

CBJ Docks and Harbors Board
Harbors Fee Review Committee Meeting Minutes
For Thursday, September 18th, 2014

- I. Call To Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:52 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers.
- II. Roll Call – The following members were present: Tom Donek, Scott Spickler, Bob Janes, David Logan and Budd Simpson

Also present were the following: Carl Uchtyl – Port Director, and Dave Borg – Harbormaster

- III. Approval of Agenda.

MOTION By MR.LOGAN: TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND ASK FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

No Objection

- IV. Agenda Topics

1. Harbor Fee Review

Mr. Simpson opened the meeting with asking for suggestions on how the Committee wanted to move forward with the Harbor Fee review process.

Mr. Logan said he suggests to break the fees out into the various fees that affect different user groups in the interest of making public participation as easy as possible. After they are broken out to user groups, then work on that order.

Mr. Donek recommended to prioritize the Harbor list in the Sequencing of review list provided by Mr. Uchtyl.

Mr. Simpson suggested to start with Passenger-for-hire fees.

Mr. Donek suggested to have a proposed increase being considered when the user groups are notified.

Mr. Logan suggested to do a general discussion for a specific fee in one meeting and the next meeting take public comment on that topic and so on.

Mr. Simpson recommended to discuss passenger for hire tonight and then schedule the next meeting and post public participation.

Mr. Donek asked if the date Mr. Uchtyl added to the sequencing review sheet was the last increase for that specific fee.

Mr. Uchtyl said that is the date something was changed in the ordinance, but not specifically the fee.

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Mr. Janes said the 2006 date was when they were looked at, but they have not been changed since they were initiated. The passenger for hire fee came about because of the need for more funding and to mitigate issues with more people being at Statter Harbor. He said he has never understood why the un-inspected and inspected vessel fees were different. The passengers are all using the facilities the same. Mr. Janes said these fee's should be looked at because they have not gone up in the last eight years even though the cost to do business has gone up. He said the fee's should go up, but with raising the fee's, there should be better services. There is a need for better rest rooms, and better passenger for hire pick up zones on the dock. Until we have a plan for better services, it will be hard to justify increasing the fee. This fee should also be tied into a CPI increase like the moorage fees are currently, that way this can be adjusted annually.

Mr. Donek asked what the difference was between the inspected vessel and un-inspected vessel?

Mr. Janes said un-inspected is a vessel that takes 6 passengers. Inspected vessels are those that can carry over 6 passengers for hire, have to be inspected by the Coast Guard annually and show all their documentation. The inspected and un-inspected are doing the same thing, but in different numbers.

Mr. Donek said they are doing the same thing, but their income potential is lower.

Mr. Janes said yes the income is lower, but because they are uninspected, their costs are lower.

Mr. Spickler asked if passenger counts are on the honor system?

Mr. Uchytel said Charter operators are on the honor system.

Mr. Janes said the un-inspected vessel's have a fair amount of revenue that is lost revenue to our Harbor department that staff should be collecting.

Mr. Simpson said during this fee review, this Committee does not just want to raise fees because we can, but try to tie them to something like the amount of effort that goes into the particular services or facility. He is asking staff to provide a rational basis for the fee adjustments.

Mr. Borg said Mr. Unruh would be better to answer the question, but the extra people add to the extra cost. He said he would be able to provide more information at the next meeting.

Mr. Logan said this will be the constant theme for these meeting wanting be able to provide an estimated cost for the service.

Mr. Borg said he will be able to provide the information if he knows what will be discussed ahead of time.

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Mr. Simpson said we are going in order from the Harbor fee review list.

Mr. Janes said even one person is an impact if they get on an inspected vessel or uninspected vessel.

Mr. Donek asked if all the vessels used the loading zone?

Mr. Borg said yes.

Mr. Logan suggested a yearly fee and a per passenger fee per day.

The Committee continues discussions on passenger for hire reporting and operations.

Mr. Logan asked for an average number of seats on an inspected vessel.

Mr. Janes said about 20.

Mr. Logan talked about two options for public comment;

1. Everyone pays a per seat per year basis
2. Daily per passenger fee, but paperwork will be required on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis and are subject to audit.

Mr. Simpson would like to see a written report from staff on expenses for this fee, including staff time. He would like to see this report before suggested a new dollar amount for this fee.

Jenny Mejia suggested to contact passenger for hire patrons by calling each company.

Mr. Simpson recommended also to do fliers, newsletter and website. The meeting notice need to say the Committee will be taking public comment on proposed changes to the passenger for hire fees for inspected and uninspected vessels. At the next meeting, the Committee can also start discussions on fee structure for the Auke Bay Loading facility.

Next meeting is September 30th at 5:00 pm.

V. Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.