

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 1, 2007 at 7 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

I. ROLL CALL

Present	Members:	Rodger Anderson Gene Doughty Ed Ewing Michele Leary Lynn Meissen
Absent:		Jim Phillips
	Staff:	Rick Algert, Harbor Director Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

II. MINUTES

Ms. Meissen stated that on page 2, paragraph 4, sentence 3 should read: "1. boatyard, and 2. dredging." Mr. Doughty moved the February 1, 2007 minutes be approved with the correction. The motion was seconded by Ms. Meissen and carried unanimously.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

IV-1. Review of City Public Art Policy and Proposed Project

Ms. Andrea Lueker, Recreation & Parks Manager, reviewed the policy that the City adopted in February. She said under this policy, the first project has been proposed, which is a concept of putting art on public trash containers in Morro Bay. Ms. Lueker is asking the Harbor Advisory Board to review and comment on the proposal, and she presented a photograph of the first Art Can project created by Jayne Behman, located in Centennial Park. Ms. Lueker said new proposals will be reviewed by each Board and then presented to City Council at the March 26, 2007 meeting, and that City Council must approve each proposal before moving forward.

Mr. Neil Farrell, Editor of The Bay News and a member of the Art Cans subcommittee for Morro Bay Beautiful. He said when he was first considering this project, he was skeptical, but when he took the photograph of Jayne Behman's tile mosaic artwork on the can at Centennial Park, he was impressed. He said the current goal is to do ten cans each year, and to continue year after year until all the cans in Morro Bay are done. Mr. Farrell said the texture of the round cans are rough aggregate and the square cans have a smooth finish, which is easier to apply the artwork. He said Morro Bay Beautiful has plans to purchase new square trash cans. He hoped these new cans would be placed in the parks and along Main Street and the Embarcadero, and then those cans could replace the old ones at Morro Rock. Mr. Farrell asked the Board if they have any questions.

Mr. Doughty asked if people could make donations and have their name on a plaque. Mr. Farrell said Morro Bay Beautiful is working on that concept, for example a donation of \$1,000 could be shared by several people, and their names would be listed as sponsors on a plaque along with the artist's name. Mr. Doughty said this is a great idea, and he supports it.

Mr. Ewing asked if sponsors would then be able to suggest the type of art that goes on the can. Mr. Farrell said yes, as long as it is not a controversial subject. He said there is a theme for all the cans, which is “Birds and Beaches of Morro Bay,” and that any design must be approved by the City Council.

Ms. Meissen said this is a great idea, and asked who would be responsible for maintenance of the trash cans and the artwork. Mr. Farrell said the cans will be painted with an anti-graffiti coating that can be washed off with special soap; so whoever volunteers for the maintenance will have an easier job. Ms. Leary asked if the sponsorship covers the first five years of maintenance costs, what will happen after those five years. Mr. Farrell said normally the maintenance would be signed over to the city, whether it is community volunteers from the Police Department or the Recreation and Parks Department is to be determined.

Mr. Algert said that maintenance is definitely a concern. Ms. Lueker agreed, and stated the City does not have the staffing to maintain all the cans, and in the past the City has reached an agreement with organizations such as the Rotary Club to continue maintenance; she said the first five years of maintenance has been agreed to by Morro Bay Beautiful.

Mr. Algert said the Morro Bay Garbage Company empties the square containers. He said there are plans to replace some of the round aggregate cans with the smooth-sided square cans, using money from the Harbor Fund, Benches & Bike Racks account; he said Morro Bay Beautiful agreed to contribute half of the amount. Mr. Algert said many years have been spent focusing on getting trash picked up properly, especially on Sundays. He said over the years, he has received many complaints and suggestions from the public on what different types of trash cans should be used to keep the birds out and the trash more contained; so he believes he has already heard all possible options. He said maintenance of trash receptacles is definitely an issue with the new artwork, and he hopes Morro Bay Beautiful will be able to assist with maintenance in the long run.

Chairman Anderson said he saw the container decorated by Jayne, and was very impressed. He said the best part was that it is free, as unfortunately no money would likely be available from the City’s budget for projects like this. He thanked Mr. Farrell for his presentation. Mr. Farrell said he appreciates the Board’s enthusiasm and support, and he expects this to become an event where all artists will begin working on their projects at the same weekend, which may draw visitors from out of town. He is hoping all the proposals will be as beautiful as Jayne’s.

MOTION: Chairman Anderson made a motion to approve the Art Can Project and send their recommendation to City Council for approval and support of the Project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Doughty and carried unanimously.

IV-2. Memo of Recommendation to City Council on Harbor Department Capital Project Goals and Priorities

Chairman Anderson stated that given the City’s financial situation, the boatyard and marine resource center are not likely to happen unless outside funding sources can be identified. He believes the top four priorities should be 1. Dredging Entrance, 2. T-Pier and Dock Repair, 3. State Park Dredging, and 4. Harbor Office. He said these are very important, and must be done. Mr. Ewing agreed, but said there have been funds of \$40,000 set aside for architectural plans for a boatyard, and believes we need to get these plans started. He said since the money has been set aside, it is time to spend it.

The Capital Projects Priorities list is as follows:

1. Dredging of Harbor Entrance/Interior
2. Boat Repair Yard and Marine Research Center

3. North T-Pier and Miscellaneous Dock and Revetment Repair
4. Harbor Office/Coast Guard Joint Facility
5. Public Restroom at Beach Street
6. State Park Marina Dredging, if no Harbor Funds spent other than revenue generated by the Marina itself
7. Seafood Processing Plant
8. Boardwalk

Chairman Anderson requested the following paragraph be added to the memo for City Council approval. Mr. Ewing added the words “concerning Harbor Funds” after the word “decisions” in the first sentence. The paragraph is as follows:

We would also like to remind the City Council and staff that it is imperative that all budget decisions concerning Harbor Funds be made in full compliance with the State Tidelands Agreement. Some newer staff and City Council members may not be aware of the ramifications of what the state might do if Harbor Funds are not spent in accordance with the Agreement. We all thank you for the hard work that you do.

MOTION: Mr. Anderson made a motion to add the above stated paragraph to the end of the Harbor Department Capital Project Goals & Priorities memo and submit the memo to City Council for approval. Mr. Ewing seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

IV-3. Newspaper Racks

Mr. Alkert stated Mr. Phillips was ill, and requested this item be moved to the April Harbor Advisor Board meeting.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

V-1. Harbor Department Status Report

Mr. Alkert reviewed the following items from the Status Report:

Resignation of Tom Laurie

Blessing of the Fleet & Opening Day of Yacht Club

Nature Conservancy

C-MANC Washington Week

MLPA

Bird Friendly Boating Brochure

Parking Management Plan

Temporary Harbor Office Facility

Snowy Plover Fencing on Sandspit

Kite Festival Date

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mr. Ewing asked Mr. Alkert about plans for the Harbor Office building. Mr. Alkert said there are still plans with the Coast Guard for a joint facility. Mr. Ewing asked if the Coast Guard would help fund a new building. Mr. Alkert said the Coast Guard is willing to pay their share, but it is an extremely slow moving process. Mr. Ewing asked if the temporary Harbor Office might extend into ten years or more in that case. Mr. Alkert agreed.

Ms. Leary said there will be a Central Coast Salmon Enhancement benefit on March 30th at 5:00 PM at the Vet's Hall, which gathered over 200 people last year, and fishermen talked about the basics of fishing as well as sharing some hints. She said sport fishing opens on April 7th this year.

Chairman Anderson said Fish & Game are holding fishing closure meetings at Humboldt State tomorrow, and Dean Tyler chartered an airplane for several people to attend the meetings; he said that he will go, along with Rick Algert, Stan Trapp, and Michele Leary. He said he would like to offer the statement that good science is required before commercial fishermen will accept the regulations. Mr. Algert said so far from his perspective the public policy process has not been successful, and there has been much bitterness as a result. He said it has been hard to move in the direction we want.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

April
Newspaper Racks
Appeal Request by Jerry Coffee
Live-aboard Permits Status

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department