

Waterfront Recreation Committee Minutes
August 26, 2015 – 1:00 pm
Port Boardroom

Attendees: Sam Bauer, Cori Collins, Pepi Gerald, Rich McBride, Greg Stiegel, Lori Stirn, John Mann, Liz Whitmore

Members from the Public: Marine Deputy Quintin Nelson, Sharon Chow, John Chow, Gary Gorman, John Chao

Absent: Adam Lapierre

Liz Whitmore opened the meeting at 1:06 p.m. No items were added to the agenda.

Event Site Safety

- Deputy Nelson: Scheduled for 300 hours on the Columbia River. Additional 20-hr position hired in July for weekends only. Balances time between Columbia River and lakes. Suggested buoys should be bigger and cover a larger area. Didn't hand out citations this season, but talked to kites and windsurfers about safety expectations. Concerned about kiteboarders show boating inside buoy line/safety zone and lines dropping past buoys. Often couldn't contact someone safely with boat. Question was asked if Jet Ski would be better for Event Site use. Deputy Nelson replied that it makes communication with sheriff's office more difficult.
- Sam Bauer: Waterfront has changed a lot in the last few years with diverse group of users. Thanked Deputy Nelson for presence on the river – sees it as a benefit.
- Gary Gorman: Concerned that a windsurfer should not be considered a boat by OSMB. Did not agree windsurfers should swim with board into shore at Event Site. Stated that swimmers at Event Site should be at Waterfront Park.
- Lori Stirn: Liability is an important issue for park districts and ports. Commends the Port of HR for being pro-active about safety at the Event Site with multiple users.
- Pepi Gerald: Event Site was created for windsurfing. Should not allow swimming and sun-bathing. Difficult to walk through canal with gear when kids are there. Concerned about accident happening.
- John Mann: Stated that everyone has a right to be at the Event Site. Cautioned against eliminating certain groups.
- Sam Bauer: Buoys have helped; sees that more people are respecting the line/safety zone. Windsurfers need speed to get to shore. Would hate to see swimmers excluded at the Event Site.
- Sharon Chow: Event Site is different than when they started volunteering 5 years ago. Huge mix with windsurfers, kiteboarders, SUP, kayakers, foils and the varied lines of travel. Solution with signage needs to be simple.
- Rich McBride: Would like to see more waterfront access points to spread out use. Concerned that signs get ignored. If Port employees manage/exert control increases liability. Suggested having 3 more buoys. Place a sign at the end of the east groin that says *No Kiteboarding Here* to prevent kites coming into canal at Nichols Basin.
- Lori Stirn: Signage should prioritize right-of-way for users.
- Liz Whitmore: Suggested to form a sub-committee to work with her on signage. Committee to include Pepi Gerald and Sam Bauer.

- Deputy Nelson: Asked committee what they need in terms of enforcing safety.
- Sharon Chow:
 - If windsurfer jibes inside buoy line – have a conversation with them
 - If kiter jibes inside buoy line – have a conversation with them
 - If kiter jumps inside buoy line – issue a citation
- Sam Bauer: Suggested that marine deputy use caution when events like windsurfing races are happening and be careful with boat and size of wake.
- Pepi Gerald: Owners of kite schools could assist marine deputy with feedback on how to do rescues with a jet ski.
- Deputy Nelson: Noted that he observed a small amount of people that are a problem. Believes the best way to get compliance is through the kiting community. Peer pressure is better than citations.

Concession Permits Update (Schools and Food Vendors)

- Liz Whitmore: Updated committee on concession permits for schools. Letter of Interest is due to Port by Thursday, Sept 10 at 5pm.
- Rich McBride: Indicated that existing schools and food vendors in good standing with the Port should be granted opportunity to renew.

Hook Launch/Waterfront Trail Update

- Liz Whitmore: The Port received a \$25,000 grant from Oregon Parks and Rec Department to complete the waterfront trail and rigging area at the Hook Launch. Hood River Valley Parks and Rec has also contributed \$20,000 toward the project. Construction will take place in Spring 2016 when the City’s outfall relocation project will be completed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Prepared Liz Whitmore, 9/4/2015