

**Waterfront Recreation Committee Minutes**  
**October 23, 2012 - 1:00 pm**  
**Marina Center Boardroom**

Members in Attendance: Doug Archbald, Sam Bauer, Cori Collins, Forrest Rae (CGKA), Lori Stirn, Rich McBride and Brian Shortt (Port Commissioners), Michael McElwee and Liz Whitmore (Port staff)

Member Absent: Pepi Gerald, Bill Lake, Greg Stiegel

Commissioner Rich McBride opened the October 23 meeting at 1:04p.m. No items were added to the agenda.

Committee approved meeting minutes for September 18, 2012.

**Public Comment**

None

**Waterfront Strategic Development**

**Brian Shortt:** Discussed the value of the waterfront as significant and growing in terms of its multiple-uses. The retention of businesses and providing facilities that are flexible is important. Need to determine highest priority for future development along the waterfront and would like to look at it in its entirety from the Marina to the Hook. Waterfront Recreation committee could broaden with members representing groups such as triathletes, cyclists, and kids recreation.

**Forrest Rae:** Suggested indoor recreation center for Lot #1 as an opportunity for increased use during the winter/shoulder season.

**Lori Stirn:** Rec Centers are not huge revenue enhancers, but Park District would be happy to help spearhead if decision was made to pursue.

**Brian Shortt:** Before getting into detail would like to see a narrative done on the entire waterfront including existing conditions, constraints and opportunities. The Dalles and Cascade Locks are making good strides in terms of development along the waterfront. Port of Hood River needs to keep up or may lose opportunities. If you don't plan for yourself others will.

**Rich McBride:** Our ability to draw people to Hood River is reaching a point that can bleed off to other communities and help the whole Columbia Gorge region increase its development opportunities. We have a premium location in terms of climate, but shouldn't sit back and not act.

- *Request made to Port staff to arrange for a new aerial photo of the Waterfront to be taken.*

**Laney Gale:** Supports indoor recreation center. Concerned about childhood obesity and would like to see more kids exercise in the winter.

**Sam Bauer:** Should start with the narrative first before getting into the detail. Need the "story to tell" in order to get financing. Vision in narrative could include other Port property in addition to the

waterfront. Likes the idea of a rec center and freezing water in a parking area of Lot #1 and creating a winter skating rink.

**Cori Collins:** Narrative should look at traffic flow and potential grid lock.

**Michael McElwee:** Timing is perfect to do strategic planning for the Waterfront. Touches on policy, regulatory, and financial issues for the Port. The City's sewer outfall project may create an opportunity to rebuild the Hook. Staff can put together a game plan and schedule. Likely a 6-month process.

**Brian Shortt:** Need to get approval from entire board of Commissioners before proceeding.

### **Food Vendor Locations**

**Liz Whitmore:** Presented letter from Christa Scheer of the Sandbar Café voicing her concern about having two vendors on the lower cruise ship dock. Her concerns center around logistics of alcohol license by a second vendor, need for a no-compete clause, capacity of the dock, disposal of grey water, maintenance and storage.

Committee members responded that it is important for the Port to protect its recreational sites as it sees fit. Because of the increased use at the Event Site want to keep the grass clear and not have a food vendor located near the restrooms on the grass. Lower cruise ship dock is under-utilized. Would like to see continued support and enhancement of business for Sandbar Café and Big Papas.

- *Direction given to Port staff to work with both food vendors to work out the logistics.*

### **High-Water Planning**

**Rich McBride:** Presented the high-water planning draft proposal for the Event Site that was developed by a sub-group (Rich McBride, Cori Collins, Pepi Gerald, Greg Stiegel and Liz Whitmore) of the Waterfront Recreation Committee. Plan includes:

- Port "Flight Deck" employee whose job would be to monitor kite launching and landing from the grass for increased safety and education.
- A red/green flag and signage system would be in place to communicate when kite launching/landing is allowed from grass.
- Safety measures include a single fence line adjacent to sidewalk running the length of kite designated area and turning ninety degrees down along the western edge of trees down to water.
- Buoy line extending into water 10-15 feet separating windsurfers and kiteboarders.

**Doug Archbald:** Doesn't like the idea of a continuous fence line and kiteboarders having to duck under. Believes public should be able to sit in pump/dry area.

**Sam Bauer:** If have dedicated Port employee then shouldn't need fence line. Need to make flight deck paint lines more recognizable with brighter paint; orange instead of white.

**Rich McBride:** Concerned that if fence line is not there may run into safety issues with public and kite launching and landing.

**Lori Stirn:** Signage should be positive. Avoid saying “No”.

**Rich McBride:** Signage should be simple, clean, and to the point with few words. Keep signage positive.

- *High-Water Planning group will meet again on November 14 at 12:30pm to continue to refine safety and communication planning for Event Site.*

**General Comment for Commissioners**

**Sam Bauer:** Concerned about truck traffic along Portway. Need to minimize.

**Next WF Rec Meeting:**

Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 1pm in the Port Boardroom.

The October 23, 2012 meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

*Prepared by Liz Whitmore, 10/31/2012*