



AGENDA NO: A-1

MEETING DATE: September 3, 2015

CITY OF MORRO BAY

HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD

SYNOPSIS MINUTES

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

Present: Members: Joe Conchelos (MBCFO Rep)
 Gene Doughty
 Bill Luffee
 Neal Maloney
 Lynn Meissen
 Absent: Dana McClish
 Ron Reisner
 Staff: Eric Endersby, Harbor Director
 Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CHAIR AND ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Doughty said there is a lot of life in the bay with anchovies showing up. Mr. Conchelos said there has been a lot of squid unloading activity lately, including all the semi-trucks; he said Morro Bay is the only location with a squid pump for many miles.

Ms. Meissen reported the captain of the dredge Yaquina had been directed to stop dredging and move away if sea otters are in the area of dredging and if further complaints are received, the dredge must stop dredging. Mr. Endersby said NOAA Marine Fisheries advised the dredge on the Marine Mammal Act which says vessels are not allowed to change the behavior of sea otters as the vessels approach the animals, whether that be kayaks or a dredge.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Michael Roland complained about the citations he has received from the Harbor Patrol and the ongoing litigation. Mr. Drew Jacobson voiced his support for Mr. Roland. Ms. Denise Jacobson voiced her support for Mr. Roland.

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

A-1 MINUTES

Mr. Doughty moved the June 4, 2015 Special Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as submitted. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

A-2 MINUTES

Mr. Doughty moved the July 22, 2015 Harbor Advisory Board Special Meeting minutes be approved as submitted. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Maloney and carried unanimously.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

B-1 Harbor Department Status Report

Mr. Endersby briefed the Board on the following topics:

Summer Medical Aids with Fire Department
Fishing Season
Cable Inspection Ships
Recent City Council Action
Recent Events
Coast Guard Change of Command
Harbor Patrol Boat 65 Auction
Lifeguard Paddleboard Relay Won by Morro Bay
Upcoming Events
Lifeguard Beach Coverage
Vessel Turn-In Program, Funding

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

C-1 Update from the Marine Services Facility/Boatyard Ad-Hoc Committee on Committee's Recent Activities

Chair Luffee asked Mr. Endersby to review the activities of the Ad-Hoc Committee, since the chairman is absent from the Board tonight. Mr. Endersby briefed the Board on the Master Plan for the Triangle Lot, saying the RFPs are due next Friday. There will be future roundtables with consultants.

C-2 Update from the Capital Improvement Planning Ad-Hoc Committee on Committee's Recent Activities

Mr. Maloney said the Ad-Hoc Committee will meet on August 14 and currently there is nothing to report.

C-3 Update from the Insurance Ad-Hoc Committee on Committee's Recent Activities

Ms. Meissen said there have been no new meetings of the Ad-Hoc Committee since the last Harbor Advisory Board meeting and so there is nothing to report.

D. NEW BUSINESS

D-1 Potential Deterrence Methods for California Sea Lions

Chair Luffee read a statement by Mr. McClish, who is absent tonight, reporting the party boats tossing fish carcasses in the bay possibly resulting in negative impacts including attraction of sea lions. Chair Luffee said people should not feed the sea lions.

Mr. Endersby restated the importance of people, party boats included, not throwing fish carcasses in the bay. He reviewed the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region Potential Deterrence Methods for Pacific Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions. He said there are often hundreds of sea lions inside Morro Bay at times and when these animals become a threat these deterrence methods can be employed for the safety and security of life and property. The main point is that people cannot physically harm the animals.

Discussion by the Board on the population explosion of California sea lions; the cases where sea lions attacked fishermen and boaters; the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the need to review the numbers; the floating dock occupied by sea lions; the public impression when they see legal methods of deterrence being employed by fishermen; public awareness; the necessity of signage along the Embarcadero stating the fishermen have the right to protect themselves and their property.

D-2 Water Lease Site Improvements Including Dock Configurations

Mr. Endersby presented a slideshow to the Board of the 30 Master Lease Sites on the land and water, which includes approximately 90 businesses, showing the slips and docks at each site.

Discussion by the Board.

D-3 1-Year Review of Public Dock Off-the-Boat Fish Sales and Harbor Advisory Board Recommendations to City Council

Mr. Endersby reviewed the item, saying he would recommend support by the Board to recommend that City Council approve a permanent allowance of off-the-boat commercial fish sales on the City's public docks and piers.

Discussion by the Board. Mr. Conchelos said this is potentially a great program, and there would be more sales if there is a set dock location as well as advertising to show where and when fish are available. He said certain fish are more marketable to the public such as salmon but this season was horrible, and the albacore stayed up north.

Mr. Maloney thought the Harbor office could use a whiteboard to show which slips the boats are selling fish from and when those boats are at the slips or dock. He suggested a flag showing the off-the-boat sales could be raised above each boat currently selling.

Mr. Endersby said there is an online application called Fishline that shows daily sales off the boats for different locations up and down the coast.

MOTION: Mr. Conchelos moved that the Harbor Advisory Board recommend to City Council to support a permanent allowance of off-the-boat commercial fish sales by commercial fishermen on various public docks and piers in Morro Bay. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

E. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future:

- Management Partners Study
- Friends of the Harbor Department Activities
- Best Management Practices, HAB Review
- Sublease Slip Rate Discount for Qualified Commercial Fishermen on List
- Eelgrass Mitigation Co-op by City
- Status of Bayside Cafe
- Coast Guard Building Location Plans
- Morro Bay Fish Quota Share and Trawl Permits
- Inspecting Marine Sanitation Devices on All Vessels in Morro Bay Harbor
- Planning for Power Plant Property

F. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.
Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department