

LAKEFRONT WATER SAFETY TASK GROUP - 4: 00 PM (Wednesday, August 31, 2016)Generated by Janet Duellman on Wednesday, September 14, 2016

1. OPENING OF MEETINGPresent: Alderperson John Belanger, Board of Marine, Parks, and Forestry Chairperson Mike Froh, Superintendent of Parks and Forestry Joe Kerlin, Deputy Chief Chuck Butler, Officer Jeff Mares of the Sheboygan Police Department, City Attorney Charles Adams, Planning & Development Director Chad D Pelishek, Matt Wirzbach of SEAS, Larry Williams, Scott Hanson, Alderperson Scott Lewandoske, Robert Stanick of the Army Corps of Engineers, Jason Dwyer of the US Coast Guard, and Sheboygan County Emergency Management Director Steven Steinhardt. Officials/Staff: Mayor Michael Vandersteen and Janet M DuellmanExcused: Karen Davis of Community Recreation Department and Matt Bauer of Harbor Centre Marina

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Introductions

2. ITEMS FOR ACTION

2.1 Election of ChairpersonAlderperson John Belanger was nominated as Chairperson.

Alderperson Scott Lewandoske moved to approved nomination, Mike Froh seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

2.2 Election of Vice ChairpersonAlderperson Scott Lewandoske was nominated as Vice-Chairperson

Chuck Butler moved to approved nomination, Alderperson John Belanger seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

3.1 Review Mission of Lakefront Water Safety Task Group (LWSTF)Joe Kerlin reviewed the following with the committee: March 19, 2009 Water Safety Task Force report and recommendations.

Joe stated that he would like everyone to read the report from the previous

Task Force so that the committee can expand on the previous report. Water rescue events since 2009 recommendations.

Joe stated that he will work with the Coast Guard, Fire Dept. and Dive team to get updated information.

Jason Dwyer stated that he had pulled information but it included all the areas that this station would response to.

He will work on getting it just for our area. Investigate new and additional safety measures for both North and South swimming beaches and pedestrian access of North and South piers on the Sheboygan lakefront and river.

Mike Froh mentioned that his concern is with the visitors and their lack of understanding of the dangers that lie within the waves and currents.

Joe Kerlin mentioned that Karen Davis was with the previous task group and with Community Recreation which will continue to post the "RIP CURRENTS" sign in their summer program guide. Als there are two boxes of dvd's and brochures on rip currents from the last task group.

Mike Froh questioned if the pier in Port Washington was still closed.

Robert Stanick from the Corp stated that it is open and technically break wall are not for the public but they are an attraction. Formulate a report with both short and long term recommendations to the Marine, Parks and Forestry Board, Public Works Committee and City Council that would potentially reduce the near drowning or loss of lives from water related incidence of our citizens and visitors.

Report is to be given no later than April 28, 2017.

Joe mentioned that we need to come up with short and long term recommendations.

Looking at the placement of existing signage and life ring along with the continuation of checking the emergency phones on a regularly bases would be a good place to start.

3.2 Review attachments Attachment # 1: Correspondence from Kathleen Blaney.

Mayor Vandersteen stated that he received this letter and that he had a

discussion with Kathleen on the phone and that she would like to be involved by purchasing a sign in Kurt s memory. The committee discussed the items in her letter along with the sign graphic that was included. Attachment # 2: Correspondence from Alderperson Joe Heidemann. The idea of the red and green lights was discussed.

But a concern of legal issues if something happens and the light wasn t changed would the City be responsible? Attachment # 3: Correspondence from Alderperson Scott Lewandoske. Scott asked that everyone read the email and explained that it is about a person who fell in the river as was unable to get out for over 45 mins. Attachment # 4: Pictures of existing life rings, signs and phones.

Joe Kerlin went through the pictures and explained the location and/or any problems that he saw at the sites. Attachment # 5: Memo regarding Formulation of Sheboygan Lakefront Water Safety Task Group. For your information Attachment # 6: List of Lakefront Water Safety Task Group Members. For your information Attachment # 7: Report of Water Safety Task Force dated March 17, 2009.

Please read for the next meeting so that it can be discussed further. Attachment # 6: Minutes for the previous Water Safety Task Force committee. For your information

3.3 Next steps and assignment of dutiesThe committee discussed education and how important it is. The committee agrees that we need to focus on educating not only the locals but tourist as well.

The idea of having a video running in all the hotels explaining the dangers of the piers and rip currents was very welcomed.

The reader board at North Beach was discussed along with the absence of a reader board on South Beach (King Park) area. The committee discussed if the reader board signs actually help the situation or if where it is located doesn t reach enough people.

The idea of adding more life rings to the pier was discussed.

Chuck Butler stated that adding more life rings to the piers is not a good idea because they offer a false sense of security.

If someone is swept off the pier the only way for the ring to get out to the person is for someone else to throw it out to them which puts that person s life in danger by staying out on the pier.

Also life rings are very difficult to properly toss to someone in the water.

Jason Dwyer agreed that it is difficult and that is why the Coast Guard practices this procedure often.

Chuck Butler stated we need to come up with something that is going to catch people s attention.

Signs don t work.

An onsite memorial or video of people who have lost a loved one might work.

Jason Dwyer mentioned that the Coast Guard sees a lot of people in kayaks/SUPs without life jackets on.

The committee mentioned speaking to EOS about requiring their rentals to wear life jackets.

Jason Dwyer talked about reaching out to the schools and doing a broadcast at a local radio station.

Mayor Vandersteen stated that he would contact WHBL to see about getting Jason Dwyer s on the radio to do a segment on water safety.

Robert Stanick mentioned that the Army Corp of Engineers is in the process of changing the signage of the piers.

Joe Kerlin asked if he would be able to provide the signage information for the next meeting. There was also discussion on the City s sign shop doing the signs.

Larry Williams suggested a flip sign on the piers. City Attorney Charles Adams stated that there could be some concerns with legality with the red/green light as suggested in the correspondence for Alderperson Joe Heidemann, flip signs or barricades because if something happens before the city acts we could be at fault.

Also discussed that people need to be on guard at all times not just when there are warnings.

Scott Lewandoske mentioned the email that he had received and asked that it be forward to all committee members for them to read.

As for the next steps, the committee agreed to have Joe Kerlin and Robert Stanick move forward with the pier signage. The Sheboygan Fire Department, Parks, and Coast Guard should check the life rings and changing out the ropes.

The Mayor is to call WHBL to see about getting Jason Dwyer to do a broadcast of water safety.

At the next meeting we will view the video and hopefully have Tom O Bryan present to discuss what other communities have done.

3.4 Meeting schedule and next meeting date. Joe Kerlin asked the committee how often they feel we should meet.

Chad Pelishek suggested that the group meet monthly.

Everyone agreed.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2016 at 4: 00 pm at MSB. \*\*Meeting date has been changed to September 21, 2016 \*\*

#### 4. ADJOURN

4.1 Motion to Adjourn Attorney Charles Adams moved to adjourn, Chad Pelishek seconded.

Motion passed unanimously. Being no further business the meeting was adjourned 5: 28 pm.