

**CITY OF MORRO BAY**

**HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD**

**SYNOPSIS MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 6:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

**ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER**

Present:	Members:	Alan Alward Gene Doughty Jeff Eckles Bill Luffee Lynn Meissen Ron Reisner
	Absent:	Dana McClish
	Staff:	Becka Kelly, Harbor Patrol Supervisor Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CHAIR AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS**

Mr. Doughty said summer is approaching and he is seeing a lot more life in the bay, which is good. Mr. Alward said he appreciates the red cans (buoys) that have now been replaced in the south side of the channel after the dredge has left. Ms. Meissen said she was in Santa Barbara, hauled out at the boatyard, which is why she missed the last meeting, and she will be glad when there's a boatyard in Morro Bay.

Chair Eckles congratulated the Harbor Department Staff for a good Open House and Boat Christening event. He said there is now a local community radio station up and running on FM Station 97.3 where your friends and neighbors are playing music and doing talk shows. He also congratulated all five candidates who ran for the City election, saying this was a clean and respectful campaign.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Michael Roland, Liveaboard in Morro Bay, said he wants to meet with Harbor Department Staff to discuss the monthly Liveaboard Service Fees on his bill which have not been paid. Mr. David Akey expressed his support of Mr. Roland.

Mr. John Gillespie asked for consideration of waiving the \$450 deposit to be placed on the Commercial Slip Waiting List at the Harbor Department for him and his 66' fishing boat the Windwalker. He asked for the Director of the Harbor Department to change the Rules and Regulations to allow commercial fishermen to be on the Waiting List without paying a deposit.

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A-1 MINUTES**

Mr. Luffee moved the May 1, 2014 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty and carried unanimously.

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**B-1 Harbor Department Status Report**

Ms. Kelly briefed the Board on the following topics:

**North T-Pier Maintenance and Repair Project**

**Lease Site News:**

**Morro Bay Hookers**

**Used Oil Collection Center Grant**

**Dredging Results, Mapper**

**Friends of the Harbor Department**

**Recent Events:**

**May 17 – Harbor Department Open House and New Boat Celebration**

**May 26 – Lost at Sea Ceremony**

**Upcoming Events:**

**June 7 – Morro Bay Music Festival**

**June 8 – Oyster and Beer Festival**

**C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**C-1 Revised Request from Virg’s Sportfishing to Develop Currently Vacant Lease Site 107W-108W, and to Place an Informal Kiosk in the Area**

Ms. Kelly reviewed a brief history of Virg’s Sportfishing plans and kiosk request. She asked Ms. Cathy Novak to give the Board a detailed description of Virg’s Sportfishing plans for Lease Site 107W-108W and the informational kiosk.

Ms. Cathy Novak, representative for Ms. Sharon Moores and Virg’s Sportfishing, began with a description of the kiosk for visitor information and the plans to repair a wheelhouse off a boat to use as the kiosk. She stressed the importance of using the kiosk for all water-related recreational boating businesses on the Embarcadero. She said there is no specific location designated for the kiosk yet.

Ms. Novak then presented a new dock design and plan for Lease Site 107W-108W. She said the project has been narrowed down to only one side-tie dock adjacent to the south side of the South T-Pier, running in an east-west direction with a gangway. Ms. Novak said Ms. Moores and Virg’s would be willing to accept a condition of approval that would remove the dock in the event that the space is needed for a boat haul out facility.

Ms. Novak requested that the Board recommend this new dock and gangway design proposal to City Council for authorization to proceed with a formal planning application, as well as waiving the planning and permitting fees for the installation of the wheelhouse kiosk.

Discussion by the Board and Staff.

**Motion:** Chair Eckles moved that the Harbor Advisory Board recommend to the City Council that they approve the proposal by Virg’s Sportfishing as presented for building a side-tie dock along the South T-Pier, and to include use of a wheelhouse as an informational kiosk, and to waive permitting fees provided the kiosk is non-exclusive use for Virg’s Sportfishing. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Luffee and carried unanimously.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**D-1 Request by Jack Hansen for a Waiver of Requirement to Qualify for a Commercial Fishing Slip**

Ms. Kelly briefed the Board on the topic. Discussion by the Board. Chair Eckles asked Mr. Jack Hansen to state his request. Mr. Hansen presented his case. Three other members of the audience expressed their support for Mr. Hansen. Mr. Tom Hafer, President of the Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization, said the organization will be meeting soon to discuss possible changes to the commercial slip qualifications to allow for certain exceptions for older fishermen and those with health problems. Chair Eckles asked if the results of that meeting could be presented to the Harbor Advisory Board at the August meeting, and Mr. Hafer said the results would be brought to the Board in August.

Discussion by the Board. Ms. Meissen said she is in support of granting Mr. Hansen a third waiver based on the Board's past decisions to grant three other waivers to fishermen with health issues. However, in considering possible changes to the rules for slip qualification we want to be careful to weigh the needs of current occupants and the needs of our community. We should be sure to consider future fishermen and those currently on the slip waiting list. If we had a lot more slips it would be different, but right now if a young fisherman qualifies for a slip and wants to become active, we would need to consider this and weigh the needs of our community.

**Motion:** Mr. Alward moved to recommend granting a third waiver of requirement to qualify for a commercial fishing slip to Mr. Jack Hansen on the condition no further waivers will be granted until the next available ten-year period, which is 2024. The Motion was seconded by Chair Eckles and carried unanimously.

**D-2 Cancelation of the July 3, 2014 Harbor Advisory Board Meeting**

**Motion:** Mr. Luffee moved to cancel the July 3, 2014 Harbor Advisory Board meeting. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

**E. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**August:**

**Harbor Department Budget  
Changes to Commercial Slip Qualifications  
Review of Liveboard Ordinance Regarding Marine Surveyor Certification and  
Standardization of Liveboard Permit Inspections  
Presentation on Marine Service Facility**

**Future:**

**Morro Bay Fish Quota Share and Trawl Permits  
Update Harbor Rules and Regulations  
Tsunami Warning and Emergency Notification  
Water Lease Site Improvements Including Dock Configurations  
Mooring Field Design and Maintenance  
Coast Guard Building Location Plans  
Planning for Power Plant Property  
State Park Marina Operating Agreement**

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.  
Submitted by,

Polly Curtis  
Harbor Department