

Port of Hood River Marina Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 8th 8:30am
Port Boardroom

Committee Members Present:

Ben Sheppard 1st Chair, Steve Tessmer, Josh Sceva, Ted Lohr, Steve Carlson

Port Staff Present:

Michael McElwee, Executive Director and Daryl Stafford, Marina Manager

Absent: None

1. *Dock Walks:* Members reported maintenance issues, concerns or suggested repairs to Marina Manager. Suggestion Summary:
 - a) Use large S-Cleats only on main fingers for bow tie offs for large vessels, not small vessels.
 - b) Schedule power washing of main walkways asap when water goes on. The geese have been busy.

2. *Marina News from the Port:* Daryl Stafford
 - a) Waterfront Re-Opening- General information regarding the opening of Port Waterfront facilities for the summer. Restrooms, Trash pick-up and picnic shelter tentative start-up of normal services date of 7/1/21 will depend on HR County status for Covid regulations. Cruise Ships, Events, concessions, parking passes, and parking are scheduled to resume as usual as long as they are in compliance with State of Oregon mandates, Governors orders and all other local government agencies.
 - b) Boat Ramp OSMB Grant Application- Status is grant has been submitted for ramp dock floats and under review by OSMB. If accepted grant would cover 40% of cost for ramp dock float replacement.
 - c) Dock Repairs- The repairs that were scheduled for this Spring for the South Basin Dock were cancelled due to the contractor being overbooked and no longer wanting to travel for work. Staff will research possible new contractors for this Fall and will request budget for the next fiscal year.
 - d) OSMB- Recent news increases focus on derelict vessels in the PDX area. Grant opportunities are available for removal under the Clean Marina Program. OSMB is stressing the importance of vessel registration to all Marinas for ownership documentation.
 - e) Cruise Ships- First scheduled visit is for 5/6/21. Bollards were installed on the outside jetty so ships may secure to land and not leave their engines running.
 - f) Wait List Update: 30' and under-38, Over 30'-10, Over 40'-4. Total 52 applicants.
 - g) Boat House floatation upgrade requirement for Spring 2022- Possible extension due to lack of qualified contractors wanting to travel to this area for work. Port will work with owners towards a reasonable amount of time to gain compliance.
 - h) Mariana Software- New system will go live 4/15/21. Committee members voiced support for online payment and document submission to make it easier for tenants and Port Staff. Online payment date TBD.
 - i) Rates- 2021 had a 2% increase for moorage, however Port Staff anticipates a greater increase in the upcoming year. Members voiced considering a local rate and an out-of-town rate like other public Marinas. Concerns were that the local community members who really use the marina will be priced out by people who don't live here and that rarely use their boats. Many of those people just use it as a storage space.

- j) Sailing Charter- Gorge Sail Ventures is a new concession that is being considered to operate out of the Marina starting this May. They met with the committee over a year ago but were put on hold due to Covid. The committee was in favor of giving it a try.
- k) Gorge Jr. Sailing Program- The program was put on hold last year however they are back on track this season offering kids lessons this July and August. The HRYC helps support the program.
- l) HROCC- Josh shared that the Canoe club has secured a grant to turn a section of their storage fence into a woven art project by local Chloe Hight. The club did not set up last year but plans to move forward with storage for members this season. It has been yet to be determined if they will put in the big boats that are stored on Frog Beach.

3. *Discussion Topics:*

- a) HRYC- Ted gave an update: Club activity was put on hold last summer due to Covid however indications so far this season are that things will ramp back up. The Club expressed desire for increased yard space and revamping of storage area for possible SUP storage, with permission from the Port. Ted will bring a proposal to staff. The HR High School Sailing Team, supported by HRYC, is at full capacity for what they can manage with Covid restrictions. The kids are practicing weekday and hope to go back to racing soon.
- b) Dry Storage- All members noted the lack of storage in the Gorge area for boats and trailers. HRYC boat yard expansion, Marina Basin property, Maritime empty lot and up valley options were noted for both summer and winter storage, along with the potential loss of Broughten storage if Stevensons sell their property. Lower Hannel Mill in Odell was discussed as a potential site for covered, secure storage that could accommodate RV's as well as boats and trailers. Members felt that could be great for the Port and the local community and would not require onsite staff to manage. Lengthy conversation followed on opportunities for the Port.
- c) Parking Passes- Concerns over parking due to selling more passes than the Event Site lot can accommodate, and that the local community will not be able to utilize the parking area during the summer due to selling out of town customers passes. Suggestion of passes for local Gorge residents only and daily fees for out-of-town guests. Currently 1/3 of parking pass sales are not from addresses local to the Gorge.
- d) Boat House Replacement Information: Steve Tessmer- There are no current City or Port building codes for Boathouses. Interest has been expressed by a boat house tenant for replacement. Steve offered to help answer questions for tenants regarding source information. Any kind of construction would need Commission Approval.

4. *Planning:*

- a) Budget- FY 21/22 requests submitted to the Budget Committee for review: \$286K for Marina boat ramp dock replacement that would have a \$132K grant Match from the OSMB. \$30k for maintenance/repairs. Commissioner Sheppard suggested asking for \$40k due to increased costs to make sure there are enough funds available to complete the needed work.
- b) Strategic Planning- Michael requested that the committee plan a work session some time during the next few months to update the 2021 Strategic Plan for the Marina and surrounding area. The previous visions were documented in the 2013 Waterfront Narrative from Port Staff and the Commission from that time, and the 2015 Strategic Planning session of the Committee that was derived from the 2015 Marina assessment by Halgren & Associates. Typically, every 5 years the vision is evaluated to fit with current times and directive from the Commission. The purpose of this session would focus on suggestions for the long-term vision for capital improvements and to determine

what makes the most sense considering variables such as a new bridge, upland development, permitting and stakeholders.