

**Approved Minutes of the SF Marina Harbor Association Meeting held
Wednesday, September 3, 2008 – 7:30 pm - Golden Gate Yacht Club**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm with 41 members in attendance.

The minutes of March 20, 2008 meeting (posted at www.sfmarinaharbor.org) were approved.

Comment was made on the proposed harbor design, oriented toward larger slips when the economy was in a booming condition, while there is now a shrinking market for large boats, given the recession. There was discussion on the need to accommodate the specific characteristics of the city front fleets, which vary quite a bit from other parts of Northern California; for instance, many members of the Association observed that the proposed berthing plan deletes all 20 and 25 foot berths and sharply reduces the 30 foot berths, yet there are 40-50 wooden boats in the 25-30 foot range which need berths more appropriate for their length and width, that are grouped together, and that are upwind, given they have no motors.

Larry White, Interim Harbormaster, asked for people to serve on an informal committee to advise SF Rec and Park on ways to work together so that these concerns might be reflected in the final design.

There was extensive discussion on the proposed 37% rate increase to take place at completion of construction to build a large reserve for future repairs and renovation. The President stated that the increase creates a surplus-to-debt service ratio of over 2-to-1 whereas the Department of Boating and Waterways ("DBW") loan guideline is 1.25-to-1. He recommended any increase be lower and spread out over more years so as to not unfairly tax older boaters who might not be berth-holders in 20-30 years. A vote was taken to recommend the language be modified to state "up to 37%" rather than hard-wiring a fixed increase of 37%. The officers of the Association agreed to communicate this to the finance manager of SF Rec and Park as well as to present this on September 4, 2008 at the SF Rec and Park Commission hearing to approve the rate increase, the berthing policy and the construction loan.

Mary Hobson, Project Manager, reported on sand mining, harbor dredging, East Harbor toxic study, and the schedule for final design phase of West Harbor. She said that a contract will be let out to bid for final design and engineering, with work likely to start in January and to take around one year, with actual construction likely to start January 2010 and to be completed 12-18 months later, though they are considering a design/build approach to save time.

We set the date for the next meeting (to include elections) at Golden Gate Yacht Club on Wednesday, November 12 at 7:30 pm. A nominating committee will be appointed. A request was made for people to consider running for office and getting involved in the leadership of the organization. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Sincerely,

Bruce J. Stone, President
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