

City of the Village of Minnetonka Beach
Dock Committee Meeting Minutes – APPROVED
August 24, 2021 ~ 4:00 pm

Present: Committee Members: Chair Jeff Steinke, Vice Chair Jim Knudsen, Jack Foss, Daniel Van Handel, Lucian Panait, Chip Zawislak and Council Liaison Vibhu Sharma

Absent: Steve Inglis, Jack Foss

Staff: City Administrator Heidi Honey and City Clerk Jane Burgess

1) Call to Order

Committee Chair Jeff Steinke called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

2) Approve Amended Agenda

Steinke requested that Old Business Item 5.4 Schussler Dock 10 lawsuit be removed from the Agenda.

Pottebaum motion, Zawislak second to approve the August 24, 2021 amended agenda. All ayes, the motion passes.

3) Approve Minutes from February 11, 2021 Dock Committee Meeting

Knudsen motion, Panait second to approve the February 11, 2021 Dock Committee Meeting minutes. All ayes, the motion passes.

4) New Business

4.1 Swim Beach Docks 12-16 – issues and solutions. Todd Pottebaum and guest Cody Rassatt of Rassatt Companies dock installation service.

Pottebaum, who is the liaison between the Swim Beach dock renters and Rassatt, presented that Docks 12-16 at the Swim Beach is a unique site as the agreement is with the homeowner dock slip renter and the installer. Renters own their equipment and it's up to the installer for timing, staging and piecing equipment together for dock installation which is challenging. Pottebaum planned on partnering with Rassatt for this presentation to address challenges for both Rassatt and dock renters, but Rassatt was not able to attend the meeting today. Pottebaum stated that he will do his best to represent both Rassatt's side and the homeowner's side. He can't locate an agreement between Rassatt and homeowners. He understood that docks were to be installed 30 days after ice out and this year it was more like 60-75 days after ice out. There was poor communication from Rassatt, and it was discussed that this is his 3rd or 4th season installing the Swim Beach docks, and he was very short staffed this spring. It is difficult to transport the equipment from homes to the beach, staged and installed. But the lack of communication and desire to streamline process is concerning, Pottebaum added. Rassatt's rates are lower than others.

Steinke asked if Rassatt wants to improve his service performance. Pottebaum stated that he hasn't seen that from Rassatt. Zawislak stated that he had to install his own lift, but Rassatt installed his dock at Dock 10.

Sharma stated that he feels that Rassatt is well intended, but not very organized, and has added a lot of customers causing him to be overwhelmed. Rassatt's mother is now helping manage his business. He added that the Swim Beach dock renters are not being serviced appropriately, perhaps other vendors should be looked at, and maybe not just use one vendor for both docks and lift installation.

Zawislak recommended that a contract be signed with a vendor with penalties for missed installation dates.

Sharma stated that dock installers are having a hard time getting help. If Rassatt were to strengthen his communication and have one renter at the Swim Beach docks communicating with him rather than all the renters it would be a better relationship.

Steinke stated that he agrees with the discussion to work with Rassatt, but also look at a Plan B. He added that Minnetonka Docks is a great company that he is working with at Dock 2.

In summary, Pottebaum stated he will attempt to strengthen communication with Rassatt, gain some type of commitment and agreement on his accountability and he will contact Minnetonka Docks as well.

4.2 Dock 2 – Jeff and Lauren Kiesel at 1901 Lake Rd. Dock encroachment – Jeff Steinke

Steinke provided an update on the encroachment by Kiesel's dock – they needed to be 15 feet off the imaginary property line in the water. He asked them to install their dock differently this year, but they didn't turn the dock enough. A renter at Dock 2 barely got by this year and has concerns about their son driving their boat next year. Steinke recommended asking Kiesel's to turn their dock 3 feet more next year.

Dennis Klohs said that the LMCD can help if needed for enforcement at Kiesel's if necessary.

4.3 Mid-summer home sales issues as it pertains to City docks; waiting list; passing - Burgess

Burgess stated that she follows the dock slip waiting list exactly the way it's dated with requests and asked the committee to discuss mid-summer home sales when the seller has a City dock slip.

Zawislak asked when a home sells why the slips is vacant the rest of the season. Burgess stated that it would be hard to change docks mid-season and it would be hard to go down the waiting list and offer a dock slip for a partial season. She added that if they passed on such an offer it shouldn't go against their two passes allowed while on the waiting list.

Sharma stated that he recalls that the policy is that after July 15th if a slip opens up, it can remain open. Prior to that date vacated slips can be offered to those on waiting list.

They discussed the two renters at Dock 10 who do not use their boats much at all. The other two renters at Dock 10 who boat often are stuck in their slips in shallow water at this time and during periods of low water level. Infrequency of use is a difficult issue to enforce. When discussed prior, they discussed that the owner of the boat should ride on the boat and not allow family members to use residents' boats. They discussed the same issue of infrequent use at the Swim Beach also.

The concluded that July 15th is the date for pass or play when offered for a mid-season slip.

Zawislak stated that he feels that mid-summer slip rentals of vacated dock slips should be offered to the next person on the waiting list. It doesn't mean that they would get that slip the next year but could utilize the slip for a partial season.

Burgess asked if the waiting list person would have to give up one of their passes if they don't want to move mid-season. They discussed not having to use one of their passes if an offer is declined and looked at different vacate dates during the summer and options.

Pottebaum motion, Zawislak second that if a City dock becomes available because a City dock permit holder has vacated their property on or before July 1, the next resident on the dock waiting list would have to take it or take a pass. All ayes, motion passes.

5) Old Business

5.1 2021 City Dock Permit process including mid-summer issues w/home sales – Jane Burgess

This was already discussed.

5.2 2021 City Dock user survey – Jeff Steinke and Jane Burgess

Steinke presented the one page summary of the City Dock slip renters' survey results. The feedback included:

- an average score of 9.64 out of 10 being the highest answering the question rating their overall City dock slip experience.
- City dock slip renters gave suggestions for opportunities for the Dock Committee to improve their use of the City Docks. Comments included minimizing the time garbage cans are out after trash collection at the Swim Beach, dock installers making their dock location a high priority and early installation, provide an online process for dock rental, allow lifts to be stored on city property in off season and post names of deadbeats in the Beachcomber
- Renters rated the City's permitting and administrative process with a 9.78 average score with 10 the highest. One renter suggested making the waiting list more public
- They listed suggestions for Dock Committee priorities for 2021 including: enforcement of lift removal from City property in off season, monitor Biff's for suspicious activity, stay the course, keep it simple and keep it the same.

5.3 Action of abandoned dock equipment – June 15, 2021 deadline per June 3, 2021 letter to slip renters – All discussion

A warning letter was sent to all dock slip renters. They been asked for three years to remove old dock parts from dock areas. Burgess, Honey and Hilgers conducted inspections and took photos which are in the packet of all the problem dock parts and more found. All has been cleaned up now by dock renters and public works.

5.4 Dock 8-9 – discussion for next year

Knudsen presented his drawing for reconfiguration of Dock 8 and 9 to be compliant with the setback. Since the Dock 10 lawsuit is still ongoing this reconfiguration plan will have to wait until the lawsuit is settled. Knudsen explained that resident Bill Raisbeck has allowed Dock 8-9 to be slightly in his dock use area until the reconfiguration happens if it doesn't take too long to do so.

Dennis Klohs asked if there would be a discussion about eColi at the Swim Beach as it relates to the boat house canopies at the docks there. There was an opinion that they might be contributing to the problem. Steinke stated that until hard facts are presented the present Swim Beach layout will remain. Klohs explained the U of M study of wake boats and the effect on the bottom of lakes. The study was funded by a GoFundMe campaign where money was donated worldwide. This study is highly anticipated Klohs added.

6) Adjournment

Pottebaum motion, Knudsen second to adjourn at 7:05 pm. All ayes, the motion passes.

Guests in attendance: Dennis Klohs