

City of Sheboygan
2016-11-16

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CITY OF SHEBOYGAN

LAKEFRONT WATER SAFETY TASK GROUP

NOVEMBER 16, 2016 at 4: 00 PM

1. OPENING OF MEETING
Members Present: Superintendent of Parks and Forestry Joe Kerlin, Officer Jeff Mares of the Sheboygan Police Department, Planning and Development Director Chad Pelishek, Scott Hanson, Alderperson Scott Lewandoske, Jared Shear of the US Coast Guard, Sheboygan County Emergency Management Director Steven Steinhardt, Randall Eigenberger of the Army Corps of Engineers, Board of Marine, Parks, and Forestry Chairperson Mike Froh, City Attorney Charles Adams, Larry Williams, and Karen Davis of Community Recreation Department
Members Excused: Robert Stanick of the Army Corps of Engineers, Deputy Chief Chuck Butler, and Jason Dwyer of the US Coast Guard
Members Absent: Matt Bauer of Harbor Centre Marina, Alderperson John Belanger, and Matt Wirzbach of SEA
Officials/Staff: Mayor Michael Vandersteen, and Janet M Duellman
Special Guests: Ron Haese of Lakeshore Technical College and Anthony Vogel of the Army Corps of Engineers

Vice-Chair Alderperson Scott Lewandoske called the meeting to order.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

2. ITEMS FOR ACTION

2.1 Approval of minutes from October 19, 2016 meeting.

Motion by Steve Steinhardt to approve, seconded by Scott Hanson.

Motion carried.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Discussion and update on Beach Patrol Program and Warning System

Scott Hanson mentioned that with winter coming people have a tendency to not think about the dangers of the piers and how the water splashes up and turns to ice.

Larry Williams expressed concerns about the piers closing unnecessarily and how it could affect our tourism.

He further stated that Sheboygan has 17 billboards in four states noting us as the fresh water surf capital.

3.2 Discussion and update on the creation of a map for Police, Fire, and Coast Guard.

Janet M Duellman mentioned that she had met with Deputy Chief Charles Butler this week to start the creation of the map.

She stated that she would be setting-up a meeting the week after Thanksgiving with the Coast Guard, Emergency Management, Fire Department, Police Department and Dispatch to work on terminology that would work for all groups involved.

3.3 Discussion and update on Sheboygan's Safety Video

Chad Pelishek stated that he, Joe Kerlin, and Janet M Duellman had met with Ron Haese this week to discuss what we would like to see in the video and if our vision is achievable.

Chad Pelishek also mentioned that he was in contact with Tom O Bryon about getting the raw footage from the Michigan Safety Video.

Ron Haese inquired about meeting with the Coast Guard and Larry Williams to gather information to use in the video.

Chad Pelishek had sent an email to Craig Meyer, the guy that Alderperson Lewandoske had provided us the email from describing his struggle when he was swept off the pier, at this point did not have a response.

The committee inquired as to when the video was looking to be completed and how it would be funded?

Chad Pelishek stated that we would like to have it ready for spring but for sure for the July tourism season. As for funding, the city has the funds to pay for the video.

Alderperson Lewandoske asked if the video was going to be translated into Hmong and/or Spanish.

Ron Haese stated that he does have connections so that is a possibility.

3.4 Discussion and update on the creation of Waterfront Policies (Swim Zone/ Pier Jumping/ Pier Closures)

Larry Williams drew a diagram as to how the wind affects the waves and the crashing over the pier(s) and how both piers do not need to be closed at the same time.

Mike Froh inquired about legal issues if the City was to start marking zones.

City Attorney Charles Adams stated that if policies are going to be created they should be No Swim Zones or No Pier Jumping.

The members discussed placing seasonal signs (May September) as close as possible to the water reminding people of dangers of Rip Currents and Structural Currents.

A suggestion of putting a sign on the Blue Harbor s beach due to the sandbars was made along with by north pier where it connects with Deland Beach.

3.5 Discussion and update on Life Ring and Emergency Phones Locations

Mayor Michael Vandersteen inquired about life jackets and how it would work.

Scott Hanson stated that currently they have them for boaters only.

Chad Pelishek mentioned that we would have to worry about them getting damaged, not being returned or switched out with non-regulated life jackets.

Chad Pelishek stated that EOS has been advised by their insurance company not to require life jackets but to recommend that their patrons use them.

Larry Williams suggested placing a rescue station with a body board and other rescue devices on one of the beaches for a year and re-evaluate its usage and effectiveness at that time.

Larry stated that he will contact a community that has them and find out where the funding came from.

Chad Pelishek inquired that if we have a rescue station isn t that inviting others to go out when they shouldn t.

Mike Froh stated that he doesn't see this as a priority but is most definitely something to think about.

Joe Kerlin and Larry Williams are going to map out the life rings and emergency phones.

Chad Pelishek suggested placing an emergency phone(s) on the end of the piers with a camera on it.

Larry Williams mentioned that the emergency phone at North Point should be moved.

Mike Froh stated that he feels it should stay because of the jet skiers and the people that walk out there.

Joe Kerlin mentioned that he talked to Tom O Bryon about the possibility of adding a fence down the middle of the pier.

Tom mentioned that Muskegon has a fence.

He also mentioned that it is very hard to keep in good repair and once you have added something like this you are expected to keep it up and not get rid of it.

The committee asked if it was a solid fence from the beginning of the pier to the end or if there were breaks in it.

They also brought up a concern about the force of the waves and if it would crush/drown someone if they got pinned up against it.

3.6 Discussion and update on Grant Opportunities

Randall Eigenberger will check with Tom O Bryon to see if there are any funds available to paint the ladders.

3.7 Discussion and update on Continuing Education

Chad Pelishek stated that we hope to have the schools show the video in the spring.

The video could also be shown in fitness centers and as part of Safety Town in

the summer.

The Tourism Guide will have a full page ad that we can share with the Recreation Department to use in their quarterly programs.

3.8 Other Discussion

The committee discussed the possible recommendation of keeping the group after the report has been made and making it a committee that meets quarterly.

Joe Kerlin stated that he has been in contact with Kathy Blaney by phone and felt it would be beneficial for her to talk to Tom O Bryon.

Joe called Tom O Bryon and he would be more than happy to talk to Kathy Blaney or anyone else if they call him.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

4.1 Next Meetings: Wednesday, December 14, 2016 and Wednesday, January 18, 2017

5. ADJOURN

5.1 Motion to Adjourn

Motion by City Attorney Charles Adams to adjourn, seconded by Scott Hanson.

Motion carried.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5: 17 p.m.

Generated by Janet Duellman on Tuesday, November 22, 2016