

Session 13-05 a Regular Meeting of the Port and Harbor Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Ulmer at 6:03 p.m. on May 22, 2013 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

PRESENT: COMMISSIONER CARROLL, HARTLEY, HOWARD, STOCKBURGER, ULMER, WEDIN, ZIMMERMAN

STAFF: DEPUTY HARBORMASTER CLARKE  
DEPUTY CITY CLERK JACOBSEN  
CITY PLANNER ABBOUD

### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

The agenda was approved by consensus of the Commission.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

None

### **RECONSIDERATION**

There was no reconsideration scheduled.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. April 28, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

### **VISITORS**

- A. City Planner Abboud – Short and Long Term Development Plan for TR 1-A Lot (Pier One Lot)
1. Memo to Port and Harbor Commission from Bryan Hawkins, Port Director/Harbormaster Re: Water Trails Activity on Spit dated May 15, 2013

City Planner Abboud reviewed the aerial photo of the draft site plan date 5/8/13 and explained the considerations that went into compiling this draft.

There was brief discussion about the barge haul out area. Deputy Harbormaster Clarke commented about a couple projects staff has in mind. One is a series of pilings or moorings jetting out from the beach landing to allow barges to moor securely to the beach landing area. A more long term project and joint venture is the creation of a sheltered impervious surface facility that could contain a barge for the purpose of working in a sheltered environment. There was also discussion about Councils consideration of a 30% preference for non-profits.

The Commission didn't express objection regarding the suggested development plan for the area.

### **STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**

A. Port and Harbor Director's Report for May 2013

Deputy Harbormaster Clarke reviewed the staff report.

In relation to the anticipated increased salmon returns, question was raised regarding the policy for using fish pumps and whether Icicle Seafood stores a pump. Deputy Harbormaster Clarke said there have been some recent inquiries from local processors and fish buyers regarding permission to pump fish versus using dock cranes and brailer bags or totes to transfer fish onto the dock. Mr. Clarke said he wrote a letter to the interested companies requesting a brief proposal describing needed space to set up on the dock, required equipment, whether it will be located on vessel or on deck, dewatering, sorting, return water back to vessel or harbor, time to mobilize and de-mobilize in preparation for landings, and upland storage requirements. They haven't issued any approvals for pumps yet. He explained that Icicle has a concession in their lease to store a pump under the fish dock, they do pump fish from tenders onto the dock and dewater on deck. Discussion ensued regarding the policies at the harbor, the process for pumping fish, and that the city should investigate having a fish pump available to lease as needed. It was suggested that the Commission schedule this discussion as a business item at their next meeting.

Question was raised whether there are issues with the fish grinding shack. Mr. Clarke explained that the enclosure is corroding and they are looking at replacing it with a fiberglass structure, and recently they replaced a pressure tank because a fitting corroded free and couldn't be replaced. It's a constant maintenance item, but is fully functioning now. The fish grinder is used by some of the businesses who have agreements to use it, as well as sport fish waste in the fish carcass trailers.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **PENDING BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Memo to Port and Harbor Commission from Bryan Hawkins Port Director/Harbormaster Re: Homer Spit Land RFP Results & Recommendations date May 15, 2013
  - 1. Alaskan Coastal Freight Spit Land RFP Proposal
  - 2. City Manager's Staff Report Re: Alaskan Coastal Freight's Proposal
  - 3. Lease Committee Special Meeting Minutes dated May 14, 2013

Deputy Harbormaster Clarke reviewed the staff report.

Commissioner Zimmerman commented regarding the Lease Committee's consideration of lease fees. Alaska Coastal Freight will fill two ditches in, and build an oily water separator for drainage off the chip pad, which will come off of the lease, and the applicant was satisfied with that. In response to questions, Deputy Harbormaster Clarke explained how Alaska Coastal Freight has been somewhat spread out currently with his operations, and it will be a good opportunity for the business to have one central location for operations.

The Commission expressed no comments or concerns regarding the proposal.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- A. Monthly Statistical & Performance Report April 2013

PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 22, 2013

- B. Weekly Crane and Ice Report
- C. Deep Water Dock Report
- D. Pioneer Dock Report & Ferry Landings Report
- E. Water Usage Report
- F. 2013 Council Meeting Attendance Schedule

Question was raised regarding public assists and recent hydraulic leaks in the harbor. Deputy Harbormaster Clarke explained that when harbor staff helps someone, whether it is in the harbor or helping jump start a car in the parking lot, it can be logged as a public assist. The hydraulic fluid spills have occurred with the fishing fleet getting ready for the season. Mr. Clarke briefly reviewed the incidents and the cleanup efforts.

**COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

None

**COMMENTS OF CITY STAFF**

Deputy Harbormaster Clarke confirmed that the Commission wants to include discussion on fish pumps at their next meeting. They also asked to discuss parking improvements between the Seafarer's Memorial and the boardwalk. They agreed to meet on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 at the Seafarer's Memorial to review the area prior to their 6:00 p.m. meeting. It was requested that someone from the conservation society group be invited to attend and offer feedback.

**COMMENTS OF THE COUNCILMEMBER**

Councilmember Barbara Howard commented that there is good news with the Governor signing the budget that includes the \$4.8 million for our harbor projects. In mid-June the bond sale will occur to bring together the funding for the harbor improvements that were recommended by the Port Improvement Committee and blessed by this Commission and the City Council. The projects will be beginning, some with an 18 month curfew, so you will see things happening rather quickly. She asked the City Manager to consider putting up a story board at several locations to let citizens know where the harbor will be improved, where the money came from, and what user fee monies will be spent for. In reading the Port and Harbor staff report she recognized that they are busy, and they do such a great job on a variety of things. She is very happy to have such a good staff. She thanked the Commission for their stewardship for this wonderful enterprise they are in charge of that not only brings pleasure to so many, but also income to so many. She encouraged them to be proud of their work.

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Stockburger thanked Mr. Clarke for doing a great job tonight. In response to the information from the staff's report about assault on harbor workers around the state, he hopes that our staff isn't having problems with it. Deputy Harbormaster Clarke said harbor staff has had very few problems with the public, however in some of the rural Alaska ports, the flavor of the waterfronts can be different. He said Seward has video cameras that sit over their Harbor front desk staff with monitors at the police department and harbormaster's office.

PORT AND HARBOR ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 22, 2013

Commissioner Carroll said he is interested in the increased activity all around the harbor. Even though cruise ship activity is diminishing, the barge activity is really picking up, and the processors interest. He hopes we can stay ahead of it.

Commissioner Hartley said he has noticed a lot more activity around town this spring. Maybe things are looking up.

Chair Ulmer thanked Mr. Clarke and said she likes Mrs. Howard's idea of the story board.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

---

MELISSA JACOBSEN, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_