

**Waterfront Recreation Committee
Minutes – March 5, 2012 - 3:00 p.m.
Marina Center Boardroom**

Members in Attendance: Doug Archbald, Cori Bison, Greg Stiegel (CGWA alternate), Forrest Rae (CGKA), Ann Frodel, Laney Gale, Pepi Gerald, and Lori Stirn; Commissioners Rich McBride and Jon Davies; from Port staff (ex-officio members) Michael McElwee and Laurie Borton

Members Absent: Bill Lake (CGWA) and Michael Schock

Guests: Sam Bauer, Linda Maddox, and MacRae Wylde

Commissioner Rich McBride opened the March 5 meeting at 3:05 p.m. No items were added to the agenda. Members and guests introductions were made.

Approval of October 13, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Move to approve minutes of the October 13, 2011 meeting.
Move: Stirn
Second: Gerald
Discussion: None
Vote: Unanimous

Public Comment – None.

Comments from CGKA, CGWA and HRYC

Forrest Rae, representative for the Columbia Gorge Kiteboarding Association, reported the winter months had been spent defining new goals, ways in which to better communicate, and development of a new website. CGKA is working to obtain its 501c3 status. The association currently has 150 paid memberships and 5,000 “notify” members. Rae said that as an association, CGKA officially endorses the cable park being proposed for the Nichols Boat Basin. CGKA is also looking for new kite access locations. Lyle does not look to be promising, and access at Rowena and Viento can divert only 15-20 kites that would use the Hood River sandbar.

Greg Stiegel, began working for the Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association as Executive Director in December. Planning for annual events such as Windfest, swap meets, and King of the Hook are well underway for 2012. CGWA is looking to establish new site access funds as a backup for when the Doug’s Beach railroad settlement funds are depleted. Stiegel said he would be working with the Port on access site development.

Doug Archbald, Hood River Yacht Club, said there is new momentum within the club and more family events are being planned. The junior sailing program has transferred to the yacht club from the Hood River School District community education program. Archbald said the club would be working with the Port to try to set up a program for reciprocal moorage at the guest dock for visiting yacht clubs. Archbald said that the suggestion for a hoist has been on the yacht club’s radar for quite some time and through the waterfront visioning process initiated by Commissioner McBride last fall the hoist fell into the long-term category (5-10+ years) and he would like to see this as a short term project to be completed within 1-3 years.

Looking Back / Looking Forward

High Water Plan – A one or two page plan, with input from CGKA and CGWA, will be developed to avoid last year's week to week decisions. A determination to allow kite launching from the Event Site outside of the October 1 to April 30 shoulder season will largely be determined by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers models. The sandbar typically appears at the 350,000 csf water level. CGKA and CGWA will collaborate on a "Special Circumstances" flyer for high water events. In 2011 a local kiter assisted with the "flight deck;" however, Executive Director McElwee suggested this could be a paid volunteer funded by the Port instead of reliance on unscheduled volunteers.

Parking – The goal to move parking into the Event Site was met. Poaching of the 90-minute street parking space did occur but McBride said there would be enforcement this year.

Discount Season Pass Fee for May Only – there was committee support to offer a discount again this year. The Port will provide information on the discount to CGWA and CGKA for member notification.

School and Food Concessionaires – The number of schools will remain the same in 2012. Two of three food concessions will return in 2012 and applications have been submitted by five new food vendors; however, because all new applicants have food trailers or mobile vehicles placement will be difficult. There was discussion that space is already limited at the Event Site and **if's** there is room an offer should be limited to only one additional food vendor. One school has requested more space for SUP business. Various relocation plans were discussed but it was McElwee's recommendation to stay with the current plan for this year and there would be opportunities to review/revise the plan for the 2013 season. A suggestion to offer schools a price differential for 2012 to relocate from the Event Site cruise ship dock was supported.

[Post meeting note: there was discussion about having two food vendors on the lower cruise ship dock; however, an electrician has identified there is not enough power to support two vendors.]

Lot 1 Planning – Group Mackenzie is preparing a development concept for Lot 1-- the area that extends east of N. 2nd and into the water at the Nichols Boat Basin. A Port Commission work session will occur on March 20 and part of the discussion will include how Port development fits with Naito Development's cable park proposal. McElwee commented further that pedestrian and bike access will be provided for in the Lot 1 development. McBride clarified that N. 1st street is a private roadway owned by the Port; it is not a dedicated City of Hood River street.

Proposed Cable Park – The City Planning Department will hold a public hearing on the cable park on March 19. Public input is being provided to the Port Commissioners for their review. McElwee stated that lease terms for the Nichols Boat Basin requested by Naito have not been discussed by the Port Commission. At the October 2011 meeting, the WF Rec Committee supported the cable park proposal, but with recommendations attached for Naito Development's consideration. There was consensus to reserve a final judgment, whether in support of or opposition to, once more public meetings are held and a Planning Commission decision is made.

Jensen Beach Agreement with CGWA – This is an annual Land Use Agreement that will be renewed with CGWA to provide temporary parking and access to the river from the gravel parking area immediately to the west of the Jensen Building on Portway Avenue. No fee is associated with the Agreement; however, CGWA provides a general liability insurance agreement naming the Port as an additional insured on the \$1 million policy. McElwee commented that the Portway Avenue Improvement project that is currently out to bid will reduce curb cuts from four to two. There was support to remove a chain link fence on Port property by the Waterfront Park.

Jet Ski Parking – McBride commented on the unprofessional appearance of jet skis parked in the Nichols Basin. If the cable park moves forward there has been discussion of the Naito’s providing docks for jet skis. Maritime has floats in the Nichols Basin that are for sale but the Port Commission has not considered a purchase cost-effective.

Projects – Brief summaries were provided by McElwee on the following projects:

1. Marina. The Port is working with Andrew Jansky, Flowing Solutions, on a conceptual plan to reconfigure the floatplane dock and McElwee said the yacht club would be included in discussions. The electrical upgrade for the moorage slip has been deferred to the FY 12/13 budget. A new moorage gangway and a transition plate at the guest dock are scheduled for installation by mid-April.
2. Rip Rap Repair. Damage caused by erosion of the rip rap at The Hook and Marina entrance was repaired in February. Repair was completed in 4 days—the permit took over 2 years to be processed. Commissioner Jon Davies commented the pathway at The Hook repair site is gone and he requested committee members to look at it and comment.
3. Other. The City of Hood River has proposed a new outfall for the wastewater treatment plant that runs the entire east to west length of The Hook road. Construction has been proposed for the summer of 2013. Discussions with the City will continue regarding the timing of the project and an assurance that the integrity of the road will not fail.

Waterfront Specialist Proposal for Commission Discussion March 6 – McElwee reported on the staffing proposal that will be considered by the Commission to hire a half-time Waterfront Specialist. Plans are to advertise soon and hire before the season gets too far underway.

Marina Committee -- A moorage tenant’s letter regarding regulations will be reviewed at the March 6 Port Commission meeting. There was Committee support of Davies suggestion to form a separate Marina Committee (five core users including a Commission seat) to discuss this and other issues that arise as marina discussions often get derailed at Waterfront Rec meetings due to focused discussions on waterfront issues.

Waterfront Visioning

McBride said he was excited about the variety of conceptual plans identified from the visioning process he initiated last fall, and that he believes there will be support for projects and accomplishments will be seen over time.

Events Calendar for 2012

Three exclusive use events are scheduled for consecutive weekends in July for the Event Site and there was some discussion about establishing a protocol to have a break in between. Pepi Gerald commented that it is a location for events and users are more often included than excluded during events.

[Post meeting note: the Port Commission took action on May 15, 2001 to provide for “blackout days” that staff would not schedule the Event Site on U.S. and Canadian holiday weekends.]

Committee Member Resignation

McBride said that it was with regret that the resignation of Ann Frodel would need to be accepted as the Port’s Governance Policy states that committee members need to be residents of the Port District at all times during their term. Frodel was thanked by Davies and McBride for her years of dedication and enthusiasm on the committee and said that she would be missed. Frodel also commented on her tenure, adding that she would be checking to make sure that visioning projects were completed.

Recommendations to Commission

1. Staff to prepare high water contingency plan with CGWA and CGKA input; CGKA and CGWA to work together on high water "special circumstances" flyer
2. Support for formation of separate Marina Committee
3. Support for seasonal user fee discount for May
4. Advertise for vacancy on the Committee
5. Limit food concessions by offering one agreement if there is room and adequate facilities
6. Look into feasibility of moving Big Papas food concession to share space on lower cruise ship dock with the Sandbar Café [note, existing power is not adequate to support two vendors]
7. Consider offering fee reduction to school concessions if they move from Event Site
8. Continued support of cable park reserved until more public meetings are held and a decision is made by the City

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for the Marina Center Boardroom on Wednesday, April 4 at noon. (This will be a brown bag meeting.) Monthly meetings thereafter will be scheduled, as needed.

The March 5, 2012 meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Prepared by Laurie Borton, 03/15/12