

# **Waterfront Recreation Committee Minutes**

## **March 8, 2017 - Noon**

### **Port Boardroom**

Attendees: Pepi Gerald, Mark Hickok, Adam Lapierre, Rich McBride, Bart Vervloet, T.J. Gulizia, Sam Bauer, Stu Watson.

Absent: Cori Collins (resigned)

- Stu Watson opened the meeting at 12:05 pm, introduced himself, and explained the status of his interim role with the Port, and plans to fill the position with a full-time person. Also noted that Cori Collins had resigned, creating another position.
- Committee members introduced themselves, to guests Wes Valpey and Ian Mortensen of TacAero. Port representative Rich McBride noted that he will serve until end of June, then focus on new role with Hood River County. Watson suggested he might want to continue on Committee, filling Collins vacancy.
- No items were added to the agenda.

#### **Tac Aero Presentation**

- Valpey said they have a floatplane and hope to offer pilot certification training and scenic flights in the Gorge, building off history in Hood River.
- They are looking at access sites, including Bingen, Cascade Locks.
- Floatplane operations are weather-dependent; they need to take off across or into the wind, so would taxi out of the Marina, go east, turn and take off into prevailing summer west winds.
- Their most challenging need is finding a place where they can load and unload passengers.
- They would not need mooring, because plane is amphibious and would return to airport at end of day.
- Sam Bauer said he thought it would be a good addition to local tourism economy.
- Bart Vervloet suggested finding a beach to slide onto; he mentioned possibility east of Best Western

#### **New Events**

- OutFound event would use all waterfront sites June 8-11; still in discussion with organizers and hired event manager Chad Sperry.
- Lapierre and Bauer both voiced concerns about dedicating entire waterfront to a single event at a time when other users are arriving with desire to access river. Lapierre said the sandbar would still likely be under water at that time, hence no option for Event Site kites.
- Hickok expressed concerns that the large amount of logistics would require more time than current state of progress suggests would be adequate.
- McBride said it wasn't a done deal as far as Port Commission was concerned, that they needed more detail before they could confidently support forward movement.
- Gulizia noted that the major impact of exclusive events at the Event Site for concessionaires was the lack of parking for their customers.
- Watson reported on Nichols Basin open water polo tournament planned for late August

#### **Project Planning**

- Hickok reported on dog park planned through IGA for strip of land between treatment plant and Hook lagoon.
- Watson reported on planned safety improvements to waterfront trail beneath HR bridge.

#### **Kiting Report**

- Lapierre stressed importance of high water planning, and early June decision w. Port and windsurfing rep to close Event Site and move kiting to sandbar.
- Suggestion made that certain percentage of spaces at Event Site should be saved for pass holders.
- Extensive discussion of woody debris cleanup, and need to make sure Port knows about timing of efforts. Watson suggested public relations benefit of bucking wood for public retrieval as firewood.
- Important also to let law enforcement know when CGKA volunteers plan to be down on sandbar and why.
- Discussion about 4 kite launch structures and a couple of unpermitted structures left in the river. McBride: "I don't like leaving junk out there." Watson will contact Rich Sabo of the Slider Project to ensure that they manage unpermitted.
- Several spoke about need to educate the new marine deputy about how best to help police the water use. Watson offered to convene a quick follow-up meet-n-greet with that person, once designated, so all could share and help that person get up to speed.
- Discussion about pending legislation to permit non-motorized vehicles - kiteboard, windsurfers, standup paddleboards.

### **Windsurf Report**

- Bauer suggested that Port ensure that its maintenance crews know about events planned for specific days. Watson noted protocol of advance notice to facilities crew so they would know, but no way to ensure that they read the event forms.
- Vervloet talked about plans for Beach Bash and embrace of group called ... Butterfly Effect , which does women's sports events (<http://betheeffect.com/>)

The meeting was adjourned at 2 p.m.  
*Prepared by Stu Watson, 3/8/17*