

Minutes of BCMCA meeting December 2, 2014, in Burrard Marina Members Lounge.

In attendance: Sean Smith, JC d'Almeida, Mike & Sharon, Peter Vandergugten, Iain Pennington, Richard, Grant P. (apologies if I missed anyone!)

1. Safety Issues

Several ongoing issues were revisited, including:

- a. Tide grid ladder
- b. Longer gangways to docks
- c. Security issues: fence, cameras, etc. (some gaps/low spots in fencing)
- d. Snow removal or salting
- e. More LED lighting
- f. Emergency plans: fire, storms, earthquake etc.
- g. Fire pulls – do they work?

There was agreement that all of the above items continue to be important issues, and should be promoted strongly in upcoming meetings with Parks Board staff.

Cassio had mentioned on Nov 26 that Blue Water Technologies were to complete the last of the long-overdue repairs in two weeks time. (mid December). Presumably all safety repairs and upgrades recommended by the Worley Parsons report will then be complete, however we may wish to make some inspections ourselves to see if anything has been missed.

Installation of a tide grid ladder was also supposedly waiting until this work was done (due to need to replace broken waler at that location).

It was brought to our attention that there had been some 14 break-ins on boats recently (November), but that someone had been caught in the act and was arrested by police. Concern remains however that the office has not been notifying customers of this danger, there has been no e-mails, notices at gates, or anything else to communicate to boaters to be extra vigilant.

It was also suggested that if the gates were modified so people have to use their cards to swipe out as well, then it would make it more difficult for a thief to “draft in” and “draft out” again.

2. Financial

a. Consultant study for marina renewal needs

Ken Maguire had recently informed JC that the Parks Board was in the final stages of making an award to a consultant. Presumably we will get word who the chosen consultant is shortly.

There is strong concerns about whether we will get any input of consultation in this process – we don't want to get “Visioned” yet again with some plan that ignores the needs of current customers. The group needs to remain vigilant in our discussions with Parks Board that we shouldn't be kept in the dark.

JC did receive a proposed schedule from Ken Maguire, this can be made available to the members separately.

b. Seniors Discount

Loss of the seniors discount continues to be a sore point, however it was also pointed out that restoring it would mean a serious hit to Parks Board revenues,

especially considering the growing number of customers who are seniors, making it unlikely that the PB will ever concede to this point.

c. Staffing

“More boots on the docks and less butts in the office” was a comment suggested prior to the meeting, and the sentiment generally finds agreement. It is hoped that some of the junior staff will continue to show promise and dedication, and that one of them will move into a senior role when the opportunity arises.

d. Rates and Fees consultation

Ken Maguire had previously mentioned that a “rationalization” of power charges was due, to bring Burrard Marina in line with rates charged at Heather Marina. Alas no decision on this had been made in time for this year’s winter season, when many more customers plug in for winter power.

A suggestion was also made that perhaps if summer power rates were offered at say, half price, then there would be more customers for summer power.

3. Maintenance

a. Wave & wake attenuation

The Parks Board Capital Plan was successfully passed, which means a line item of \$500,000 to address this item can go ahead. Presumably a marine engineering consultant will be hired to study the problem and devise a solution.

b. Year round water

No improvements, while most members believe there would be no problem with leaving water on year round, possibly with drip-valves to keep water flowing, Cassio seems uninterested in pursuing the idea.

c. More daily maintenance

Already covered in the “Staffing” issue above

d. Outstanding maintenance issues:

Sinking dinghy floats has been mentioned, and should be brought to the Parks Board’s attention.

e. Removal of sand pile

Records show the idea of removing the large sand piles underneath Burrard Bridge had been suggested by senior PB staff back in 1982. However there may be costs required to re-route the gas line. This item should be revisited in the new consultant study, as it could potentially open up a lot of space for boat storage, parking, etc.

f. Bird deterrants

It was suggested that cones on pilings, anti-bird spikes on cross-arms and lamps, should be installed. Most other marinas have these features, making Burrard look “cheap” by comparison.

g. Aesthetics

Rusty fences, ugly pilings etc. Hopefully some of these items can be flagged and dealt with in the consultant study.

h. Access to dewatering pumps

Identified as a security/emergency concern, security should be able to provide access to dewatering pumps in case any emergency occurs outside of regular office hours.

i. Heat in members lounge

While at the meeting, attendees noticed how cold the Members Lounge was, and the fact that this place is the only “warm refuge” for our security guard, who otherwise spends all night out in the cold and dampness. Even with at least 8 people attending the meeting, the room did not warm up, and the radiator was barely warm at all. The heat control is in a locked area inaccessible to security staff.

JC said he would send Parks Board an e-mail about the heat situation right away.

4. Parking

A suggestion had been made to swap the locations of the land storage boat trailers and the regular parking area, making it a shorter trip for patrons from their cars. The suggestion seemed logical, as most of the boats on trailers do not move that often.

However, it was also pointed out that the Cal fleet does move regularly (to get launched by the crane for weekend races), and that it is difficult enough to manoeuvre boat trailers around tight areas in the parking lot, having to move past parked cars might be inviting accidents.

5. Community

a. Return of Caretaker Suite

The eventual return of the Caretaker Suite to the marina patrons continues to be an item of importance. It is hoped that with a change of political priorities on the Parks Board, that perhaps more traction can be made on this issue. Use of the room for a friendly Members Lounge, with opportunities for educational presentations, talks, slide shows etc., continues to be a vision for the use of the area.

b. Christmas lights on boats

JC, Sean and others promoted putting up Christmas lights on our boats, as it shows a community spirit, and additionally a signal to would-be intruders that there are indeed people who are at the marina year-round and making frequent checks.

c. Carol ship cruise

In line with the above, it was also suggested that perhaps a Carol Ships Cruise could be organized. Nothing has come together for this year, but it could always be promoted again next season.

d. Shoreline Cleanup

A brief report on the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup in June was made by Sean, including showing around a recently received Certificate of Appreciation by the organizers, and signed by none other than the Mayor of Vancouver.

This event was a good opportunity to promote awareness of our group, encourage community participation, and get a close look at the state of the marina, all while doing a good deed in cleaning up our marina. We should participate again next year.

e. Spring time swap meet

The swap meet was also mentioned as having been a great success, again promoting awareness of our group, and we should plan to have one again next year.

f. Convert members lounge to a workshop

There is strong enthusiasm for this idea, and even offers to donate tools. It has been pointed out that the workshop facilities at Vancouver Rowing Club and other locations are very popular, and often a key factor in membership at such facilities.

However, conversion of the ground floor Members Lounge is only feasible if we succeed in having the Caretakers Suite returned, and also some plan for re-arrangement of the lockers would be required.

g. Online poll of members concerns and priorities

It has been suggested that since over a year has gone by since the last poll of members concerns, and some of those items have been dealt with (to some degree of success), and other new items identified, that we should conduct another poll. Sean has suggested perhaps he could devise an online poll using a service such as SurveyMonkey.

Minutes written by Sean Smith