

City of the Village of Minnetonka Beach
Dock Committee Meeting Minutes - APPROVED
June 16, 2022 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Present: Chair: Jeff Steinke, Vice Chair: Jim Knudsen; Committee Members: Steve Inglis, Jim Knudsen, Todd Pottebaum, Dan Van Handel, and Chip Zawislak. Absent: Committee Members Jack Foss and Lucian Panait, Council Liaison Vibhu Sharma

Guest: Joe Pagano, Park Commissioner

Staff: City Administrator Heidi Honey, City Clerk Jane Burgess

1) Call to Order

Chair Steinke called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2) Approve Agenda

(Pottebaum motion, Knudsen second to approve the agenda of June 16, 2022. All ayes:). Motion passed.

3) Approve Minutes of August 24, 2021 Dock Committee meeting

(Pottebaum motion, Knudsen second to approve the August 24, 2021 Dock Committee meeting minutes. All ayes.) Motion passed.

4) New Business

a. Park Commission and Dock Committee Collaboration - Joe Pagano, Park Commission

Steinke discussed collaboration between the Dock Committee and Park Commission because many of their missions overlap in the city and they have shared outcomes. Pagano stated they share the work of the Comprehensive Plan, the same parks and the same shoreline. He reviewed Park Commission work including installing 100 ft of rip rap at swim beach park to protect the shoreline, and a restore the shore planting project was done at the beach also. Steinke stated Parks is looking out for Docks interest and they should be mindful of the work Parks is doing.

b. 2022 Season Dock Licensing Feedback and Improvement Opportunities

Burgess stated the dock permitting season went well. There are a few small jet ski slips available but most have been rented. Some boats will be installed after the June 15th deadline because of delays in dock installations.

c. Swim Beach Docks

i. 2022 Dock Installation Challenges and Commitment to Improvement

Steinke discussed the swim beach dock installation this spring and wants to find solutions to improve the installation for slip holders and the community.

ii. Improvement Opportunities

1. Off Season Home Dock Storage

Steinke suggested an area of improvement could be the system of each dock being stored at individual homes It is complicated. He stated that other potential operators are not willing to deal with dock parts being stored off site at individual homes. Currently 4 store at the installers, and 21 store at their home. Van Handel stated that people move in and off the docks, they lose parts, they are buying parts and holding up the process. He suggested it would be easier if the entire dock was owned by all holders as a community dock (ex. Dock 16) and then all

parts would remain together. The beach would not be staged as long and it would be more organized.

Pottebaum stated they need to figure out how to make the system easier and also to discuss a potential new installer. Steinke added that installers are not interested in the dock because it is a complicated process and reliant on every part of every dock being on site when installs begin to prevent delays.

Zawislak asked about it being resident based. City does not get involved in dock installation. City staff is not running a marina and they don't have time to manage the docks and own the docks. The city is renting access. Steinke stated it gives the renters the freedom to install with whomever they want. Each main dock at the swim beach used to be installed by individual installers but if one was not installed correctly, it could mess up the other docks. Inglis stated when boathouses were allowed it became more complicated and harder for people to install their own docks.

Steinke stated ideas for simplicity are to store and stage the pieces at the same place off site or on city land (Ray Peters Park with Park Commission and City Council recommendation). Pagano stated in November 2015 and January 2016 the Park Commission did not support a segment of the population being able to store private property on city land because they believed that parks belong to everyone. Inglis stated that docks are stored at the Arcola site because it is impossible to move them without a barge.

Zawislak discussed consolidation and having residents create an association of swim beach dock slip renters who collectively pay into ownership of the dock. He also mentioned storing docks (not boathouses) at public works. Steinke stated Dock 2 used to leave their lifts on site and stored the docks at home but were told they couldn't do that, so the lifts also go to homes. Knudsen stated Dock 9 stores their docks/lifts on site. Steinke discussed the need to keep the dock pieces together. Van Handel does not know the feasibility of storing 25 docks and lifts at the swim beach. It is too many pieces to be out of eyesight. Pottebaum suggested looking at the docks and lifts as separate items. The dock parts have a smaller footprint but are the issue for installation problems. Van Handel was on Dock 10 previously and the entire dock was stored in his yard. He suggested this could work for swim beach docks. They could all take turns storing the docks, then the docks would only be at five places.

There was discussion about requiring docks to be staged at the beach by a certain date. They can't expect the installer to install a dock if all of the parts are not there. Dock owners should label their docks. There was discussion about each of the five docks having a dock captain and being stored all together, either by barge or in yards. There was discussion about what to do if someone moves. If there is an association and someone moves, they leave the dock behind and the next person moving into that dock slip pays into the association and takes the dock that is there. They could gps coordinate pin the location of the dock so it is installed in the correct place each year. There was discussion about storing it in a way that is logical for the installer to be able to install in the spring.

Thomas Pivec from North Country was invited to attend by Todd Pottebaum. He stated they are reorganizing and have new leadership and by this fall it will be a new team. They have the largest barge and a storage area in Watertown. He stated the swim beach is a tough job, the most difficult on Lake Minnetonka, because there are so many sections that are delivered to different homes. It takes a week to get all of the parts to the beach, a week to install and two weeks to put it away. He said they need to form a partnership to simplify the process, so everything is together and ready. He added that it also takes longer because many parts are old. Boat lifts typically take an hour, but many take over two hours because of old parts, and dangerous wood slats. Labor intensive. Regarding storage, it would be best for them to store on site, but it doesn't look like the city wants to do that. He then suggested storing the wood sections off site and store pipes nearby, but they would be visible. Labor rates are higher right now. He stated that it would be less expensive if they took large loads by semi to Watertown than multiple trips with a trailer in the city for storage. Pivec will calculate costs to store off site, and also in the city (which will show that may be cost prohibitive). He discussed that the LMCD is cracking down on association docks for safety issues and they will be inspecting for broken parts. There was further discussion about slip holders collectively owning the pipes, and each slip holder would own the decking. If they stored everything, they would stage at the swim beach 2 weeks prior to ice out and as ice goes out, they would install if weather permits. Lifts could be stored with dock parts. Pivec will have to measure the number of loads it would take for storage. Pagano asked if they had all parts, how long to complete installation Thomas will provide an answer later with the estimate. Pivec stated they hired another person to handle all communications moving forward.

Pottebaum stated that Pivec stepped into a very difficult situation and has helped them get this install done, he has been very responsive, genuine, sincere and willing to make the tough situation better. He is here today to help make a better solution going forward.

Zawislak discussed boat houses with wood slats will not be allowed anymore. Pivec stated they are old and should be replaced every two years. They are dangerous. About 75% of them are wood. Zawislak asked about imposing a penalty on the installer if things are not done when they say they will be done. Pivec said they are up against mother nature and he will not put employees at risk. It will be much more organized in the future. They will label everything when it is removed this fall.

Opened public input at 5:56 pm

Curt Ratzlaff stated communication is important because parts need to be delivered to the beach so the installer has everything. He tried to communicate with the previous installer about when to deliver his dock but never received a response so he eventually just dropped it off. After dropping them off, pieces got lost and he had to buy more. There was no communication this spring. Labeling and color-coding parts will make it easier. He stated it is expensive and he cannot comment on how he feels about this idea of everything stored together without

knowing the cost. He stated the install could be done by a couple of installers if needed. With this big of a job, its hard to do it in a timely fashion.

Zawislak stated he fears not all residents will be on board with the increase of the cost.

Van Handel stated they can break unconnected docks off, but if they make it difficult it will take longer. Parts were never on site in a reasonable amount of time and that is on the owners. The system needs to be fixed for the installer to do the job.

Steinke stated the city may need to be involved to possibly mandate that slip holders at the beach must have all their docks stored together. One person can mess up the entire install. Van Handel stated that Dock 10 is community, and they collectively own it. They all pay for repairs or replacement. Inglis discussed that not all of the docks at the swim beach are connected. Van Handel discussed Lafayette Ridge docks are all association owned which makes it easier for the installer.

Rezabek stated that in the past, collaboration between Docks and Parks did not take place even though it was talked about. She appreciates this collaboration. She thanked Pivec for his willingness to help. She stated prices should be a consideration.

There was discussion about the costs. Lafayette Ridge pays approximately \$2,000 per slip holder. Swim beach slip holders each pay a different amount based on if they have a lift, boat house, length of dock, etc. but overall, it was approximately \$60,000.

Rezabek stated they paid for some new sections, and she is wondering if some of her old sections were left at residents' homes. They don't want to have to replace them again. Inglis stated there were new sections that residents were billed for. The LMCD will be doing inspections and requiring repairs and replacements.

Van Handel talked about splitting Docks 15 and 16 from the rest of the beach docks, and each having their own installers

Thomas could do a proposal specific to each slip holder because costs vary.

Zawislak asked if any other multiple slip areas work better than they are proposing. Pivec stated they have seven associations and it is easiest if all parts are stored on shore. It would be cheaper.

There was discussion about storing dock parts close to County Rd 15 in the triangle piece of land and put up arborvitae for screening. Pivec stated there are a lot of dock pieces and it would take up more space.

Ratzlaff suggested storing all parts north of the beach there and all parts south of the beach stored along the firelane. Parts cannot be stored on the firelane access.

Pagano stated they have 16 boathouses at Lafayette Ridge and no lifts. Parts take up the entire shoreline. The issue is the shape of the boathouses which take up a lot of space. He then stated the idea of storing pipes at public works is intriguing. There was discussion that if they are being moved, they may as well be moved with docks off site.

Steinke asked where they go from here. He suggested a sub committee to review the ideas and work with Thomas to solidify a recommendation because the ideas require more research. They have limited time and need to get the costs to slip holders. Inglis thought it would be good if Pivec could meet the slip holders. He could do a presentation at the swim beach to the slip holders so they could meet him and understand the proposal.

Pottebaum asked if Parks would support storage on the beach. Pagano's personal opinion was no because he does not see how that benefits the entire community. He suggested Parks discuss it so the entire commission can weigh in. Parks meets again in August. He would need to know the dimensions needed to store 25 slips.

Pottebaum said they (slip holders) are part of the problem and they need to make a change. If they don't make a change, they will not have options. Set a date to meet at the beach, meet all of the beach slip holders, and discuss potential with costs. Van Handel discussed community ownership of the pipes, and not taking pieces when someone moves. The new person moving in can 'pay off' the person moving out of their dock. Pivec stated an 8' pipe is \$450, stringers are \$600. This way, people move but all docks stay stationary.

Pivec will come up with proposal for all beach docks to store off site and present it and costs to the swim beach slip holders on Thursday, July 14 at 5 pm at the swim beach. Rain location is City Hall. It would be a dock slip holder meeting and not an official Dock Commission meeting.

Knudsen stated the worst alternative is to not have a dock installer. Steinke stated they send communication now about the presentation, encourage them to attend. Burgess can send messaging to the slip holders and they can follow up with Pottebaum. They want feedback after Pivec presents to the slip holders.

There was discussion about costs to remove by barge and off-site storage in Watertown and at public works. It may not save costs to store at public works because it would take more labor but they want to be able to show the slip holders what it cost.

Rezabek stated that they need to make sure people understand they may need a new boat house if they currently have wood slats, they could hire someone else install their boat house, or people can do it themselves. Too many safety issues.

Steinke and Van Handel discussed potentially changing city code to require equipment to be on site 10 days after ice out. If it is not there, they could lose their permit. There was additional discussion about losing a permit if an installer is

not paid. There were some services not provided by Cody and that is why residents did not pay until they had answers to invoices. There was discussion about not being billed timely. Once it is standardized, those issues will go away. The resident association for the swim beach docks could establish rules but they really need to be good customers to the installer. Honey suggested that a dock captain from each of the five common docks could serve as a board for the association.

Pagano stated he feels like this is a huge step in working toward solutions.

2. Eliminate or Control dock staging areas at beach and park during installation and removal
 - a. Identify small area designated for staging
 - b. Eliminate staging in Swim Beach Park
 - c. Contractor Considerations

iii. Public Input Session

iv. Action Planning - Swim Beach Dock Committee Subcommittee to ID Best Solution

5) Adjourn

(Inglis motion, Zawislak second to adjourn; all ayes.) Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Minutes taken by City Administrator Heidi Honey.

Others present:

Thomas Pivec from North Country Barge, Curt Ratzlaff, Patty Rezabek