

**Waterfront Recreation Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**October 31, 2005**  
**3:00 – 4:30 P.M.**

Attending: Members Steve Gates, Michael Schock, Lori Stirn, Dennis Shypertt, and Ann Frodel; Commissioners Hoby Streich and Sherry Bohn; Staff Members: Dave Harlan, Mike Doke, Linda Hull; Guest: Diane Barkhimer, CGWA

Absent: Richard Sassara

- 1) Sherry Bohn opened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. with introductions.
- 2) **Recreational Facilities Financial Overview Summary:** Executive Director Dave Harlan explained the financials remains consistent with previous years and show approximately 3% negative revenue. Linda Hull will send out a report to the committee showing revenue/expense for all the recreational facilities as one whole with the notes from this meeting, if available.
- 3) **Facilities: Issues – Information:**  
**Event Site:** In reviewing the parking receipts for the Event Site and the Spit, Steve Gates added the Event Site was impacted for three weeks of special events during the prime July/August time and should be part of the bigger picture. Linda will ask Linda Shames for a count of traffic, if available, and not just sales, and send it out with the meeting notes. Steve said his business, Big Winds, did not see any decrease in the sport this year. Michael Schock commented that there are more improved sites in the region and that may also be a factor. Both believed sailing in the corridor was the best ever this year for wind. Steve said his customers comment positively on the Event Site and appreciate the amenities. The Park Host volunteer experience was discussed and overall consensus was that it was a good idea, helping the parking, dog problems, and thefts. It was suggested that the person be better identified, possibly with a Port shirt/hat and also be more pro-active with RV parking in designated spots. Steve commented that the national events were well-run and well-publicized and that even though it was disruptive for local sailors, it was a plus for the exposure it brought to Hood River. It was asked if maintenance could decrease the water schedule for the grassy area as it seems to be very wet.

Sherry asked if the committee felt the Event Site should be a dedicated site for windsurfing/water events? Historically, it was built specifically for that purpose because that was before there were other water sports here. Lori Stirn said the addition of the Lot 6 park could accommodate some other non-water sports events, more family-park oriented. The consensus of the committee was that the Event Site should remain for water sport events, not weddings, etc.; Marina Park area can be used for those types of events.

**Hook:** Steve commented the Hook is getting lots of use due to the windsurfing schools congregating there now. Diane Barkhimer said the CGWA organization will continue to do access-oriented projects along the banks, such as planting trees and improving ramps. Harlan said they should run their plans by City Planning staff to ensure they meet the Goal 5 requirements. Harlan said both the Hook and the Spit will be undergoing a rezoning process this year. Diane also mentioned the Parks & Recreation students would like a changing facility by the portapotties as part of their "wish list" that includes more picnic tables, drinking water, flush toilets, showers, etc. Diane commended Joe Pounders and his Port maintenance crew for being so helpful and doing a great job. Mike asked if all the carpet was picked up from the school activities? Diane said there is still some carpet on the ground.

**Spit:** The parking situation and school location was discussed. Mike explained that the schools agreed at a recent meeting to move off of the north end leaving that area for public access and limiting school space to 10x20 spots. Dust abatement solutions are being explored; it was asked if bleachers could be set out in that area for spectators. There are currently eight schools set up at the Spit. Steve expressed his opinion that it is not workable for that many because of the constraints of the size of the area. Steve said there are concerns about the quality of instruction. Consensus of the committee was that the \$300 per month concession fee was too low and there were too many schools. The fairest way to manage the concession would be to implement an RFP (Request for Proposal) process for vendors. Lori made a motion to increase the concession fee to \$500 per month and limit the number of kiteboarding vendors to five. Steve seconded. Discussion was held regarding the number of allowed schools. Lori thought five vendors should be the goal but the Port could start with seven, which was the suggestion of the schools at their meeting. The number could be reduced through attrition with the goal of five ultimately. Lori amended her motion to reflect this. Steve seconded the motion. Committee members all voted aye. Motion passed. The recommendation will be taken back to the Port Commission.

**Marina:** Harlan explained the usual CPI adjustment will be made to marina tenants this year; however, due to the waiting lists for eastside and longboat slips the committee was asked if an increase in those "prime" slips should be considered. Consensus was yes, market rates should apply to those more valued slips; staff was asked to compile a survey of other marinas and their rates for comparison, and come back with the information at the next meeting. Ann Frodel suggested the Port charge more for "out of Port District" tenants because their taxes do not help support the public facilities. The fuel pump is up and running. Linda mentioned the events were down this year; and the Port had no food vendors. The feedback from prior vendors is that they cannot make enough money to justify the costs.

**Cruiseship Dock:** An inspection will be made on the pier itself for structural integrity.

4) **Other:** Lori said the Lot 6 park design RFP is due and she would appreciate any input from the Port and the Waterfront Recreation Committee, in particular regarding purposes and uses at the park.

5) **Next Meeting:** to be determined

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Prepared by Linda Hull