

**MICHIGAN CITY PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

May 18, 2009

TIME & PLACE

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 James Cadwell, Jonita Davis, Todd Dickard, John Haynes, Sam Johns and Dan Messina. Harbormaster Tim Frame and Assistant Harbormaster of Administration Mary Ann Pawlicke were also in attendance.

Assistant Harbormaster of Operations Dan Hoepf was unable to attend this meeting.

Attorney Jeffrey Katz was not asked to attend this meeting.

Guest in attendance included Bob Kelsey.

MINUTES

Upon motion made by James Cadwell, seconded by Sam Johns, the board approved the minutes to the previous meeting.

BILLS

Upon motion made by Sam Johns, seconded by James Cadwell, the board approved payment of the bills as presented by Assistant Harbormaster of Administration Mary Ann Pawlicke.

REPORT FROM HARBORMASTER

Harbormaster Tim Frame informed the board of the following:

- New GMC truck arrived from Harbor Chevrolet. State registration will be transferred as soon as possible.
 - *Crismar Graphics, Inc.* will decal the truck on Tuesday, May 26th.
- Charlie Cates from Central Maintenance has information on an available snow plow we can acquire this winter.
 - The old plow will be sold at the city auction.
- Harbormaster Frame and Assistant Harbormaster Hoepf recently attended the '**Michigan Small Harbors Coalition**' in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. The coalition is a group of federally authorized recreational Michigan harbors that are earmarked for upcoming dredge projects. The group focuses on the problems small harbors face from the Army Corp. of Engineers and their congressman to receive allocated funds. The group is expanding to include all the states that border the great lakes to provide a bigger voice. There currently is no fee to join the coalition.
- Marina maintenance has continually been keeping up various work orders such as replacing and repairing dock boxes, installation of dock extensions and ladders along with general maintenance projects.
- *Dockside Café* opened on Friday, May 15th as scheduled.

Sam Johns requested that the Port Authority signage be updated throughout the marina.

In reference to Todd Dickard's inquiry, Harbormaster Frame informed him the pier on the north side of the Washington Park ramp will be removed, however the north shore dock post will remain as we have no capability to remove it from the water.

REPORT FROM ASSISTANT HARBORMASTERS

Assistant Harbormaster of Administration Mary Ann Pawlicke informed the board, *Arndt Asphalt Co.* will be re-stripping the marina parking areas on Tuesday, May 19th.

Assistant Harbormaster Pawlicke went on to inform the board there are approximately thirty (30) vacant slips with steady inquiries on availability.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

On behalf of the ***Budget and Financial Oversight Committee***, Todd Dickard had nothing to report.

On behalf of the ***Claims and Insurance Committee***, James Cadwell informed the board he would meet with Tom Cipares of *General Insurance, Inc.* to discuss coverage on the new GMC truck, prior to the next meeting.

On behalf of the ***Master Planning and Special Projects Committee***, Sam Johns informed the board he will be following up with *Abonmarche Group, Inc.* on the status of our trail creek dredge permit.

On behalf of the ***Boater Communications and Special Events Committee***, John Haynes informed the board he attended the dock representative meeting on Saturday, May 9th. Mr. Haynes turned the discussion over to Harbormaster Frame who informed the board the group discussed the NIPSCO ramp project, fishing tournaments and their views on the proposed smoking ban. The general consensus was that a ban would be too difficult to enforce and any boater with a specific problem should handle it on an individual basis; the group was not in favor of any additional rules to the marina. Jonita Davis also stated the representatives were impressed how respectful most smokers were to the non-smokers.

Sam Johns informed the board there was also a discussion about the new website which the group was eager to access stating they felt there would be a great deal of interest by boaters.

On behalf of the ***Port Operations, Personnel and Marina Policy Committee***, Dan Messina had nothing to report.

On behalf of the ***Public Relations and Advertising Committee***, Jonita Davis informed the board the committee met to discuss ideas for the In-Water Boat Show and set up a press conference to inform the public about the new website (which is up and running), and commercial. The committee is currently revising a script for the television commercial in which they have asked local radio personality Craig Koepke to supply the voice over. The committee also recommends the Port Authority employ a graphic designer to arrange a layout for an informational brochure regarding the marina.

Ms. Davis went on to inform the board, during a meeting with the *LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau* (LCCVB), they had indicated their partnership with the Port Authority included the preparation of press release distribution and developing an email listing notifying the public of upcoming marina events.

The board complimented Ms. Davis with her involvement in updating the Port Authority website. She informed Assistant Harbormaster Pawlicke the staff can continue to update information through Scott Wills as needed.

The committee scheduled their next meeting for Thursday, May 21st at 10:00 a.m. in the board room.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Jaksa scheduled a public forum meeting to present the proposed NIPSCO launch ramp project on Wednesday, June 10th at 6:00 p.m. to be held at the Michigan City library. Ms. Davis will solicit the LCVVB to assist with an announcement.

NEW BUSINESS

In reference to a recent article in the *News Dispatch*, Mr. Jaksa informed the board that the Parks & Recreations Department has removed the guard shack located at the entrance of the west marina parking lot. Upon discussion with Harbormaster Frame on how to proceed, they have decided to increase signage at the entrance and patrol during holidays and special events as necessary.

Mr. Jaksa informed the board he was notified by Mayor Oberle that he is preparing a grant request for the marina development commission to discuss engineering fees for the proposed NIPSCO launch ramp project and possible contributions which could range from \$100,000.00 – \$150,000.00.

As *Abonmarche Group* was initially hired to prepare a preliminary design along with site testing, the next step is to process permits and design detail. A proposal will need to be drawn up with *Abonmarche Group* to apply for this process and to work towards identifying other grant and contributing opportunities. Potential fees are as follows:

- 1. Permits: \$8,500.00 - \$15,000.00
- 2. Engineering Costs: \$312,000.00
- 3. Bidding Costs: \$9,000.00

Sam Johns explained that the available Port Authority funds spent on the proposed project would most likely come from fees received from the sale of property (47 slips) to Blue Chip Casino. Mr. Johns expressed his concerns that as the casino funds were dedicated to replace the loss of waterside property and place back into mainstream recreational boating, we may lose our opportunity to do so, however Mr. Johns is in favor of seeing the M.C.P.A. move forward.

Upon motion made by Sam Johns, seconded by John Haynes, the board approved the *Abonmarche Group* proposal for the NIPSCO ramp project to proceed with permits, engineering and bidding process for a potential amount of \$336,000.00.

GUEST COMMENTS

Bob Kelsey with the CoHo Club thanked the board, Harbormaster Frame and Assistant Harbormaster Pawlicke for meeting with him prior to the fishing tournaments, along with their support in making the tournaments successful. In addition, Mr. Kelsey stated there were some minor repairs needed at the fish cleaning station in which the tournament committee wished to offer any financial assistance necessary.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Approved By: _____
Date

By: _____
James Jaksa, Board President

Respectfully submitted,

John Haynes, Board Secretary