

Waterfront Recreation Committee Minutes
Sept 28, 2017 – 8:30-10:00
Port Boardroom

Attendees:

Members: Pepi Gerald, Bart Vervloet , Sam Bauer.

Commission: Ben Sheppard.

Staff: Steve Carlson.

Guests: Spring Milward, Carlos Corneiles, Bob Stawicki

Meeting was called to order by Sheppard

Motion to approve minutes by Sheppard was seconded by Vervloet.

Event Site and on water safety discussion:

Corneiles: indicated that he does around 60 rescues a year and that it conflicts with their school efforts. He also indicated that the sheriff has 2 rescue sleds that they do not use and he would like to work with the CGKA to determine how the sleds could be utilized by others. Gerald indicated that he sees many kites who do not know how to utilize their safety equipment, that wind shutdown seems to leave lots of users stranded and suggested that CGKA hosts a safety night to educate consumers. Vervloet: expresses interest in CGWA and CGKA collaboration on safety, thinks fire department should utilize volunteers to patrol waters, commented that sheriff needs bullet proof vest and weapon at all times- not conducive to rescue. Bauer suggested that there should be signs indicating which schools are actual Port concessionaires. Milward suggested that there are multiple rouge schools marketing on the internet that are operating around the Waterfront. Stawicki; suggested installation of more and lower buoys designating the specific areas of the Event Site lagoon, suggested a safety flier be handed out at the Event Site gate- prepared by CGKA / CGWA, indicate that his most common rescue has to do with inverted kites- lack of user knowledge. Bauer wondered what safety protocol the kite schools used and if there was any uniformity. Milward said that instructors are supposed to be PASA or IKO certified and indicated that Port needs to do a better job of verifying schools compliance with existing rules. Stawicki referenced the safety protocol of the PSIA (Skiing) and that it is adopted by ski areas. Vervloet; offered funds from CGWA and suggested that they team with CGKA on united effort, indicated that PWC's can be leased for low or no cost by non profits, law enforcement, fire etc. Corneiles proposed Port provided docks for rescue vehicles in the Marina Basin.

Kite Update: Pepi Gerald

Gerald reported that kiter numbers are increasing but at a slower rate than historically. He is concerned about the effect that the development of Lot 1 will have on parking, wind, traffic in the Event Site area. Spectators are becoming a factor in Event Site and sandbar areas with family picnics happening on the grass, beach, sandbar etc. Public is unaware of the dangers associated with kite lines etc. He recommended simplified signage and a rope line separating kite and windsurfing areas to keep kites in

the designated area. The increased water depth required for the launch of foiling boards presents challenges for both windsurf and kite users.

Windsurf update: Bart Vervloet

Vervloet reported a great season for windsurfing with record breaking swap meets and Gorge Grom participation. CGWA had doubled the amount of gear available to participating community members with heavy focus on kids. He commented that the beaches are often packed and that the paddle sport presence is increasing. He advocated for additional picnic tables, 2 additional porta pottys during the high season and the addition of simple changing rooms at the Event Site. Additionally, Bauer indicated that the racing community had a great season.

Event site Update: Steve Carlson

Carlson informed the group about the upcoming Event Site beach replenishment project and discussed the Flight Deck kite launch areas. Vervloet expressed the desire for additional launch opportunities on the Waterfront and mentioned that the kite communities launch options are limited to the Event Site / sandbar with some kilters launching at Marina Beach.

Nichols Basin Update: Steve Carlson

Carlson informed the group of proposed improvements to the Nichols basin area including: Installation of low freeboard access for paddle sports and the possibility of a secure paddle storage enclosure. Concerns about the seawall swimming and diving and the presence of possible underwater hazards was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10am.

Prepared by Steve Carlson, 9/28/17