
SITKA PORT AND HARBORS COMMISSION
Regular Commission Meeting Minutes
January 10th, 2007
Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present:	Grant Miller Chuck Woods Marc Moats	Mike Slifer Rich McIntyre
Absent and excused:	Ken Creamer	Keith Nyitray
Others Present:	Stan Eliason	
Member from the public:	David Tjomsland John and Barbara DeLong	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 14th, 2006 MONTHLY MEETING

MOTION: M/S McIntyre/Moats moved to approve the minutes from the Dec. 14th, 2006 meeting.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Woods pointed out that a correction be made on page 3, item no. 2, first paragraph which shall read as: "...He said that he does *NOT* have any estimates..."

ACTION: Motion **PASSED 5-0, as amended** on a voice vote.

III. CHANGES TO AGENDA

Mr. Woods requested adding a discussion on recycling at the harbors. The Chair added this item under General Discussion.

The Chair mentioned that the Sitka Maritime Heritage Society wanted to make a presentation to the Commission about a new proposal but they were not prepared for this evening's meeting. The presentation will be deferred to the next meeting.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Mr. Tjomsland gave kudos to the Police Department for its outstanding job in getting rid of the junk cars in the Eliason Harbor parking lot. He also thought that Mr. Majeski's going on the radio is a great idea and that it's worth the time. He expressed confusion however on the new names of the Thomsen Harbors.

Mr. Eliason clarified that the North Thomsen Harbor has been renamed to Eliason Harbor while the Old Thomsen Harbor (which is being rebuilt) will become Thomsen Harbor.

VI. REPORTS

1. Harbormaster

Mr. Eliason told the Commission that Phase I of the Thomsen Harbor reconstruction is complete and occupancy has started last Friday and Phase II (floats C, D and E) is underway. He said that the project is expected to be completed by March 15 in time for the sac roe herring fishery.

2. Assembly Liaison - None

3. City Staff - None

4. Chair - None

5. P&H Subcommittee Report

Mr. Moats and Mr. Woods said that the subcommittee hasn't met and they expect to convene when Mr. Nyitray gets back to town.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Liveaboard Fee

Mr. Woods noted double-payment by the harbors for garbage receptacles, explaining that while the Harbor Department pays the full rate, liveaboards are also paying \$38/month.

The members also exchanged views on the provision of utilities in the harbor system such as extending electricity to the south end of Eliason Harbor, water leaks, and electric power for transients. By consensus, they decided to defer this agenda item to next month's meeting and get additional input from Mr. Majeski.

The Chair also said they will further discuss "electricity at the south end" as an agenda item under New Business.

2. Launch Fees for Companies with Multiple Vessels

Mr. DeLong, owner of Sitka Sound Ocean Adventures, told the Board that they have 40 kayaks and seven skiffs for their business and felt that \$75/boat is a hefty amount to pay. He said that Juneau charges only a flat fee of \$250. He suggested adopting a flat rate for Sitka too. Ms. DeLong added that they could not afford to pay \$10/boat every time they launch a kayak.

The Chair clarified that the intent of the \$75/boat/year launch fee is for personal use and explained that what the Commission is contemplating is to set an annual fee for commercial users.

Mr. McIntyre added that he has proposed that they charge two kinds of fees: one for motorized vessels and another for non-motorized vessels, but the Commission has yet to decide on the rates.

Kayak Safety

Mr. Slifer briefly spoke about kayak safety vis-à-vis charter boats and lightering boats during the summer season. He suggested that kayak owners should add flags to the back of their kayaks as a safety measure.

Mr. Woods mentioned using paddles with international orange color as another safety measure.

The Chair ruled to take up kayak safety in the next meeting as another agenda item under New Business. He also ruled to bring back this agenda item to the next meeting to get more input from Mr. Majeski.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. ESTABLISHING A FAIRWAY NO-ANCHOR ZONE OFF THE NORTHWEST END OF ELIASON HARBOR

The members briefly discussed this proposal but were unclear on the details. The Chair thought that there is indeed a need for a fairway from the entrance to the harbor and the breakwater. Mr. Moats said they should not be to “nitpicky” about designated areas.

The Chair ruled to bring back this agenda in the next meeting.

IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION

Recycling in the Harbors

Mr. Woods brought forward his proposal to implement a limited recycling center in selected harbors, noting that it will be a good thing for the harbors to get into. To wit:

- Containers and pickup will be provided by the Sitka Recycling Program.
- There would be no financial impact to the harbors.
- It would reduce overflow of present refuse containers.
- It would provide a positive community image.

Mr. Moats suggested trying it in one harbor to see if it works.

The Chair said it is a good idea but expressed concern about the recycling containers taking up a parking space.

By consensus, the Commission directed the Harbormaster to look into the possibility of implementing Mr. Woods’ proposal. Mr. Woods said that he will also contact recycling coordinator, Norm Campbell.

Oil recycling barrel at Sealing Cove

Mr. Slifer recommended that they also ask the Harbormaster to place an oil recycling barrel by the haul out at Sealing Cove. The Chair said they can also make a directive for the Harbormaster to look into accordingly.

Sitka Maritime Heritage Society Proposal

Mr. Moats said that the proposal doesn’t make sense logically. Both he and Mr. Slifer stated that they won’t be available to attend next month’s meeting and they requested that the presentation be postponed to the March meeting.

Approach ramp to the work float

On Mr. Moat’s query on who is pursuing his proposal to add a drive down ramp to the work float and how much it would cost, Mr. Eliason said that Mr. Majeski is looking into it.

Anchoring Permit

On Mr. Wood’s query about the implementation of the anchoring ordinance, Mr. Eliason said that Mr. Majeski has a list of the anchored vessels and will be sending out notices.

X. CLOSING

A. AGENDA

Under unfinished business:

1. Liveaboard Fee
2. Launch Fees for companies with multiple vessels
3. Establishing a fairway no-anchor zone off the northwest end of Eliason Harbor

Under new business:

1. Electricity at the south end
2. Kayak Safety
3. Oil recycling containers at Sealing Cove

B. NEXT MEETING DATE HARRIGAN CENTENNIAL BUILDING – February 14th, 2007

C. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Prepared by: **MARIA FINKENBINDER**
Contract Secretary