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NEWPORT BEACH

Harbor Commission Staff Report

July 10, 2019
Agenda Item No. 6.5

TO: HARBOR COMMISSION

FROM: Kurt Borsting, Harbormaster, (949) 270-8158
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TITLE: Harbormaster Update – June 2019

ABSTRACT:

The Harbormaster is responsible for on-water management of the City's moorings, the Marina Park Marina and code enforcement on the water. This report will update the Commission on the Harbor Department's activities for June, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1) Find this action exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.
- 2) Receive and file.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

DISCUSSION:

Abandoned Vessel Auction - June 5

On Wednesday, June 5, an abandoned boat auction was held at the City's Marina Park guest slip facility. The public sale featured 33 previously impounded and abandoned vessels. The program was well attended, competitive bidding took place and 15 vessels were successfully sold. All boats purchased at the event have since been released to their new owners. Those vessels which did not sell, are currently in the process of being destroyed. The program resulted in \$1,005 in sales revenue to the department.

The auction program was organized to take place concurrent with the Orange County Sheriff's Boat Auction, allowing both agencies to share resources and benefit from a larger pool of bidders vs. hosting individual events at different times.

5 MPH / No Wake Signage Replacement

During the month of June, Harbor Department staffers removed, refurbished and remounted four previously worn and illegible instructional speed limit signs located along the channel at the Balboa Island Bridge. Staff efforts remain on-going to identify additional Harbor navigational markers, buoys and informational signs that require updating and/or replacement.

Removal of Select Marina Park Sand Line Moorings

During the month of June, five of the Marina Park Sand Line Moorings (also referred to as “MP Moorings”) were removed from the Harbor following it having been determined that they were mistakenly placed at locations within the navigational channel, immediately south of, and outside of the J mooring field. In those locations, these guest moorings interfered with vessel use of the navigational channel, and negatively impacted sailing instruction activities hosted at the Marina Park facilities. Four guest moorings will remain in place at the east side of the H mooring field, as will a number of two point moorings (owned by the City). All of these remaining mooring options can be reserved in advance by visiting boaters. Minimal impact to guest boaters are expected as a result of this change.

Public Information and Departmental Outreach Efforts

Meetings with stakeholder groups continued during June 2019, aimed at informing the public about the Harbor Department and its mission.

On Wednesday, June 12th the Harbormaster along with City Council member Duffield were featured co-presenters at the scheduled meeting of Speak-Up Newport. Their presentation focused on providing overview information about the Harbor Department as well as sharing a long term vision for managing the Harbor as a vital community resource.

On Thursday, June 13th the Harbormaster was the featured speaker at the American Legion Yacht Club meeting, again providing the group with overview information about the Harbor Department.

California Association of Harbormasters and Port Captains – Southern CA Meeting

On Friday, June 26th the Harbormaster attended the Southern California Regional Member meeting of the California Association of Harbormasters and Port Captains at Port San Luis in San Luis Obispo, CA. While this particular meeting was sparsely attended, the get-together provided an opportunity for staff become acquainted with the professional association (which is comprised of other municipal and other governmental harbor operators). In addition to participation by City of Newport Beach, representatives from Port San Luis and Ventura Harbor were also in attendance at the meeting.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

During June 2019, fifteen (15) customer satisfaction surveys were completed and returned to the Harbor Department office associated with visiting boaters at the Marina Park Guest Slips. A summary of the feedback/data received from these customers is attached as part of this report.

Code Enforcement Activity

During June 2019, Code Enforcement staff opened 77 new cases and successfully resolved/closed 88 existing files.

Lifeguard Assistance

Over the last year, the City's Lifeguards have been incredibly valuable in assisting the Harbor Department with a variety of operations in the Harbor. Our lifeguards have worked with staff on how to schedule and patrol the harbor effectively, worked with us on our hazmat trailer, provided valuable CPR training, radio training, boat training and in July will be holding two training sessions with the Harbor staff called H.A.L.T. – Harbor Department Awareness in Lifesaving Techniques. This training will inform our staff in how to quickly and safely assist someone in the water prior to Lifeguards arriving. Attachment C are the lifeguard statistics related to Harbor activities for Fiscal Year 2018-19.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Staff recommends the Harbor Commission find this action exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) (the activity will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment) and 15060(c)(3) (the activity is not a project as defined in Section 15378) of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential for resulting in physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly.

NOTICING:

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Harbor Commission considers the item).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Marina Park Guest Slip Customer Survey Results for June 2019
Attachment B – Harbor Department Statistics, Fiscal Year through June 2019
Attachment C – Lifeguard Statistics FY 2018-19