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NEWPORT BEACH

Harbor Commission Staff Report

March 11, 2020
Agenda Item No. 6.5

TO: HARBOR COMMISSION

FROM: Kurt Borsting, Harbormaster, (949) 270-8158
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TITLE: Harbormaster Update – February 2020 Activities

ABSTRACT:

The Harbormaster is responsible for the management of the City's mooring fields, the Marina Park Guest Marina and Harbor on-water code enforcement activities. This report will update the Commission on the Harbor Department's activities for February 2020.

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:

Public Information and Departmental Outreach Efforts

Meetings with stakeholder groups and communications with the general public continued during February 2020, aimed at informing the public about the Harbor Department and its mission.

On Tuesday, February 11 the Harbormaster participated in a taped interview segment with host Nancy Gardner, for the local NBTv program 'The Village Green'. The program, which has since aired, focused on harbor water quality initiatives being undertaken.

On Sunday, February 23 the Harbormaster was the featured presenter at the scheduled Board of Directors meeting of the Association of Orange Coast Yacht Clubs. The presentation focused on

providing overview information about the Harbor Department and resources available to this group's membership.

Several Newport Harbor related stories appeared in local print news outlets during February 2020, including reports about the City Council's recent approval of revised Title 17 - Harbor Code (Newport Beach Independent and The Log Newspaper) and reports about the Harbor Department having been awarded CA Division of Boating and Waterways SAVE Grant funds (The Log Newspaper).

IT Department – On-Line “Harbor View” Project of Newport Harbor

The City's IT Department's GIS team has begun collecting photos of Newport Harbor, which will be used to create a 360 degree “Harbor View” mapping experience for users of Google Maps and similar on-line navigational resources.

To kick-off this effort, on February 20 IT Department staffers temporarily mounted specialty camera equipment atop one of the Harbor Department boats, accompanying Harbor staff as part of daily mooring field patrols. During this harbor patrol they began capturing images for their project. Images from this first effort have already been successfully uploaded and are available on-line, with additional planned dates to collect additional images upcoming in March 2020.

Mooring Permit Revocation associated with ‘Wild Wave’ Vessel

On February 21 at the State of California Superior Court, Orange County Central Justice Center, a judge denied a petition for review resulting in the City of Newport Beach's mooring permit revocation associated with a vessel (known as ‘Wild Wave’) being upheld. Within 48 hours of the Court's determination, the vessel's owner removed the boat from the harbor.

“Point in Time” Survey – On-Shore Moorings

During February 2020, Harbor Department staff began undertaking a full assessment of all on-shore moorings and vessels associated with those same locations. Described as a “Point in Time” survey, the effort includes “in-field” assessments, where staff are rating the general condition of all boats currently affixed to permitted on-shore moorings as well as the general condition of the mooring equipment itself. Following data collected in the field, administrative file reviews are also being reviewed, confirming the vessels at the moorings match those on file with the Harbor Department and additional information. As of February 29, in-field data had been collected for 331 on-shore moorings, and the remaining data will be collected in early March. This same survey effort was conducted in 2018.

Staff Recruitment and On-Boarding Efforts

Efforts to recruit and on-board part-time Harbor Department staff continued during February 2020. The Department Assistant, previously reported as hired, started work with the Harbor Department on Tuesday, February 18. In separate recruitment for a Harbor Service Worker Lead also resulted in success during the month, with the search resulting in an internal promotional hire.

An additional recruitment for the part-time Harbor Service Worker and Harbor Service Worker Lead classifications will be launched in March, ahead of the upcoming summer boating season.

Code Enforcement Activity

During February 2020, Code Enforcement staff opened 91 new cases and successfully resolved/closed 85 existing files.

One pre-dawn Harbor patrol was organized by Code Enforcement and Harbor Service Worker Lead staff during the month. This activity, which began at 4:30 a.m., focused on collecting follow up information associated with potential unauthorized live-aboard activity in the City mooring fields.

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 – Harbor Department Statistics, Fiscal Year through February 2020