

Sitka Port and Harbors Commission Minutes

Wednesday December 14, 2022, 6:00PM
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Port and Harbors Commission Members:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Tyler Green, Dave Gordon, Mike Nurco, Shauna Thornton, Tamy Stevenson.

Assembly Liaison: Chris Ystad.

Staff: Deputy Harbormaster Jeremiah Johnson, Harbor Office Manager Alicia Soto.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

IV. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the November 9, 2022, meeting minutes.

M – Stevenson / S – Gordon motioned to approve the November 9, 2022, meeting minutes.

Motion passed unanimously.

VII. REPORTS

Harbormaster – Deputy Harbormaster Johnson reported that there was an additional small cruise ship wanting to use the seawall at the port facility in 2023. Harbormaster Eliason would be meeting with Gary White, Director of GPIIP to discuss adjusting moorage/tariff rates for vessels over 250' at GPIIP and the Port Facility to be more in line with what other ports were charging. Eliason was working on the Harbor Department budget, the budget would include funding for an additional full time harbor employee. Johnson noted that the department had been stressed in recent years due to the uptick in harbor activity, and lack of seasonal hires, the added position would be a multi-service position which would assist with harbor operations, maintenance, and port security duties. Harbor and Electrical departments were working on a contract for harbor electrical services, to perform harbor related electrical repairs and projects.

City Staff – None.

Chair – None.

Assembly Liaison – Chris Ystad reported that the Assembly had approved the full buildout for the new seaplane base and plans would be moving forward. A GPIIP stakeholders meeting would be taking place in January. Ystad noted that Port and Harbor Commission members could attend GPIIP meetings as an individual, the City's legal department advised not to attend as an organized group.

Other (s) – None.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Parking Permits

Item tabled; no discussion occurred.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

C. Vehicle charging stations.

The commission discussed electric vehicles, which were becoming more common in Sitka and whether or not charging stations would be needed, or wanted, in harbor parking lots. Assembly Liaison Ystad noted that he had recently learned that Sitka would be eligible for a one million dollar grant to install a charging station in Sitka. Ystad would relay any additional information regarding the grant when available.

D. Passenger wharfage fee (Port Facility).

The Port and Harbor Commission passed a motion during the November meeting being in favor of implementing a \$4 per passenger wharfage fee for passengers aboard the small cruise ships at the Port Facility, which was equal to the wharfage fee already in place at the GPIIP. The GPIIP board had since increased their wharfage fee to \$5 per passenger. Johnson noted that the harbor department wanted their wharfage fee to be equal to GPIIP's.

M - Green / S - Gordon motioned to increase the proposed passenger wharfage fee for passengers aboard small cruise ships at the Port Facility from \$4 per person to \$5 per person. Motion passed unanimously.

E. GPIIP vessel haul out planning.

Port and Harbor Commission members spoke in support of offering their assistance to the City and GPIIP board in the development of the vessel haul out at the GPIIP. Chris Ystad, who serves as the Assembly liaison for the Port and Harbor Commission and GPIIP, stated that he would notify commission members of upcoming meetings so any members wanting to attend could do so. Harbormaster Eliason would also notify commission members of upcoming meetings.

F. Allow busses to occupy/stage in ANB Harbor parking lot.

Deputy Harbormaster Johnson explained that Cyndy Gibson, on behalf of a group called Alaska Storytellers, was working on a proposal for summer parking for busses to transport people to their shows at ANB Hall. The proposal outlined use of four parking spaces in the ANB harbor parking lot. Johnson noted that the commission had discussed in previous meetings the lack of parking at ANB Harbor and that Harbormaster Eliason was opposed to taking away any parking spaces from harbor users. Further discussion amongst commission members occurred. Two members of the public, Travis Mingo, and Andrew Callistini, spoke against the issuance of the bus parking permits.

M - Stevenson / S- Green motioned that the Port and Harbor commission recommend to the City, the issuance of special bus parking permits to operate/stage at ANB Harbor parking lot. Motion failed 0/5.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

1. The next regular scheduled meeting would take place on January 11, 2023, at 6:00pm.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**M – Stevenson / S – Gordon motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:00pm.
Motion passed unanimously.**

Attest: Jeremiah Johnson, Deputy Harbormaster.