

CITY OF MORRO BAY
HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD
SYNOPSIS MINUTES

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

I. ROLL CALL

Present:	Members:	Gene Doughty Michele Leary Bill Luffee Lynn Meissen Jim Phillips Elaine Serda
	Absent:	Brett Cunningham
	Staff:	Susan Lichtenbaum, Harbor Business Manager Eric Endersby, Harbor Operations Manager Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

II. MINUTES

Mr. Doughty moved the September 2, 2010 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Luffee and carried unanimously.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

IV-1. Presentation by Eric Griffith of the Morro Bay Sea Scouts

Mr. Eric Griffith, Skipper of Sea Scouts Ship #14 based in Morro Bay, said their group is sponsored by the Rotary Club, and hold their meetings at the power plant gatehouse the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 PM. Currently their small flotilla of boats are in the contractors' yard of the power plant, which includes two Catalina 22' and one Mutineer that the Sea Scouts plan to either sell, demolish, or see if they are usable. Mr. Griffith said the group has been dormant for about five years, and has just started up again last January, but the Sea Scouts organization has been around for over 100 years. Sea Scouts is a nautical, coed organization for ages 14 to 21.

Chairman Phillips thanked Mr. Griffith for his presentation and asked if he would care to give out his phone number for interested viewers. Mr. Griffith said his phone number is 544-4400.

IV-2. Summer Beach Lifeguard Presentation

Mr. Cale Moore, Lifeguard Coordinator for the City of Morro Bay Harbor Department for the past six years, briefed the Board on the 2010 Lifeguard season, saying there was a total of 50,000 beach-goers this year, which was down in numbers by 25% over last year. He said the second annual USLA training program put on by Morro Bay personnel went well. Two fiberglass Lifeguard towers that had been surplus in Ventura were purchased by the Harbor Department for \$5,000, saving approximately \$40,000 over purchasing new towers.

Mr. Moore gave the Board the following statistics for this season: 2436 patron contacts, 1091 preventive action/public safety lectures, 19 medical aids, 24 surfer assists, 9 rescues, 46 animal assists, 19 dog ordinance warnings, 26 enforcement actions, and 144 trash rover pick ups.

Mr. Endersby said he and Dmitri Jarocki have done a phenomenal job setting up and coordinating all the training and Beach Lifeguard programs each year. Chairman Phillips said he appreciates all the work and rescues that Mr. Moore and his Lifeguards do for the City on the beaches.

IV-3. Discussion of Loading Zones on the Embarcadero

Ms. Lichtenbaum reviewed the Item, and said Staff recommends the Board review the issues relating to loading zones and deliveries on the Embarcadero as they relate to traffic delays during peak times, and make a recommendation to the City Council as to what kind of action, if any, should be proposed. She said this topic has come to the Board several times over the past 15 years, with no action being recommended to date. In the fall of 2007 the Parking Management Plan was adopted by City Council, which recommended top priorities as well as placing designated short-term delivery truck parking after 9:00 AM at three locations on the Embarcadero (near the Quonset hut, the chessboard, and Wavelengths) but no action was taken on these recommendations.

Ms. Lichtenbaum said a memo was hand-delivered to all the business owners on the Embarcadero on September 20, 2010, and most of the people she talked with did not want a loading zone near their business.

Mr. Dean Tyler, owner of the Morro Bay Aquarium, said he has lived in Morro Bay since 1948 and has operated a business here for 50 years on the Embarcadero. He said during the peak time of summer seems to be the only period when cars need to wait for delivery trucks who are double-parked on the Embarcadero. He performed an opinion poll of 20 business owners on the Embarcadero, and 17 of them preferred to "leave the Embarcadero as is." Ms. Tracy Neil, business owner, said she concurred with Mr. Tyler, but added that on the weekends, boat trailer parking on the hills are taking up many parking spaces, and the parking lot at the corner of Marina is up for sale and development. She said she would rather not lose the valuable parking spaces.

Councilmember Carla Borchard said the City Council requested this issue be reviewed by the Boards primarily due to the safety concerns for citizens. She presented six photographs taken this morning on the Embarcadero during a 30-minute period, showing delivery trucks double parked and other cars and trucks passing into the on-coming lane of traffic. She suggested that if loading zones were considered, they could be placed on the east side of Embarcadero and could be marked for a specific time period, after which time they would revert back to regular parking zones.

Mr. Luffee asked Staff if there were any statistics on accidents on the Embarcadero, and Mr. Endersby said not that he was aware of, but he could look at Fire Department calls. Mr. Doughty asked if a volunteer traffic cop could be set up to direct traffic just during those delivery times. Chairman Phillips suggested designating loading zones with time limits in the central three or four blocks of the Embarcadero for a temporary period as an investigation to see if this would alleviate the congestion.

Mr. Tyler said he has never seen any accidents in all his years but did take note of two gridlocks, one on September 2, 2007 and one on April 26, 2008, which were both eventually resolved without injury.

Mr. Endersby and Ms. Lichtenbaum both suggested various types of flashing signs or crosswalk lights that could be installed to assist in pedestrian safety. Mr. Luffee asked if Staff could talk with the Police Department and present alternatives on the safety issue in the core area of the Embarcadero. Further discussion by the Board.

MOTION: Mr. Luffee moved to delay the decision to make loading zone recommendations to City Council until the Board receives input from the Police Department on safety issues and from the City Engineer on options for temporary loading zones. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

IV-4. Consideration of a Six-Month License Agreement to Allow Moorage for Two Vessels Owned by AIS Construction

Ms. Lichtenbaum reviewed the Item for the Board, requesting they discuss the license agreement being considered for AIS Construction. She said AIS is demobilizing now, and will have all equipment out of Morro Bay by October 15th except possibly the excavator barge. She briefed the Board on the history of similar license agreements in the past. Mr. Nick Tietje of AIS Construction took questions from the Board, and said he is satisfied with the terms of the agreement. Discussion by the Board concerning the important view-shed of the bay, the working waterfront, the AIS personnel who will watch the equipment, the location of the moored work vessels, and the terms of the agreement being for a one-time six-month period only.

MOTION: Mr. Luffee moved to recommend City Council approve of the six-month license agreement to allow AIS Construction to moor two vessels in the bay. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Serda, and passed with a vote of four to two, with Ms. Meissen and Ms. Leary opposed.

V-1. Harbor Department Status Report

Mr. Endersby and Ms. Lichtenbaum briefed the Board on the following topics:

Boating Accident October 2, 2010

Derelict Vessel Demolition

Wharf Removal Project

Fisheries Issues Grant/Liaison

Pacific Fisheries Management Council ITQ Program Workshop

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mr. Doughty said now is the time to have moorings inspected prior to arrival of storms and wind. Chairman Phillips noted that the GreenWave application to FERC has expired.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Nov: Discussion of Loading Zones on the Embarcadero (Continued)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department