

MARINA USERS MEETING MINUTES
12/19/2012

Attendees:

Chris Urbach – South Beach Harbormaster
Ray Anessi – E-48 + E-50
Keith Strasburg – South Beach Maintenance & Moorage holder
David West – D-18
Robert Decoito – D-7
Sharon Decoito – D-7
Barry Compton – C-52
Emma Compton – C-52
Wanda Black – D-02
Jerry Black – D-02

Meeting began at 8:30am.

Chris Urbach opened the meeting acknowledging the minutes were read. He told the group the dock work has been going on and our office had not received confirmation Don Mann or Joanne Barton would be attending.

David West asked if there were tsunami procedures in place so that we could be aware of future tsunami occurrences. He also expressed concern with the pilings and how they may have deteriorated.

Chris told the group there have been no specific studies done that he is aware of on the condition of the pilings. He said the pilings were approximately 40 years old and we have had some dredge damage but we are about the same as other marinas. We repair as we go. He said we use plastic to keep up with future damages which saves us from having to put block in. We use treated hemfir, which does not hold up well.

Ray Anessi asked if we had ever heard of apitong, and Chris said yes and that it was very pricy.

Ray said he had several pieces that he had acquired from trains, and he offered them to the Port. He said he had quite a bit and wondered if we would want it.

Chris told Ray he would let him know.

Chris told the group that the new Code book is on the way to be completed, and we would let them know when it would be out for review for the community. He said the Port is trying for a plan that everyone agrees with.

Ray commented the older Ordinance book was never enforced, and asked how this new Code would be enforced.

Chris answered the commission will back his enforcement and the Port will also be able to fine as necessary. He told the group we are looking for a fresh start, and backing enforcement is necessary and the Port will do so.

Ray asked if we had asked Don Mann about fines and what the consequences would be. He asked if this would be addressed in the new Code.

Chris answered that the Port will back up enforcement as necessary. He reminded the group the marina users still need to be in compliance and it may be a hard change for many folks that have become comfortable with old habits.

David West commented that people have kept the docks a lot clear and they need to be reminded to clean up as they leave.

Chris agreed and said backing enforcement will be appreciated.

Ray asked if this will be a huge cultural shift for folks who do not want change. He stated the mandatory insurance is an example, especially since it is currently in the MLA's marina users sign.

Chris stated this shift will be all the way around and very difficult for some.

Ray stated that City tickets may be necessary.

Chris commented we are hoping the Code books are reviewed and hopefully completed by summer. He hoped this would make the majority of the users happy.

Ray stated that now the current ordinances are enforceable and hope the upcoming Code will ensure they will be enforced.

Chris agreed, and said a fresh start is necessary and enforcement with back up has to go along with that.

Keith Strasburg stated that most folks will not be in agreement with these changes.

David asked if the Port has had a lot of opposition. If so, please make sure this goes into the monthly minutes. He stated he felt things are a lot cleaner on the docks.

Chris agreed, and reminded the group that enforcement must be backed by the new Code. He told the group they really need to attend the monthly commission meetings, and they can get this information on the website.

Ray stated a State police woman was ticketing folks and no one argued with her.

Barry Compton said he felt authority is the main issue.

Ray stated that folks that do not want to prove insurance need to be reminded that we need auto insurance for our vehicles, and therefore also for our boat. He asked if anything positive has come out of these meetings. He asked if any action had actually been done after these meetings had occurred. He stated these meetings were a very good paper trail of what the marina users needed to see happen. He wondered if these meetings were useless or were beneficial to change.

Chris answered asking the group to please attend the monthly commission meetings where their input is very valuable.

Ray stated the deposit letter surprised a lot of folks that were not expecting it, especially after Don and Joanne told the group not to worry and changes would not happen until everyone was in agreement. He stated that, since he had been attending these meetings some of these folks were angry and he was afraid they may feel he had some say in the decision. He asked if Pat Albaugh was part of the main decision on the last letter. He told the group Pat had been confronted on the docks while he was there and Pat told them not to worry. Everything was still being worked out.

Ray stated he felt, along with other marina users that things are sprung on them after they have been told differently. An example was the deposit issue. He was surprised folks were told they had to have their items removed as they left.

Wanda Hart stated the moorers that do clean everything up are not recognized.

Ray stated one moorer, Ken Anderson, was one of the best examples of a conscientious moorer and he left angry. He commented we are losing good people that were not prepared for sudden changes like these have been. He asked for copies of all letters sent out within the past several months. He said the deposit system was a very good deal but A) folks were sent a surprise letter and B) none of these changes were enforced earlier, therefore it's more of surprise.

Barry Compton also asked for copies of all letters sent to date.

Chris explained a letter had been sent to previous security depositors, informing them this system would no longer be available to others. Since they had been allowed to make deposits on their slips in the past, they had the option of being grandfathered in, with the stipulation they made their deposit by 11/30/12. He also stated this meant the slip had to be completely cleaned up as they left.

Ray stated he was unaware of the deposit letter and wanted clarification.

Chris stated the old system was very lax when folks left their slip at season end.

He also told the group folks really needed to take their things with them when they left.

Ray stated although Ken Anderson left angry due to being very surprised at all of these new changes, he does realize things are a lot cleaner on the docks.

Keith also agreed the docks are a lot cleaner.

Chris told the group folks are removing their things as they leave but all of this cannot go as fast as we hoped and boaters do complain a lot to each other.

David asked Chris if he were going to stay around for a long time to help on all of this.

Chris said yes, and that he was now finishing the south side of the launch ramp floats. He would then begin work on the north side.

Chris told everyone he would get into other dock cleanup projects as he was able. He said it would be nice to have dock walkers.

David asked when and where the new dock work be.

Chris stated he did not know at this time. He said that even though we generate a lot of revenue we are waiting on current things to get done, especially the terminal project.

David asked if there had been any discussion on dredging.

Chris told the group yes, but there were no conclusions that he knew of.

Everything takes money which the Port does not have available, and we do not want anymore boats going aground in a minus tide either, but we're doing what we can.

Ray asked if any dock box regulations were put out there yet.

Chris said yes, they are specified in the 'G Dock' letter. He had copies made for the attendees.

Ray stated his concern was that the Port must remember customer service is absolutely mandatory.

David asked if someone would inquire about sweeping the lots, maybe through the City.

Chris said he knew it was an existing problem.

Keith said a few Rubbermaid dock boxes fell completely apart and when boat owners were called, most of them could not come for over a month due to weather or other reasons.

Chris stated we do what we can as we go along and clean up these kind of messes as they happen.

Jerry and Wanda Hart asked why they never received any letter with dock box specifications.

Chris handed out all copies of past letters that had been sent. He told the group the G Dock letter for returnees went to only those specific folks, not all moorers.

David stated all of the marina users really do appreciate the Port staff and these meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.

The next meeting will be on 1/16/2013 at 8:30am at the South Beach Marina Office Activity Room.