.

Ms. Davis went on to inform the board she has been attending the information exchanges with the LCCVB and met the WIMS advertising person; a meeting is set for tomorrow to discuss local radio spots.

Ms. Davis also reported her social networking project has been put on hold due to legal ramifications which she will discuss with Attorney Jeff Katz.

Sam Johns reported he had asked some friends and relatives to review our website and received positive feedback.

James Jaksa complimented Ms. Davis on her public relations involvement.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Jaksa and Harbormaster Frame had met with Ken Alvey from LEMTA who informed them although there would be changes to this year’s boat show, partially due to less vendor participation, was committed to a very successful 30th In-Water Boat Show in Michigan City.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Jaksa informed the board he received a letter from Ronald Schultz, *CEO of Abomarche’s Edgewater Group*, regarding the proposed NIPSCO launch ramp, in which he described a similar project being developed in Rochester, New York. The economic impact of the Rochester project is projected to increase sales tax revenues and area property values and stimulate local business. Mr. Schultz went on to suggest Michigan City can expect the same impact with future development along the trail creek corridor. Funding is still an issue and grants applications are being submitted, but we are moving forward with the engineering phase of the project.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Sam Johns, seconded by Jonita Davis, the board adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Approved On: _____
Date

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
James Jaksa, Board President

John Haynes, Board Secretary