

PRESS RELEASE

Mayor's Office • 100 East Michigan Blvd. • Michigan City, IN 46360 • (219) 873-1400 • Fax: (219) 873-1515
www.emichigancity.com

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Phone: (219) 873-1400
Fax: (219) 873-1515
Contact: Cindi Gonzalez-Walus

New Boat Launch Facility for Michigan City

Michigan City, IN – Mayor Chuck Oberlie issued the following statement today:

“With great thanks to the leadership team of NIPSCO and the determination of the Port Authority Board of Commissioners, their Attorney Jeffrey Katz and Harbormaster Tim Frame, I am extremely proud and gratified to be able to announce today that Michigan City will be the home of one of the finest public boat launch facilities in our region.

The City of Michigan City and NIPSCO have entered into an agreement allowing the City, through the Port Authority, to develop and build a new, world class public boat launch facility on NIPSCO property that abuts Trail Creek and will be accessed directly from Wabash Street. Working with Abonmarche Consultants, we have created an architectural rendering of this magnificent new facility, illustrating the location of the new facility along with our vision of six boat launch ramps, vehicle and trailer parking areas, restrooms, fish cleaning station and transient day slips.

From the very beginning of this process, NIPSCO representatives were extremely receptive and deserve special commendation for their insight and suggestions that enabled this agreement to reach fruition. Special recognition must also go to our City Team assigned this daunting task: our Port Authority Board members, Atty. Katz and Tim Frame. For their diligence and sustained efforts over the past many months were essential as the project was explored and the details of the agreement were prepared and then finalized.

NIPSCO representative, Mike Charbonneau said, “We are pleased to partner with the city on a project which will enhance the beautiful Michigan City lakeshore property and enable the city to move forward with its vision for the development of this tremendous resource. It has been a privilege to work in partnership with Mayor Oberlie and his team to make this vision a reality.”

Port Authority Board President Jim Jaksa said, “The agreement announced today transforms how the public will be able to easily enjoy a world class boating experience on Lake Michigan for generations to come. The location is crucial in solving numerous existing problems. This new location will eliminate upstream congestion, allow boaters to avoid the height restrictions created by the AMTRACK swing bridge, and provide easy access to Lake Michigan without having to navigate through the winding roadways and parking lots of Washington Park.

It has been a long two years in the making. But the cooperation between all involved, unwavering support from the mayor and the ‘we can do this’ attitude championed by all has prevailed and led to this great agreement.”

Mayor Oberlie noted, “Now that we have the agreement in hand, we will more aggressively pursue grant funding to assist in financing the anticipated \$6 million project. We also have the regulatory approval and permitting process to navigate.

Additionally, while allowing free access to anyone wishing to place or remove a boat from the water, the agreement does not provide for swimmer’s access to the lake, fires, overnight stays or other such activities.”