

**Waterfront Recreation Committee
Minutes
November 27, 2006**

Attending: Members Steve Gates, Lori Stirn, Michael Schock, and Ann Frodel; Commissioners Hoby Streich and Sherry Bohn; Staff Members: Michael McElwee, Linda Hull; Others: Linda Maddox; Media: Sue Ryan, Hood River News

Absent: Richard Sassara (submitted comments), Mike Doke, staff

1) **Introductions/Additions to Agenda:** Sherry Bohn opened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. Linda Hull said Executive Director Michael McElwee would be late and to start discussion without him.

2) **Facilities: Issues – Information:**

General: Discussion regarding the flooding event was tabled until Michael McElwee arrived. The committee discussed fees for the Event Site and Spit. They agreed that a weekly pass would be tourist-friendly and recommended the Port institute this pass for 2007. They would like to see the number of passes sold last season before raising the daily fee from \$4. Staff will prepare a recommendation regarding fees to take back to the Commission for further discussion.

Linda told the committee the Lions Club is providing two bilingual swim beach warning signs for next season as a community service - after the drowning incident this past season. Lori mentioned she would check into the free life jacket program that is used on the Deschutes to see if it would be appropriate here.

Linda explained that the food concessions are scarce on the waterfront because the vendors cannot make a profit and do not return. It was suggested that the Port have pop/water vending machines by the restrooms. Hoby will check with his vendors for more information.

Event Site: The Event Site Host's issues were discussed. The committee recognized the main problem is lack of enforcement of the Port's rules and ordinances regarding parking, dogs and site times of operation. The Host's function should be a positive one and that person should not be put in the position of enforcing rules. They said the Host does a great job with lost and found items. Michael M. said he had a situation last season of people arguing about "what is dusk" if the site closes at dusk. Lori stated the Event Site could be open until 10:00 P.M. from Memorial weekend through Labor Day weekend, if dusk cannot be defined. Linda said the Port was considering keeping the booth open until 8:00 P.M. and that would eliminate some of the issues. The Port is also installing a drop down arm to eliminate those not stopping. Michael S. thought hiring a security/enforcer person to enforce the rules would be one solution to the dog and parking problems. The committee recommended that Michael M. talk with Chief Bruce Ludwig regarding the enforcement issues.

The continuing dog problem was discussed. Should dogs be banned from the Event Site and/or how does the Port enforce the leash rule? Linda said that Pet Camp is an option and brochures are handed out to dog owners. The county's dog control officer only responds to dog abuse (tied up with no water/food, around a vehicle tire, etc.), but not to dogs off leash. The county has authority to cite dog owners on Port property for violating a Port ordinance; however, to date this has not been done.

The committee discussed the windsurfing concession rental area. It was agreed that the rentals provide a needed service to tourists and that it should be located outside the parking area. Staff will meet with the concessionaires and Joe Pounders, Maintenance Foreman, to determine where the best spot would be for both the vendors and Port maintenance needs.

Hook: Richard's question on upgrading the portable toilets was discussed. Staff will check into larger units (\$75/mo + pumping). Vault and composting toilets were discussed as an option. Lori said the Parks has a vault-type at the Skatepark and it cost \$30,000 for two. Michael M. told the committee that CGWA is proposing to build a permanent-type changing room at the Hook and he is currently working with City Planner Cindy Walbridge on any zoning issues. Because Diane Barkhimer is resigning as executive director, Michael will wait until the new person is hired to work together on this project. Richard's questions regarding phones: there is no land phone access here but it was noted most people have cell phones today so it isn't necessary.

Spit: Lori told the committee that there were six kiteboard RFPs submitted which were scored by the evaluation committee; the top five were selected. Because of a technical glitch with email, the sixth applicant was allowed to resubmit an amended RFP by Michael M. The result was that six total kiteboard schools will be offered concession permits for 2007-2009. Sherry remarked that the concessions will not be allowed to operate unless they provide proof of current instructor certification and training. The goal is still to have no more than five schools.

Marina: Linda said the Commission approved moving up the timeline to add another dock in the Marina during Strategic Planning. There are currently over 50 on a waiting list for slips. Discussion followed regarding raising fees for out-of-district tenants. Ann felt in-district people pay property tax to the Port and should have lower rates. Steve said that based on the demand for slips, the Commission might consider a differentiated fee structure for moorage. Staff will propose a recommendation to the Commission for this action.

Cruiseship Dock/Boat Basin:

Michael M. gave the committee an update on the flooding situation around the Spit and Boat Basin. Currently the shoaling has grown and it now blocks the entrance to the Boat Basin and the cruisedock, which affects Maritime Services, the cruise business, and the proposed development at the south end. He said he is gathering information from various experts on the ever-changing situation and alternatives. The Corps of Engineers recently stopped by and said it would be \$4 to \$5 per cubic yard to dredge and that there is no funding for this work based on the low economic impact; their priority is for safety and commerce. The Port is submitting a preliminary damage assessment with the state and federal emergency agencies for \$1 million (dredging, extending dike). Michael M. said the Port will work with the Corps to coordinate the pool elevations this spring to see if that can clear out any of the debris.

Steve said the debris and silt buildup will have an impact on the Event Site's east end for windsurfing. Sherry said that the recreation industry should be at the table for discussions on solutions. It was noted that there is no separation between the kiteboarding area and windsurfing area with the delta configuration.

3) Other:

Michael S. asked if the website could be updated to be more relevant to recreational interests? Michael M. said the Port was redesigning the website to include this information and to make it more relevant. It will include the ability to do money transactions and interactivity with the public.

4) Next Meeting: March: to be determined.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.