

Burrard Civic Marina Community Association

Group Meeting Minutes

Dec 2, 2015, Billy Bishop Legion Pub

Attendees: _____ Sean Smith, JC d'Almeida, Marie-Anne Alward, Ken Christie _____

Meeting Called to Order at: _____ 7:44 PM _____

Old Business:

- 1) Fire Dep't report re: January boat fire

SS called Fire Dep't, they would not speak to specific details due to possible insurance and court action, would need an FOI request. FD was able to verify that dock power was not at fault, and the FD never uses dock water, their policy is to trust only their own eq't, therefore they lugged their own hoses all the way down the docks. FD was able to offer general advice, ie, check connections for warmth, make sure heaters don't tip over etc.

JC mentioned hearing that FD learned lesson that they should use foam, not water, esp for electrical fires. In which case, dock water is useless anyways. Discussion held whether we should make an FOI request, but considered not worthy use of our time.

JC also heard from Cassio that the water shut-off valve is now locked, because someone had kept turning it on and leaving it on, some pipes already froze & burst, requiring repair.

Ken C has been receiving good information on best practices re: battery connections etc., he will write up some of this info for sharing with the membership.

- 2) Shoreline cleanup

Very successful event, good turnout & fun BBQ afterwards. Recognition certificate sent to us with Mayor's signature on it. A good way of getting more recognition of our efforts from City Hall.

- 3) Burrard Marina plaque (last e-mail from City was Oct 7/15)

Email received Dec 2 that the installation of the plaque was in the hands of City's carpenters. Pace of City work for this small item seems glacially slow. Will continue to monitor progress.

- 4) Swap meet (next spring?)

Suggested for May, before long weekend. MAW to organize.

Financial Report:

Treasurer Peter Vandergugten not available for meeting. No update on financial position.

New Business:

- 1) Status of Marina Renewal Study (esp. meeting with stakeholders)

We have been promised a meeting with the consultant since July, this keeps getting postponed. Latest emails from Andrew Norrie indicate the consultant is attempting to prepare a "final package" for review. Much concern this is going off the rails, as marina user needs have not been consulted, instead they may

intend to prepare a final design and hope we all like it. Not an open process, fear of “over-building”, getting a gold-plated Cadillac when all we really need is a good Chevy.

After discussion, it was suggested that emails back and forth to Andrew Norrie have not been clearly expressing our concerns, or revealing what’s going on at their end – perhaps a direct phone call from SS to discuss may open up a more friendly line of conversation.

2) Survey of marina users concerns

Noting the lack of consultation meeting above, it was suggested that we should prepare our own survey to re-visit our own summary of what we perceive to be the users items of highest concern. SS will investigate preparing a Survey Monkey web survey, will test with other directors first before asking membership to complete the survey.

Ideally we may get the marina office to include a link to it in their next broadcast email to all marina customers – would give us a much more accurate picture of what the concerns of all users are.

3) Credit card payment options (see email from Esther Lee, Nov 17/15)

Emails from & to City Finance reviewed. Much frustration over the City arbitrarily removing the ability to pay directly at the marina office. The same has happened at Heather Marina. This action implies that the City does not trust their own marina office staff. Asking City Finance to institute an ability to pay by credit card online has been fruitless, they keep asking us to pay by direct debit instead. Convenient for some, but assumes that we have funds immediately at hand, and also denies the benefit of points on credit card plans.

Also some concern that cheques are now payable to the “City of Vancouver”, instead of “Board of Parks and Recreation”. Implies that marina is no longer a Parks Board asset. E-mail noting this was sent to PB chairman John Coupar.

Discussion held regarding how much effort we want to put into continuing to pursue this – was considered a “non-issue” for some people, so while we may continue to write emails and complain about this, it’s not a top priority.

4) Caretakers suite – ask for written assurance that it will be returned to the marina in 2016

Ken Maguire had indicated that returning the caretakers suite to the marina would not happen until the end of the current term of the “Artists in Residence” program in 2016. (next year). SS suggested we need to get a commitment in writing on this, ie, “Memorandum of Understanding “ (MOU).

Ken C. suggested writing up a Business Plan for potential uses for the suite. This would back up our case for having it returned to the marina users. Ken C. to work on drafting up a Business Plan.

We also need direct contact with the PB commissioners on this, as the Artists-in-Residence program was initially a pet project of a former commissioner. MAW agreed to become a liaison to the PB commissioners on this topic.

5) Security issues:

- a) Boat break-ins
- b) Better collaboration with VPD
- c) Burnt-out lights
- d) Parking lot gate unlocked at night
- e) Boats on L dock

SS had initiated correspondence with VPD marine, a rep has agreed to meet with us sometime in January as schedule permits. Hopefully this will initiate better contact between us and VPD, and updates as to incidents or arrests. (As of writing, word is that VPD have arrested 2 persons believed responsible for much of the thefts and break-ins)

JC mentioned info that any violators of False Creek anchoring policy are by default towed to L-dock and locked up there. Boats found drifting and towed in by good Samaritans also left here, for lack of anywhere else to leave them. This may change if Coast Guard dock re-opens.

JC received a copy of "Post Orders" from Cassio, document describes all duties and requirements for security guards. Document was reviewed at meeting. JC to ask Cassio if it's OK to share this document (in whole or in part) with the membership.

6) Cease & desist letter to stay-aboards

JC reports that cease & desist letters have been sent to 13 persons. Some will be homeless or in dire financial position. Discussion held regarding what position we should take on this issue. Consensus is that having people living on boats lends a greater degree of watchfulness and security to the marina, and this should be supported. Perhaps a legal live-aboard dock should be proposed as part of the marina renewal study.

7) Moorage Fees for 2016?

No word to date on any proposed fee increases. It was noted that in previous years, the PB would post notices (November usually) regarding proposed fee increases and asking for feedback (which was likely ignored – but gave an opportunity for us to be aware of any outrageous increases and attend PB meetings where discussion was to be held). Seems like we have been "Visioned" on this process now too. SS to contact Ken Maguire to see if he knows of any plans for upcoming fee increases.

8) Electrical fees – why does Heather still pay less?

Ken Maguire had suggested previously a need to "rationalize" the price structure, ie, why have Burrard customers been paying a higher fee (for lower quality service) vs customers of Heather Marina? No update on this – SS to contact Ken Maguire on the subject. Some discussion that if one is running a heater, then on the basis of how BC Hydro charges per kWh then we may be already getting a deal. Metered power suggested as possible inclusion for marina renewal study, unsure if this is feasible (economically or technically), but worth bringing up.

9) Open up forum to non-members?

JC had suggested opening up the online forum to non-members as a way to encourage more to join. Discussion held, determined that we don't want to open possibility of "spies" using the forum to gather information, plus we don't want to encourage freeloading – our membership is plenty cheap enough.

In regard to ensuring valid users on forum, SS to email JC the list of email addresses & names of users/boats where known. JC to email all users to confirm personal information, any "dead" addresses to be deleted. Also suggested that we try to get more promotion in the marina office broadcast emails/newsletters, JC to contact Cassio to ask about more promotion in next broadcast email.

10) Kids Life Jacket Station

JC had previously suggested building a Kids Life Jacket Station (similar to what Gibsons Marina has), with BCMCA promotion signage. Suggested we bring this item up as part of promised marina renewal study consultation.

11) Dinghies

JC was told recently by Cassio that he intends to start hauling away unclaimed / unidentified dinghies and putting them in a lock-up area, this may start by early-mid December. Some time allowance will be given for dinghy owners to claim their dinghies back.

12) Salting / snow removal in freezing weather

Discussion held regarding as to whether this is an important issue. Consensus seems to be that while it is always beneficial to have good salting/snow clearing, there will always be a time lag, and cannot expect everything perfectly cleaned and salted all the time, especially if icing/snow happens overnight.

Meeting Adjourned At: 10:07 PM