



AGENDA NO: A-1

MEETING DATE: May 5, 2016

## CITY OF MORRO BAY

### HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD

#### SYNOPSIS MINUTES

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 6:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

#### ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER

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

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=1m55s>

Mr. Doughty said if boaters have not secured their boats and pennant lines, it is probably too late due to impending storms.

Mr. Alward said the Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization (MBCFO) held their annual meeting on February 28, 2016. On the issue of code enforcement towards boats on trailers on private property in Morro Bay, the MBCFO will make a declaration to City Council to recommend rescinding the City Code, saying many of these small boats are used by fishermen.

Mr. Luffee said the "Friends of the Harbor Department" will rent a container/trailer for the Morro Bay Junior Lifeguards for a six-month period which will replace the old Lifeguard "box" in the parking lot at Morro Rock; the trailer may also be used for events at the Rock in the future.

Mr. McClish said the Morro Bay Yacht Club is holding the Cal Poly Mustang sailing regatta this coming weekend. The Big Rock regatta is the weekend after the collegiate regatta.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=5m44s>

##### **Spoke to item C-6**

Ms. Joan Solu said the disgraceful conditions of the public restrooms on the waterfront in Morro Bay directly opposes the City's bid for tourism and related businesses; there is a constant flow of traffic which is heightened during Harbor Festival and many other weekend events such as the Kite Festival. The City needs to offer hospitable, clean, well-stocked restrooms, which need to be modernized and re-designed in the very near future with a hardscape and substructure that is easier to maintain and clean.

**A. CONSENT CALENDAR**  
**A-1 MINUTES**

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=10m47s>

Mr. Maloney moved the February 4, 2016 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as submitted. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

**With consensus from the Board Items C-5, C-6 and C-7 were moved to be heard in the following order.**

**C-5 Request by Thomas St. John for a Waiver of Requirement to Qualify for a Commercial Fishing Slip**

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=12m45s>

Mr. Endersby reviewed the item and introduced Morro Bay commercial fisherman, Mr. Thomas St. John. Mr. St. John thanked the Board for the opportunity to request a third waiver to qualify for his commercial fishing slip; he explained his situation, saying with the crab season closed he came up \$268 short of the \$5,000 qualification.

Discussion by the Board and Mr. St. John.

**MOTION:** Mr. Alward moved for the Harbor Director to grant Mr. Thomas St. John a third waiver for his slip qualification. The Motion was seconded by Mr. McClish and carried unanimously.

**C-6 Discussion and Recommendations on the Condition of Restrooms on the Embarcadero**

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=28m28s>

Mr. Endersby reviewed the item. The Board opened the item up to public comment.

Ms. Tina Hoppe said she has witnessed the public restrooms on the waterfront in Morro Bay full of toxic, hazardous material; many times these restrooms are unusable in these conditions. There is no soap dispenser in most of the restrooms, including the ones near the Dockside Too restaurant which is where patrons are sent; this would not pass any inspection by County Health. She said the restrooms need to have hourly maintenance and need to be stocked with soap and all necessary supplies regularly, and possibly be locked at night. If this cannot be done, she suggested closing these restrooms and bringing in portable outhouses, which are often better maintained by the company that rents them out.

Ms. Lori French said compared to similar public restrooms up and down the coast, these restrooms in Morro Bay are worse than gas stations.

Mr. Homer Alexander said there are many visitors to the waterfront; visitors provide money which goes into the Harbor Fund and the General Fund; he suggested the City hire contract janitors for the weekends, which he has calculated at a cost of \$5,000 or less per year.

Ms. Sandy Twist, owner of a paddleboard shop on the Embarcadero, said there are often lines of people waiting to use her shop's restroom, which she maintains and keeps well stocked at her own expense as stated in her lease. Ms. Twist said she walked the waterfront today and realized the signage for all of the public restrooms is far too small and difficult to locate; she recommended larger, visible signs as well as more signs posted for all public restrooms, including those at lease sites.

Discussion by the Harbor Advisory Board.

**MOTION:** Mr. Reisner moved the Harbor Advisory Board recommend City Council within the next 30 days direct additional City resources toward timely maintenance of the City's waterfront

restrooms as well as toward physical improvements of City waterfront restrooms; additionally recommend improved signage for both City waterfront restrooms and leaseholder restrooms designated for public use. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Alward and carried unanimously.

**C-7 Consideration of Recommendation of Slip Fee or Slip Qualification Relief for Commercial Crab Fishermen**

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=58m13s>

Mr. Endersby reviewed the item. The Board opened the item up for public comment.

Ms. Lori French, wife of local commercial crab fisherman, described the current crab fishery disaster situation of this season, saying they are in uncharted territory. She requested slip relief for current commercial crab permit holders, as well as relief from slip qualification requirements.

Discussion by the Board and Ms. French.

**MOTION:** Mr. Reisner moved the Harbor Advisory Board recommend to City Council to allow one month waiver of slip fees for current commercial crab permit holders. There was no second, and the Motion died.

Further discussion by the Board and Ms. French.

**MOTION:** Mr. Luffee moved the Harbor Advisory Board recommend to City Council to approve three months of slip relief for current commercial crab permit holders. The Motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS, REPORTS, AND APPEARANCES**

**B-1 Harbor Department Status Report**

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=1h28m16s>

Mr. Endersby briefed the Board on the following topics:

**Recent Department Activity**

Avery Danley's Body Found in Bay  
Capsized Vessel with Four POB, February 14  
Be Aware of Ocean Conditions  
Harbor Patrol 13 Emergency Responses in February

**Recent City Council Activity**

Authorize Mid-Year Budget Amendments  
Recognition of Harbor Patrol, Coast Guard, and Fire for Rescue  
Adopted City Goals and Program Objectives for 2016-17  
Adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration  
Adopted Reso No. 09-16 CUP for Construction at 725 Embarcadero

**Grants:**

CCJCFLC Grant for CMANC in Washington, DC  
CCJCFLC and MBCFO Grant for Repair of Ice Machine

**Dredging Funding and Plans**

Meeting with Army Corps of Engineers on Possible SPM Dredging

**Plover Fencing**

Update on Brian Williamson Case with Fish and Wildlife  
STaR Award to MB Fishing Community Sustainability Plan

**Bar Condition Information**

Waterways Analysis Management System (WAMS)

Morro Bay Quota Fund Update

C-MANC Washington Week March 14-18

**Continued discussion by the Board and Mr. Endersby on the joint cooperation of public safety responses by Harbor Patrol and Coast Guard, and the necessity of both agencies working together in Morro Bay.**

**C. BUSINESS ITEMS**

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

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=2h13m29s>

Mr. McClish reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee is awaiting responses on recommendations made to the City Council regarding the facilities, the designs, and the Feasibility Study. Regarding the Feasibility Study, the Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization has applied for a grant with the Morro Bay National Estuary Program for \$5,000 towards that Feasibility Study. He said the City Council will have this agenda item on the March 8, 2016 meeting. He said the Ad-Hoc Committee will continue looking at grant funding and different funding avenues from the list of organizations in the Feasibility Study.

**C-2 Update from the Finance & Budget Ad-Hoc Committee on Committee's Recent Activities**

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=2h16m26s>

Mr. Maloney said the Ad-Hoc Committee has not met since the last Harbor Advisory Board meeting. Nothing to report.

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

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=2h16m35s>

Ms. Meissen said the Ad-Hoc Committee met with Ms. Jennifer Yost who is a botanist at Cal Poly, (oceanography/biology/ecology) and works in all areas on the study of eelgrass; she said the eelgrass loss is worldwide, and eelgrass is a base component of the estuary. The focus is on finding out reasons for the decline. During this initial meeting with Ms. Yost, discussion focused on projects the NEP is trying to get funded, as well as mitigation processes. There was discussion on the possibility of growing eelgrass in tanks with the help of Mr. Maloney's oyster company. Ms. Meissen said this meeting could have an active and productive outcome by this collaboration, and Ms. Yost will make a presentation to the Board in the near future.

**C-4 Update from the Marine Sanctuaries Ad-Hoc Committee on Committee's Recent Activities, Including Consideration of Ad-Hoc Committee Written Report Dated February 4, 2016**

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=2h21m24s>

Mr. Reisner said during the February Harbor Advisory Board meeting, the Board unanimously recommended to the Morro Bay City Council that the City sponsor additional public information forums relative to a national marine sanctuary off the coast of Morro Bay. Recently the Council agreed to put the matter on a future Council meeting agenda.

Mr. Reisner said the Ad-Hoc Committee has been working to build a list of potential public information forum presenters who have experience living with one or more national marine sanctuaries and who could speak to local control, regulatory, and economic experiences. He said the list of potential presenters concentrates on the regions around the Monterey Bay Sanctuary, the Farallones, the Channel Islands, along with people in general.

Mr. Reisner listed the Ad-Hoc Committee's recurring themes on the subject of Marine Sanctuaries and continued his detailed report. Further discussion by the Board and Mr. Endersby.

**D. DECLARATION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

<https://youtu.be/GVA5V03LJ5U?t=2h31m1s>

**Future:**

Commercial Slip Qualification Relief for Crab Permit Holders  
City Code Enforcement for Boats on Trailers on Private Property  
Back Bay Water Use Public Forum  
Coast Guard Building Location Plans  
Condition of Restrooms on the Embarcadero  
Inspecting Marine Sanitation Devices on All Vessels in Morro Bay Harbor

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Submitted by,



Polly Curtis  
Harbor Department