

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 6, 2008 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
Absent	Members:	Ed Ewing Trudi O'Brien
	Staff:	Rick Algert, Harbor Director Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

II. MINUTES

Mr. Luffee moved the February 14, 2008 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty and carried unanimously.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Neil Farrell, managing editor of *The Bay News*, said he attended the previous Recreation and Parks Commission meeting, and wanted to repeat his comments to the Harbor Advisory Board. He congratulated the City and Boards on the HarborWalk project, and believes it is a great addition to the waterfront. He added that if a volleyball court was being considered in the current plans, it should be a sand court. He stated that a volleyball court would be a great addition to the waterfront area as well.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

IV-1. Fisheries Update/Presentation

Mr. Jeremiah O'Brien, President of the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization (MBCFO), presented a report on the current status of local fisheries. He said each fisherman usually only participates in one, two or possibly three fisheries so that particular fishery is his specialty. For example, the individual fisheries include swordfish, shark, salmon, tuna, crab, rock cod, black cod, etc. Currently there are 85 members in the Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization and Port San Luis has separate members in their organization. Mr. O'Brien said the amount of fishermen still making a living locally shows that the fishing industry is not dead. The Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) initially approved by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council granted the right to land some of the trawl quota owned by The Nature Conservancy by using other types of gear. He said due to the current restrictions, a local fisherman travels six hours round trip to and from the specific area, or 18 miles each way. He said adding to the daily travel time a full workday, makes for a very long day.

Mr. O'Brien said a community based fishing association has been formed to manage the EFP, which includes MBCFO, PSLCFA, Port San Luis Harbor District, Morro Bay Harbor Department, Environmental Defense, and The Nature Conservancy. They are still working to define exactly

what this organization means, and hope the results will be more available fisheries on the coast and greater employment in the future. He asked the Board if there are any questions.

Mr. Luffee asked if there is hope for a viable fishing industry for the future. Mr. O'Brien replied there is hope; however there are piles of regulations to wade through and the Marine Protected Areas continue to be extended out to 50 miles. At some point, he said, it has to turn around. Currently, he said, 85% of swordfish (which is his particular fishery) are caught unsustainably by other countries and imported into the US.

Mr. Luffee asked about the monitoring system, as written in an article by Laurie French. Mr. O'Brien said it is a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), not a GPS that all groundfish boats are required to carry. This system tracks each boat 24-hours a day.

Mr. Phillips thanked Mr. O'Brien for the education on our local fishing industry. Mr. Algert reminded the Board that years ago a presentation was given to the Board on the topic of various gear types for the different fisheries. Board members expressed interest in hearing another presentation on the gear type topic in the near future.

IV-2. RRM Presentation on Coleman/Embarcadero Area Capital Improvement Study

Mr. Mike Sherrod of RRM Design Group made a PowerPoint presentation showing three-color versions of the Coleman/Embarcadero Area for the Board. The maps were labeled Concept A, B, and C. Mr. Sherrod reviewed the differences between each concept for the Board, stating that all three areas are consistent with zoning and land usage.

He said in **Concept A** the boating access is located in the current skate park area; the dry storage is the same in all 3 areas; and the recreation area is completely located at Target Rock. He said in all three the parking is maintained in the Target Rock area as it currently stands with a view back toward the town.

He said in **Concept B** the marine commercial area moves to the east side of the Embarcadero and the recreation area blends into the Coleman beach area as well as the Target Rock location. He said the HarborWalk and bike path would not need to change, as the access to the lift crosses over the path. He said the Target Rock recreation area would be more passive, due to the access being divided between the Coleman Park area.

He said in **Concept C** there are the most significant differences, such as the boating access is at the east end of the Embarcadero and the haul out is next to the intake building and jib crane. Boat repair and marine commercial area is all on the east side, and the harbor facility is near the crane. Also, he said, the recreation area remains at current Coleman Park area, and the access and parking stays as is. He said there is more space for boat repair/storage.

The Board discussed the three different concepts, and asked Mr. Sherrod for clarification. Ms. Leary preferred Concepts A and C, as the parking area appears too far from the boatyard, which would make it difficult to haul tools/parts/props such a long distance. She asked Mr. Sherrod about the ownership of the property for future boatyard expansion. He said the boatyard and parking is City property but the expansion area shown would be contingent on acquiring the land from the power plant.

Ms. Meissen asked if the road would support the 60-ton Travel Lift, but stated it appears the traffic would be least interrupted on Concept C. Mr. Sherrod agreed that traffic would be stopped during Travel Lift usage on Concepts A and B, but the road would be strengthened during construction to hold the weight. Ms. Meissen asked if the parking area would be a problem in Concept C due to the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) designation. Mr. Sherrod said the ESH would have to be mitigated, but the two resource agencies that were contacted during the HarborWalk planning were able to have a meeting of minds, and there appears to be a good potential to negotiate with the Coastal Commission on the designation.

Mr. Luffee concurred with the other Board members that Concept C appears to be the better plan, asking if Recreation and Parks had a preference. Mr. Doughty said that the Recreation and Parks Commission just voted 4-0 in favor of Concept C.

Mr. Doughty asked Mr. Algert if the Concept C haul out area were intended to encourage trailer boats to use this area rather than the current launch ramp. Mr. Algert replied that the existing launch ramp is intended for the majority of use, and the new area would act as a supplement to the existing launch ramp area. Mr. Doughty stated the public still prefers to drive out to the water's edge at the Target Rock area and park; so he would not like the area to change. Mr. Sherrod stated that all three Concepts intend to allow vehicle and foot access as it currently exists.

Chairman Phillips said it appears the Board is in favor of Concept C, but since Mr. Ewing seems to have preferred Concept A or B for the haul out location and he is absent, he preferred the motion be postponed until the next meeting. The Board agreed by consensus that the action will be continued.

IV-3. Harbor Department Master Fee Schedule Review

Mr. Algert reviewed the Master Fee Schedule, saying it has not been adjusted since 2005. He proposed recommending the City Council adjust the Schedule by the change in Consumer Price Index (CPI) of approximately 12% to account for overall cost of living increases. He said the attached spreadsheet details the current Fee Schedule, the year the rate was last adjusted, the percentage change in CPI from the last adjustment date, the rates adjusted by CPI and a proposed rate. He said Staff also recommends adjusting the Harbor Department Master Fee Schedule annually, which would make the changes less drastic and would help account for the rising cost of maintaining City facilities on an ongoing basis.

The Board discussed the proposed rates, and asked Mr. Algert for details on certain line items. Chairman Phillips then read a letter addressed to the Board from Marlyse Battistella, President of the Central Coast Women for Fisheries dated March 1, 2008, which requested the Board consider the fishing industry not be impacted by increased slip rents. Mr. Algert had not seen this letter, as it was given directly to the Board, but said the fee structure is fair and across the board, although he is aware of the fishing industry's distress he believes the rates should all be raised together. Board members discussed the request.

MOTION:

Mr. Doughty moved the Harbor Advisory Board recommend approval for the Harbor Department Master Fee Schedule with the exception that Commercial Fishing Slips be increased by 6.25% rather than the 12.10% CPI. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Luffee and carried unanimously.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

V-1. Harbor Department Status Report

Mr. Algert reviewed the following items:

Tall Ship Lynx

Summer Beach Lifeguards

Marine Interest Group Meeting

Blessing of the Fleet

Morro Bay Parade

Kite Festival

Harbor Department Statistics

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mr. Phillips announced Yacht Club Opening Day on April 20, 2008.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

April: Coleman/Embarcadero Planning

May: Harbor Department Budget

State Park Marina Update

Green Wave Energy

June: Harbor Department Budget Continued

Fishermen Gear Presentation

Dye Tabs for Liveaboards/Liveaboard Ordinance Enforcement

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department