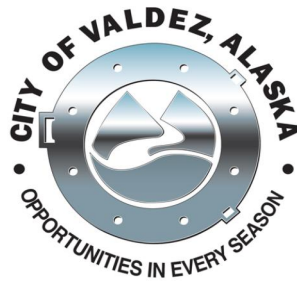


City of Valdez

212 Chenega Ave.
Valdez, AK 99686



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, August 19, 2019

7:00 PM

Regular Meeting

Council Chambers

Ports and Harbor Commission

REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Pro Tempore Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. in the Valdez Council Chambers.

II. ROLL CALL

Present 4: Chair Pro Tempore Mark Swanson
Commission Member Colleen Stephens
Commission Member Stu Hirsch
Commission Member Ryan Sontag Jr.

Absent 3: Commission Member Steve Cotter
Commission Member Alan Steed
Commission Member Tim Bouchard

Also Present 4: Port and Harbor Director Jeremy Talbott
Port Operations Manager Jenessa Ables
Harbormaster Sarah Von Bargaen
Port and Harbor Office Manager Karisa Friend

III. ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR**1. Election of Ports & Harbors Commission Chair**

MOTION: Commission Member Stu Hirsch moved, seconded by Commission Member Ryan Sontag, Motion to Elect Mark Swanson to Chair.

There being no discussion, Chair Pro Tempore Swanson invited a vote on the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

4 Yays, 3 Absent. MOTION CARRIED.

IV. ELECTION OF COMMISSION CHAIR PRO TEMPORE**1. Election of Ports & Harbors Commission Chair Pro Tempore**

MOTION: Commission Member Ryan Sontag moved, seconded by Commission Member Stu Hirsch, Motion to Elect Colleen Stephens to Chair Pro Tempore.

There being no discussion, Chair Pro Tempore Swanson invited a vote on the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

4 Yays, 3 Absent. MOTION CARRIED.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**1. Ports & Harbors Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2019**

The Ports and Harbor Commission regular meeting minutes of July 15, 2019 were approved as presented.

VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

There was no public business from the floor.

VII. NEW BUSINESS**1. Approval of a Recommendation to City Council to Approve Temporary Land Use Permit #19-08 for Wook Waffaz, and Cookie Griffith, for Four Months, for a 300 Square Foot Portion of the Small Boat Harbor Overflow Parking Lot, USS 635, 250 Chitina Drive.**

MOTION: Commission Member Stu Hirsch moved, seconded by Commission Member Colleen Stephens to approve the Recommendation to City Council to Approve Temporary Land Use Permit #19-08 for Wook Waffaz, and Cookie Griffith, for Four Months, for a 300 Square Foot Portion of the Small Boat Harbor Overflow Parking Lot, USS 635, 250 Chitina Drive. The motion carried by the following vote, after the following discussion occurred.

Ms. Von Bargaen stated she strongly suggested this does not pass, due to limited space and not enough parking. She said they would be taking up 3 to 5 parking spaces it would make it even tighter. She also said she'd prefer no parking areas at the Harbor be used. Commission Member Stephens said it is frantic through the area as it is along with turning traffic and walking pedestrians.

Ms. Von Bargaen is for small businesses but they could find a spot under a different landlord. Commission Member Stephens said there are other private land owners they could go to. Commission Member Hirsch asked if the City does this at any other location around town.

Nicole LeRoy, Planning Department, stated other comparable locations are Potato Head and Fat Mermaid that both have a temporary land use permit for their outdoor seating. Commission Member Hirsch wanted confirmation as far as city leasing parking spaces for mobile trucks. Ms. LeRoy said this has not been done. Ms. LeRoy confirmed Cookie Griffith was not present.

Chair Swanson asked if there is another spot in the Harbor area to get revenue off of, a more appropriate spot. Mr. Talbott said there is not and it is already kind of competing with something the private already has. Mr. Talbott said he was not opposed to it but in a different location because parking is a premium at the Harbor this time of year especially in August. A lot of complaint phone calls come in especially from live aboards that are very concerned about not enough parking. He understand why they want to be there but there is private ownership that could

accommodate them.

Ms. Ables said comparably the Kelsey Plaza and uplands does have the availability at a commercial rate of \$300.00 for 24 hours, it is for temporary use.

Chair Swanson asked if there was any additional discussion or comments.

Commission Member Stephens asked for clarification on process. Ms. LeRoy said this will go to the Planning Commission on the 28th, with Port and Harbor vote noted, if approved it will the go to City Council for review.

There being no further discussion, Chair Swanson invited a vote on the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

4 Nays, 3 Absent. MOTION DENIED.

VIII. REPORTS

1. New Boat Harbor Construction Report - June/July 2019

Mr. Talbott stated Mr. Ron Rozak is not present to give a verbal of the provided report. Chair Swanson asked for feedback. Ms. Von Bargaen said that folks really like the new Harbor, it's quiet, although a tender vessel took out a power pedestal. Commission Member Hirsch asked if it was caught on camera, Ms. Von Bargaen said yes.

Chair Swanson asked how it fairs as far as a wind event. Ms. Von Bargaen said it doesn't seem that bad. Commission Member Hirsch said it seemed to relieve the pressure and congestion at the North Harbor, B and H were pretty clear.

Mr. Talbott said the use of the drive down float to get netting repaired is well received and it's helping get all vessels back out fishing. Ms. Von Bargaen said getting the navigation aids on the pilings is the main thing. Commission Member Hirsch said it is not cut and dry on the where to be.

Chair Swanson asked about the cranes. He asked if the new cranes are at a significant lower capacity and Ms. Von Bargaen said yes, nothing can be hauled out by those cranes. Commission Member Hirsch said the smaller cranes are all that can go on the floating dock. He also asked if moorage is being charged to the vessels that are tying up there. Ms. Von Bargaen confirmed there is a fee for being tied up there.

2. Port Operations Manager Report

Ms. Ables stated the Port is busy with budget and now fully staffed. She said there's a lot of data entry after ransomware and the last cruise ship with a crew appreciation BBQ is tomorrow. She said she will do a cruise ship report after the last one and there are 22 ships scheduled for next year. Ms Ables said there is going to be an economic outreach in September. There is also coordination with a Project Manager about the VCT electrical project. Ms. Ables said there is a security grant project moving along to replace cameras at VCT and replace them at Kelsey

Dock this is with grant funding, also got load capacity report back for Kelsey Dock and working on negotiating rates for fish freight related containers, based on whether they have to store refer units at the VCT over the winter. Ms. Ables said there are events coming up this weekend RHR and Seafood Festival. Plus, recent Foss/Military shipment of silos. Good business for all.

Chair asked about the budget being built out to allow for a collector of driftwood. Ms. Ables said that would be the Harbor.

3. Harbormaster Report

Ms. Von Barga said it would be a person to collect the trash. Mr. Talbott said Harbor is entertaining the idea of having the restrooms on contract full time, so it allows more time for water clean-up. Ms. Von Barga said there is not enough staff to stick with it 24/7.

Ms. Von Barga also stated there is not a lot of vandalism, but one of the wood carvings has been removed due to damage. She said she is also working on budget stuff and it is nice not to have congestion in North Harbor, however there was a close call with 190ft tender coming in to dock at Silver Bay.

Commission Member Stephens said for safe boat trafficking that vessel coming in stretched the limits. She said the dolphin could have gone out and the vessel could have taken out a private boat and if the tide had been any lower they could have been grounded. Commission Member Stephens said in the past they have pumped vessel to vessel outside of the Harbor instead of bringing such a large vessel in to dock. She said there is a point where bringing 190ft vessel into the Harbor is not the best strategy.

Chair Swanson said a long time ago there was a request brought to the Commission to extend Silver Bays dock and the promise was made to build a bulkhead and move their docks back. Mr. Talbott said they'd build that bulkhead tomorrow if allowed. Chair Swanson asked if we need to allow them and Mr. Talbott said once the Waterfront Master Plan is identified if private holder's want to come in and build then the land will be leased. Chair Swanson said he was talking about the old Harbor and putting a bulkhead in and moving Silver Bay docks back, the request was to extend Silver Bay dock by 20ft and move all the docks further in. Chair Swanson said that was the promise made and Commission hasn't heard from them since. Mr. Talbott said that meeting should be reviewed because his understanding was that was to just get them by until they could get something built on the other side, Silver Bay built the whole plant so they could bring fish in on the outside of the Harbor. He said that was his understanding of it.

Commission Member Stephens said they see some creative things on their end of the Harbor and private boaters don't listen to their radios. Mr. Talbott said he had a different aspect of the vessel and thought they had control of the vessel. Commission Member Stephens said if there were any vessels over 25ft wide they wouldn't have been able to get to the crane.

Chair Swanson asked if there could be a review of minutes from previous meetings because he distinctly remembers a promise that this extension was temporary and within a season or two Silver Bay planned to build a bulkhead and pull their docks back to the south to widen out the waterway to eliminate congestion.

Ms. Ables asked Chair Swanson if he would send an email with a timeframe of the meeting to help narrow down meetings. Ms. Ables said that minutes are not up-to-date but there is audio available. Commission Member Hirsch said he remembers a discussion because of the addition of another piling to better support the dock. Chair Swanson said he would also ask previous Port and Harbor Commission Member Alan Sorum for help narrowing down which meeting occurrence it was.

4. Ports & Harbors Director Report

Mr. Talbot said the Waterfront Master Plan will be on a joint work session with City Council in September. He also said City budgeting is basically holding the line so nothing new. Mr. Talbot mentioned the bilge treatment plant test came back, but still working to get into spec and the laundry facility is still coming, maybe next spring.

He mentioned Port is working with legal to get State permit to work on the ferry dolphin. Mr. Talbot confirmed there was a fuel spill 2 weekends ago, Crowley overfilled their tank. Commission Member Stephens clarified Crowley filled safety containment valve, the vent hole instead of tank. Mr. Talbot said the embankment was dug up to get rid of soil and storm water line replaced and land re-sloped.

Mr. Talbot said a wind storm took an antenna off the Harbor building and took the V on the Valdez sign at the Kelsey Dock and blue sign at VCT entry.

Ms. Von Barga stated the Harbor received funds from Clean Vessel Act and the funds will be going towards a pump-out boat and pump-out cart. Mr. Talbot said Harbor is still waiting to hear about Clean Harbors Act and the certification.

Mr. Talbot also mention Valdez will be hosting the PCC conference in the spring of 2020.

Chair Swanson asked for questions or comments.

IX. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Chair Swanson opened the floor for business from Commissioners.

Commission Member Hirsch has been asked where the new boat launch ramp is and he has done his best to explain cost savings and he still wants to see the launch ramps built. He said the old Harbor ramps have a lot of divots and it's dangerous. He said the idea should be to maintain or improve the current ramps until ramps are built in the new Harbor.

Mr. Talbot said Kobuk Street is being surveyed to possibly widen the area and the existing float could be extended. Commission Member Hirsch said even if that does happen the current ramps needs to be preserved.

Mr. Talbot asked Commission Member Hirsch if he thought the ramp was damaged and he said yes. Commission Member Hirsch said boats will start jumping and hopping as they are going down. Commission Member Hirsch said it doesn't have to be a negative tide to see the damage. Commission Member Hirsch told Mr. Talbot to go down at low tide and he'll be able to see it's worn out. Mr. Talbot said he would take pictures.

Commission Member Sontag and Stephens stated not business.

Chair Swanson mentioned the Waterfront Master Plan and said it sounds like some of the projects are already moving ahead. Mr. Talbott said not specifically yet and there will be a point where Commission will need to discuss projects and make a decision. Mr. Talbott said one thing to discuss is the expansion project. He is not convinced it will help get the Harbor to flush out more debris. He believes the money could be better spent elsewhere. Chair Swanson said behind ramp upgrade, the expansion is probably not going to help flushing.

Chair Swanson asked if there is an opportunity to put a sign at the ramps or office notifying of storm warning due to recent boating incidents. He understands not wanting to take liability but just as a notice. Commission Member Hirsch asked Mr. Talbott about his previous Harbor, he said there were signs and flags used notifying of weather. Mr. Talbott stated a sign could be a nice thing to add.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Swanson adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.