

**MARINE COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Monday, February 5, 2018 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Council Chambers, City Hall, Vero Beach, Florida**

**AGENDA**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - A) November 8, 2017**
- 3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
  - A) Chairman**
  - B) Vice Chairman**
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
  - A) Update on the Vero Beach Rowing Club**
  - B) Recap of the Christmas Boat Parade**
- 6. NEW BUSINESS**
- 7. MARINA DIRECTOR'S MATTERS**
  - A) Update on the Marina Facility Repairs**
  - B) Update on the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Grants**
  - C) Marina Reviews and Comments**
- 8. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**
- 9. MEMBER'S MATTERS**
- 10. NEXT MEETING DATE**
  - A) Set Date of Next Marine Commission Meeting**
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**

This is a Public Meeting. Should any interested party seek to appeal any decision made by the Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and that, for such purpose, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Anyone who needs a special accommodation for this meeting may contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at 978-4920 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

## MARINE COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 – 9:30 a.m.

Vero Beach City Marina (Pavilion), 3611 Rio Vista Boulevard, Vero Beach, Florida

**PRESENT:** Chairman, Thomas Juliano; Vice Chairman, Daniel Thomas Members: Brian Cunningham, Robert Snyder, Clinton Lanier, Alternate Member #1 William Walker and Alternate Member #2 Bill Johnson **Also Present:** Marina Director, Tim Grabenbauer, Assistant City Attorney, Stefanie Beskovoyne, and Senior Administrative Assistant, Rita Hawkins

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. and the Senior Administrative Assistant performed the roll call.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### A) August 9, 2017

**Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the August 9, 2017 Marine Commission minutes. Mr. Walker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### 4. OLD BUSINESS

#### A) Update on the Vero Beach Rowing Club

Mr. Juliano stated that they each received a copy of the report from the Vero Beach Rowing Club (on file in the City Clerk's office).

Mr. Chris Ryan, Vero Beach Rowing Club, reported that they are about two-thirds of the way to reaching their fundraising goal for the boathouse. Right now they are doing the final site design and permitting while they finish raising the remaining \$800,000. They hope to be able to start construction next April. The next thing they want to do is introduce Dragon Boating. They have quite a few women in the breast cancer survivor program who are interested in rowing, but half of them are not strong enough to row either because of their lack of strength or their age. Dragon Boating is a sport that can be as competitive as rowing, but it can be done by anyone. This program gets these cancer survivors back into a physical and social environment, which is important. It does not matter if you are young, old, male, female, big, small, or don't have much strength. There is an individual at the front with a drum to keep the beat and a person at the back to steer the boat. It is an international sport with a large following. He announced that they just got the first Dragon Boat funded, so they are going to make this happen.

Mr. Johnson stated that he travels the world and Dragon Boating is big deal everywhere and he thinks this is a brilliant idea for Vero Beach. He is buying the first boat and donating it to the Vero Beach Rowing Club for this program.

Mr. Juliano said that is wonderful. He asked how much do the boats cost. Mr. Ryan said a package for a trailer, boat, dragon's head, etc. will cost about \$10,000.

Mr. Walker asked if they are made of fiberglass. Mr. Ryan explained that they are wood with a fiberglass overlay.

Mr. Ryan stated that they have also been in contact with the Wounded Warriors project. They received a letter from them stating that a lot of people offer help, but what they really prefer is a challenge and they love this idea of Dragon Boating.

Mr. Juliano asked how many boats would they like to have. Mr. Ryan said they would need at least two (2), because they do races. The large boats pictured in the handout accommodate 20 people, but they will start off with half size boats that allow for 10 paddlers.

Mr. Walker asked if the boats need to be stored in the building, or can they be left outside. Mr. Ryan replied that they can stay outside and they have plenty of room. They can be stored on trailers and they have boat launches to get them in the water, but ideally they stay in the water. There is a small gap in the mangroves next to the Dog Park that might accommodate a dock to be used to load the people onto the boats. Right now a dock would not be necessary, but as the sport grows they will need to look at that.

Mr. Thomas asked if there was any space on the same side as their existing dock, so that they will not have to cross the road or involve the Dog Park. Mr. Ryan said there is no more room there.

Mr. Ryan said he believes that this will bring Dragon Boat teams from up north for practice, because they travel all over the world competing. Rowing teams take their own boats with them, but with Dragon Boating you go to the location and there is a boat to use.

**Mr. Juliano made motion indicating that the Marine Commission supports the Dragon Boating program. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **B) Eagle Scout Projects at the Vero Beach Marina**

Mr. Johnson explained that every year there are Eagle Scouts that need projects. Anything on the water, the spoil islands, and parks are perfect for their projects. The Scout Committees love to approve projects that improve public areas. The Eagle Scouts would come up with projects to present to the Marina and if accepted they take it back to the Scout Committee and they get it funded. The Eagle Scouts provide all the materials and labor.

Mr. Tim Grabenbauer, Marina Director, explained that they can always find projects.

Mr. Juliano asked Mr. Grabenbauer if he has a project that he thinks he could use some help on.

Mr. Grabenbauer replied that he has some projects on his bulletin board that they can look at.

Mr. Johnson said that they would probably need a project that would take over 100 hours. The Eagle Scouts take on meaningful projects. The projects include planning, funding, cooperation, and it develops the Scouts leadership skills. They tend to be \$5,000 to \$10,000 projects.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Cunningham announced that the Vero Beach Boat Show will take place on November 18 – 19, 2017 and the Power Squadron and Coast Guard Auxiliary will be there. They are also finalizing the details for the Christmas Boat Parade, which will be Saturday, December 18, 2017. They are moving it to a Saturday to see if they can raise the interest in more participants. It will be advertised and marketed at the Boat Show and through other channels. The parade takes place in the evening with assembly at 5:30 p.m. and it will be a similar route that they have used in the past.

Mr. Juliano said that they need to promote the boat parade. He asked Mr. Cunningham to provide the City Clerk's office with the information so it can be distributed to the Marine Commission members. Mr. Cunningham replied that he will have brochures and flyers printed up and he will scan and email them to the City Clerk's office.

Mr. Cunningham explained that there will be three (3) divisions based on the size of the boats and three (3) prizes will be awarded in each division. Their goal this year is to have 15 to 20 boats participating. The Police boat will lead the parade and they will have Sea Town at the end, so they feel it will be a very safe parade.

## 6. MARINA DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

Items 6-B), 6-C), and 6-D) were discussed before the tour of the facility.

### A) Tour of the Marina Facility

Mr. Grabenbauer and the Marine Commission members started the tour of the Vero Beach Marina property at the main dock leading to the Marina offices. He showed them the list of projects on his bulletin board. He explained that they did some major updates to the WiFi system by doubling the bandwidth and installing new antennas. There is a solar antenna on the northern part of the property and one (1) south at the Riverhouse. He showed them how they can monitor the WiFi system, see how many clients are logged on, and how much they are using. Their WiFi has a bandwidth limiter to help them manage the upload and download rates. He stated that they used to charge for the WiFi, but now it is a free amenity.

They proceeded to the fuel dock and Mr. Grabenbauer explained that this dock has not changed much since the Trex decking was installed in 2003. He said that there was a three and a half foot storm surge with Hurricane Irma and some of the docks were under water. Mr. Grabenbauer pointed out some of the finger piers that are being worked on or replaced by Wilco Construction. He pointed out other piers that have been repaired and that they are adding aluminum beams under them for better support.

Mr. Juliano asked how many restrooms are being updated. Mr. Grabenbauer replied there are just two (2) and it will take a couple of months to complete all the work.

Mr. Johnson asked how old are the washers and dryers. Mr. Grabenbauer stated that most of them are five (5) years old, but they get a lot of use. Every year a couple of them get replaced.

The group went to the south dock where Mr. Grabenbauer showed them where repairs need to be made to some of the finger piers, which were damaged by Hurricane Irma.

The group walked to the Marina South Complex and the dry storage facility. He showed them the Boylan Yacht Sales office building and the repairs that are being made, because it was flooded from the storm. At the dry storage facility Mr. Grabenbauer showed them the new dock fender that was installed along the pier and explained that some of the wood and floating docks are new. The floating docks are made of foam-filled concrete. He said that some of the wooden gussets were also damaged by Hurricane Irma and will need to be repaired.

At this point the group returned to the pavilion to continue the meeting.

### **B) Report on the Marina Budget Hearing**

Mr. Grabenbauer explained that changes in his budget included a 20 percent increase in dock maintenance, which is for whatever maintenance that needs to be done throughout the year. The building maintenance was increased by 13 percent. He explained that he dropped some of his advertising for this year in order to put that money into capital maintenance. Maintenance projects they are working on this year are the main dock repairs, which just started. They will be spending \$70,000 to \$80,000 on restroom renovations, because they are completely gutting them and starting over. The showers will be fiberglass, the floor will be poured in, and the ceiling and walls will be composite.

Mr. Juliano stated that last year the Marina was granted \$170,000 from the Enterprise Fund. He asked if anything was granted this year. Mr. Grabenbauer replied that is correct and they spent that money. They did not transfer any more money this year.

Mr. Grabenbauer stated that they will be transferring \$102,000 to the General Fund. The debt service on the other Marina property is \$339,000 this year and they have about 10 years left on that loan. He stated that the reason he has two (2) Florida Navigation District (FIND) grants in progress right now that are not budgeted on his end, is because the City Council pushed for them.

Mr. Walker said that a couple of the City Councilmembers keep bringing up some negative comments that they have seen on Active Captain about the Marina. Mr. Grabenbauer said that they get some good reviews on Active Captain. There were a couple of negative remarks from a less than customer friendly employee who is no longer with them.

Mr. Juliano said that Mr. Walker previously put together a report on the Marina ratings and comments, so it might be good to put together another half page summary report to show where the Marina stands. What he has seen are mostly good reviews. He asked Mr. Walker to submit his report to the City Clerk's office, so it can be sent out with the minutes.

### **C) Status of the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) Grants**

Mr. Grabenbauer reported that he applied for three (3) FIND grants, which are all 50 percent matches. One (1) was for the center dock repairs, another one (1) was for boat lifts in the Lagoon slips, and the final one (1) was for the first phase of installing 20 more moorings north of the mooring field. Out of the 72 applications that were received by FIND from the entire district, their moorings request came in at 17. He has the FIND agreements and they will be going on the

City Council agenda for them to approve. They received \$60,000 for the dock work, \$12,500 for the boatlifts, and \$50,000 for the first phase of the additional moorings, which will be for the permitting, surveys, etc.

Mr. Juliano asked if they get the other half of the FIND grant for the moorings, how long would it be before they are actually installed. Mr. Grabenbauer replied that it will be 1½ to 2 years out. The permitting takes a long time especially if they require bottom surveys. The two (2) boatlifts will probably be installed in the spring.

Mr. Cunningham asked if anyone had information on what is going to happen with the docks at the end of Royal Palm Pointe. It is an important dock and it is dangerous the way it is now. It is a prime viewing point for the boat parade. Mr. Grabenbauer reported that the Recreation Department is responsible for that dock and it is not insured, so they need to go through FEMA. They will submit the information through purchasing and it will be included in the figures for damages caused by Hurricane Irma.

**D) Progress on Addressing the Issues Related to the August 32963 News Paper Article**

Mr. Juliano said that the issues listed in the 32963 new paper article were discussed within the previous agenda items.

**7. CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

Mr. Juliano asked if there were any additional comments or questions regarding the tour.

**8. MEMBER'S MATTERS**

Mr. Walker said a lot of the repairs and painting have made a difference, but the tired look of the concrete and the decking is still there. He would like to see them improve the concrete if there was an inexpensive way to do it. Mr. Grabenbauer explained that he spoke with Wilco Construction about putting a skim coat on the concrete. Wilco recommended a product and he is doing some research on it.

Mr. Grabenbauer stated that the City started talking about a Master Plan and using Coastal Tech, which the City already uses for other water projects. Coastal Tech is currently working on a proposal for a Master Plan and a proposal for the first phase of the mooring field project.

Mr. Juliano encouraged Mr. Grabenbauer to work on improving the look of the Marina even if some of the items are not safety issues.

Mr. Walker stated that Mr. Grabenbauer is doing a great job considering the budget he has to work with. Mr. Juliano said that he agrees.

Mr. Grabenbauer replied that he cares about the Marina facility as if it were his own.

Mr. Johnson asked if there would be a possibility of the City ever selling the Marina. Mr. Grabenbauer stated that the Marina is protected under the City Charter and it would take a Citywide referendum and approval by the taxpayers to do anything. Mr. Juliano said he did not

see any appetite for that in the City Council meeting where it was brought up by Lange Sykes, City Councilmember. There would be financial and legal issues that would have to be resolved, which would be very difficult to accomplish.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

**A) Set Date of Next Marine Commission Meeting**

The next tentative Marine Commission meeting was scheduled for February 5, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in the City Hall, Council Chambers.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Marine Commission meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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