

# Sitka Port and Harbors Commission Minutes

Wednesday May 12, 2021, 6:00PM  
Harrigan Centennial Hall

## **Port and Harbors Commission Members:**

Dave Gordon, Chris Ystad, Shauna Thornton,  
Tyler Green, Michael Nurco, Tamy Stevenson  
Kevin Knox (Assembly Liaison)

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00pm.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners Present:** Dave Gordon, Shauna Thornton, Tamy Stevenson, Chris Ystad.

Mike Nurco joined the meeting at approximately 6:25pm.

**Assembly Liaison:** Kevin Knox joined the meeting at approximately 6:20pm.

**Staff:** Harbormaster Stan Eliason. Harbor Office Manager Alicia Soto participated by videoconference.

### **III. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

### **IV. AGENDA CHANGES**

The commission unanimously agreed to address new business item D, B&B Thomsen Harbor float B, stall 30, before unfinished business items B and C.

### **V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

None.

### **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **A. Approval of the March 10, 2021, meeting minutes**

**M – Stevenson / S – Ystad motioned to approve the March 10, 2021, meeting minutes.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### **VII. REPORTS**

**Harbormaster** – Harbormaster Eliason reported that he had begun the impoundment process on five vessels. A condition assessment of the seawall at the Marine Services Center would be conducted later this month. The Harbor Department had received Covid mitigation funds from the State of Alaska, the money would be used to install touchless fixtures in the harbor restrooms. The fish waste bins would be deployed for the summer season at the end of the month. Eliason was working with the Sitka Sportsman's Association to supply water to the Crescent Harbor lightering dock for the Salmon Derby barge, the water line was removed during the Crescent Harbor rebuild. Eliason noted that Cruise ships may start making stops in Sitka this summer. The gravel parking lot at the Marine Services Center would be cleaned up and property boundaries identified, and would be designated as 10 day parking, 30 day permit parking would also be allowed. Harbor staff were working on trying to detour birds from roosting in the net shed. Harbor Office Manager Alicia Soto, and Harbormaster Eliason, provided a harbor waitlist update and explained the process of issuing permanent stalls from the waitlist.

**City Staff** – None.

**Chair** – None.

**Assembly Liaison** –

**Other (s)** – Chris Ystad reported that the GPIIP board had accepted a proposal from Sitka Community Boatyard to pursue constructing a vessel haul out facility. Ystad noted that there was still lots of work and negotiations to be done, but progress was being made.

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **B. Liveboard/Island resident garbage fee's.**

Kevin Knox stated that he was still looking for a co-sponsor in support of both parts of the proposed garbage rate changes. After a brief discussion, the commission decided to amend their recommendation, to recommend reducing the harbor liveboard garbage rate and to remove the island resident garbage rate increase recommendation.

### **C. Fuel Tax**

Kevin Knox explained to the commission the process of moving forward with the proposed fuel tax and getting it onto the ballot for public vote in the fall. Once the final draft language was prepared, it would need to pass two readings at the Assembly level, before going to a vote of the people. The proposed fuel tax would be three cents per gallon on all fuels.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **D. B&B Thomsen Harbor float B, stall 30.**

Sara and Alexander Allison explained to the commission that they would like to begin renting rooms on their 30' vessel located in Thomsen Harbor. Sara and Alexander stated that in addition to a business opportunity, renting rooms aboard their boat would also increase the number of beds on the Sitka visitor market. The Allison's felt that providing an additional short-term rental would help with the housing shortage in Sitka. Harbormaster Eliason informed the commission that two B&B's per harbor were permitted, there were currently none in Thomsen Harbor. Eliason stated that the application completed by the Allison's looked good to him and met all of the requirements. Amy Ainslie, Planning Director for the City of Sitka, provided background information, and explained the process of applying for a short-term rental in Sitka, and within the Harbors. Ainslie explained why, and the importance for, having the Harbor Commission review applications for short-term rentals within the Harbors.

**M – Thornton / S – Stevenson motioned to recommend approving the Allison's application for a B&B at Thomson Harbor float B, stall 30.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS**

1. The next regular scheduled meeting would take place on September 8, 2021, at 6:00pm.
2. Discussion possible revenue from parking meters/harbor parking fees.
3. Discussion vessel insurance requirements.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no objection, Chairman Gordon adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:10pm.

Attest: Jeremiah Johnson, Deputy Harbormaster