

**Waterfront Recreation Committee
Minutes
September 23, 2009**

Attending: Members Doug Archbald, Ann Frodel, Steve Gates, Forrest Rae, Tim Maher, Michael Schock, Lori Stirn, Commissioners Sherry Bohn and Jon Davies; Port staff: Michael McElwee and Mellissa Halseth.

Absent: Laney Gale, and Port Staff Laurie Borton.

Guests: CGKA Director Mark Barnes, Katie Crafts, Pepi, Carlos and Spring

Commissioner Sherry Bohn opened the meeting at 3:37 p.m., with members and guests introducing themselves. Bohn stated the purpose of the meeting was to discuss many issues –

- Provisional use to pump, dry and carry kites at the Event Site expiring September 30, 2009

There was much discussion on this topic of use of this area at the Event Site during the summer season. McElwee noted that he felt this past summer season went well with this use at the Event Site with kiteboarders keeping an eye on each other and enforcing the posted rules amongst each other. There is concern about congestion in the pump, dry area. There were many suggestions from committee members and guests that more signage be posted along the beach and additional buoys be set with 5mph speed posted on them to make them all more visible with additional buoys to be set at the west jetty. Committee members would also like to see more visibility from the Hood River County Sherriff's office in the water area to help with water enforcement with possibly modifying Ordinance No. 22.

The committee made a motion to recommend to the Port Commission to expand the pump and dry area west to the tree line.

Motion: Recommend to the Port Commission to expand the pump and dry area west to the tree line.
Move: Steve Gates
2nd: Lori Stirn
Aye: Doug Archbald, Steve Gates, Forrest Ray, Tim Maher, Michael Schock, Lori Stirn, Commissioners Sherry Bohn and Jon Davies; Port staff Michael McElwee
Nay: Ann Frodel
Absent: Laney Gale

MOTION CARRIES

- Member Positions

Positions approved by Port Commission were Forrest Rae representing Columbia Gorge Kiteboarding Association and Tim Maher representing Columbia Gorge Windsurfing Association. The following position terms will be extended until September 30, 2009 with an advertisement to follow:

Steve Gates
Ann Frodel
Mike Schock
Richard Sassara (Vacant)

These positions will be advertised in the newspaper for two weeks. Each position is for a 3 year term.

- Suggestions were made for revising the Event Site Brochure with a more current picture of the sandbar. Carlos suggested that this picture be taken in the spring for the most current picture

before next season. Also a suggestion was made to print the safety zone on the back of the season passes.

- Schools

The Committee discussed the upcoming RFP to identify recognized schools for the next three years. Recommendations were made that instructors should be Level II certified. It was pointed out that being PASA or IKO certified would, by definition, be level II. Other suggestions were made that rescue craft be in the water and accessible at all times, that a means be found to identify instructors and students, that signs be erected at the Event Site and/or Spit indicating authorized schools and that instructors use shorter kite lines while teaching beginning students. There was a brief discussion about the pros and cons of having a specific area of the Sandbar devoted to the schools or whether schools should be required to teach on watercraft to reduce congestion on the west edge of the sandbar. By consensus, the committee indicated it would be preferable to get the RFP out in the next few weeks and work out this issue over the winter with input from all schools, the CGKA and Recreation Committee.

- Swim Beach

The Committee discussed the idea of allowing Kiteboarding north of the Marina basin including the historic Swim Beach. It was pointed out that opening up this area could help reduce congestion on the Sandbar. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Port Commission that they authorize staff to evaluate this issue and return to the Recreation Committee for more discussion and possible action.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: Date to be determined.

Prepared by:

*Melissa Halseth
Michael McElwee*