

Waterfront Recreation Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 4th 2019 8am

Location: Port Boardroom

Hosted by- Port First Chair- Commissioner Ben Sheppard, Port Staff- Daryl Stafford

Present:

- **Clubs & Groups:** Canoe/HROCC- Bernie Boglioli, CGKA- Pepi Gerald and Adam Lapierre, CGWA- Bart Vervloet and Sam Bauer, The Slider Project- Rich Sabo
- **Food Wagons:** Sandbar Café- Susie Dow, The Downwinder- Ronda Bresin
- **Kite Schools:** Cascade Kiteboarding- Tonia Farman, KTG- Carlos Cornieles and Spring Milward,
- **Parks & Rec:** Mark Hickock
- **SUP & Windsurf Concessions:** Big Winds TJ Gulizia, Hood River SUP and Kayak- Justin Teague, Gorge Paddle Center- Todd Anderson, Stoke on the Water: Joel Yang
- **Unique Concessions:** Stawicki Photography- Bob Stawicki
- **Water Patrol Sheriff-** Curtis Kowell

Welcome and Introductions: Daryl

News from the Port- Overview provided by Daryl

1. **Parking-** Highlighted changes by the Port for 2019 and the plan for the Kiosks at the Event Site Parking Lot, City paid parking on the Waterfront, Event Site Booth opening May 24th and the early Season Pass sales.
2. **Events & Port Projects scheduled for this summer on the Waterfront-** provided a Master Calendar with dates. Daryl will email the group on the 1st and 15th of each month with any updates.
3. **Signs-** Directions & Wayfinding- Master Plan for the walking path, large general signs for entrance to the Waterfront to direct people to Event Site, Spit, Waterfront Park and the Hook.
4. **Dogs-** Conversation with Rachael, new Dog Patrol for HR. She will focus on walking path and Event Site. She is the only personnel available for animal control and works M-F. She suggested more signage. She will be unable to patrol the SPIT at this time.
5. **High water access dates/ signs-** Rob will set up Kite Launch Pad & Kiting safety signs April 15. Port Staff proposed May 23rd last day for launching on grass. Adam & Pepi from CGKA suggested that we do not set the date that early due to the expected high water. The Port will work with them on monitoring the crowds and water levels to insure the best measures for safety.
6. **New Food Concession-** Staff introduced Ronda Bresin who recently purchased the Island Grind food wagon at the Event Site. She has renamed it "The Downwinder" and has partnered with Shane Eagon that owns Four & Twenty Blackbirds. They will be offering a healthy based menu with similar price points that the IG had.

7. **Concession Requests-** Staff let the group know that Alex & Jerry Thon had come before the Commission with Water Park Proposal for Nichols Basin. Questions regarding access, parking, security and safety were discussed.



8. **SUP Storage at Nichols Basin-** Staff provided estimates for proposed storage units at Nichols Basin and requested feedback from the group. To fit the Port financial model, annual leases would roughly cost:

- a. SUP Racks Open non-fenced (36"x14"x15')- \$190
- b. SUP/Kayak Box enclosed Small (36"x12"x15')- \$430
- c. SUP/Kayak Box enclosed Large (36"x18.5"x15')- \$670



Bart from CGWA commented that he didn't think his constituents would be interested as the location and design would not work for windsurfing gear. Bernie from HROCC said the sizes would not work for his user group. Todd Anderson commented that people want storage for SUPs, however the prices seemed high because of the seasonal nature of SUPing in HR.

9. **Event Site Restroom Designs-** Staff shared the rough plans from Liz Olberding that were presented to the Commission last month. Comments regarding the quick fix with addition of changing rooms were positive.
10. **Proposed Dock Extension for Nichols Basin-** Staff let group know that this Project has been tabled due to the permitting having been denied.
11. **Data from the Waterfront Report 2018-** Staff shared some of the stats from last summer showing the growth and increase in users along the waterfront.

Discussion:

Water Safety: Deputy Curtis Kowell discussed his role at the department and how it has recently changed due to Wasco County having issues and needing his help, spreading him very thin. He will have his assistant Adam available to help for the Hood River Area. He discussed water safety and protocol for rescue. Port Staff shared the stats from last summer of increased time on the water that the Sheriff had by donating the fuel to aide logistics. Deputy Kowell was grateful and hopes for the same offer this year.

Cascade Kiteboarding, Kite the Gorge, Stawicki Photography and CGW2 discussed the need for a rescue boat during the busy times due to how many people have needed their help. Discussion on the challenges that they face performing rescues while teaching their lessons, and how it impacts their businesses. Bart said CGW2 hopes to

have a boat designated for that purpose with the challenge being staffing. Carlos is working on acquiring a rescue sled to tow behind one of his jet skis full time.

- **New Group Formed: CGW2-** Bart announced that the CGWA has merged with the kite association, CGKA, to now represent all wind/watersports. The official name is Columbia Gorge Wind and Water Association. They will have the same mission of protecting safe and abundant access to the Gorge for recreational and competitive Wind and Water sports. They will be helping with the Paddle Champs Outrigger & Surf Ski race this summer to embrace that user group. They will also continue with their Swaps to raise money for youth programs and organizing work groups for launch-site clean-ups.
- **Kids SUP Program has been expanded:** TJ Gulizia from Big Winds is working on a program for kids with Local SUP Pro Fiona Wylde that will be offered through Community Ed and BW that will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays in Nichols Basin. He is also working on a program to educate paddlers of all sorts on the use and requirements for PFDs.
- **DOG Park:** Mark Hickock from Parks & Rec said the City is revisiting the development of the Dog Park near the Hook. They plan to start in small sections and add on as budget allows and hopeful to start this summer. He also explained SDC grants and asked the group to think about projects that would serve the public in recreation areas.
- **New Kids Outrigger Program:** Bernie Boglioli from HROCC was excited to announce the start-up of a Jr. outrigger program spearheaded by Jon Davies and Todd Clay. They may be running it through Community Ed and hope to have a large interest. Club would also like to pursue offering storage for surf skis within their fenced area. The Club is now up to 100 members. He expressed interest construction of a Canoe Shelter (Hale) if the opportunity for space would be available.
- **Beach Clean Up:** CGW2 will organize a large beach clean up of the spit to remove debris that pose hazards to the user groups. They will coordinate with the Sheriff & the Army Corps along with Port Staff. The Slider Project has been working on cleaning up of the debris on the banks of the Spit.
- **Congestion at the SPIT:** Rich Sabo from the Slider Project fielded questions regarding set-up, placement and safety for the area at the mouth of the Hood River. Consensus was education for the young kids and spreading out the kite schools.
- **Events:** Questions regarding parking during large events were fielded by KB4C organizer Tonia Farman. The Event Site will remain open to Pass Holders with Lot #1 available for overflow.

Brief Highlights:

- The Sandbar Café will be expanding their menu & hours now offering breakfast.
- BW Downwind Shuttle will start running when conditions are favorable, price of \$12. Stoke on the Water will be offering lessons and SUP private tours through BW.
- The Gorge Series Windsurfing Races are in their 18th season at the Event Site, continuing with strong participation with the addition of foiling.
- Concessions & Associations discussed ways that they could promote each other and the group as a whole.