

Board of Park Commissioners Meeting
June 21, 2018
Discussion Regarding La Crosse Municipal Harbor
La Crosse Boat Harbor Neighborhood

Here are the lists of positive and negative attributes that slip holders provided for tonight's meeting.

Along with presenting these lists, I will be offering possible solutions to improve things at the Harbor.

Dennis Smalley
La Crosse Boat Harbor Neighborhood

Positive attributes solicited from slip holders:

New docks

New wider docks and fingers

Provided a can bin

Provided picnic tables for Brats and Bobbers

Worked to get rid of the abandoned boats off the property. Most are gone.

The Boat Harbor Neighborhood has continued with successful activities:

Harbor clean up where we filled a big dumpster.

Brats and Bobbers, see the article in the Tribune.

Can recycling to fund prizes and activities. The can bin has made this much easier.

National Night Out- We will participate in this event again this year.

Provided two wagons for hauling stuff back and forth to your boat.

Continuing to work to solve the electrical problems.

The lighted pedestals on the docks are nice at night. Although, during a mayfly hatch I may not be saying the same thing!

Gary Thurk has been responsive to pump out times when we have asked him to be there.

Jay Odegaard and Gary Thurk have made themselves available for conversations and questions. They are both timely in their responses.

I believe Jay Odegaard is trying to do the right thing and has the best interest of boaters in mind. We don't always agree, but I think he is working hard to do the right things.

Everything is nice & new which is nice & good to see. It really dresses up the harbor. The buggies are nice to have. It is good to see Gary Thurk periodically cleaning & maintaining.

Jay has suspended cutting down the windbreak on the north and south sides of the harbor for the time being. Hopefully this is a sign that we can have a dialogue about this important safety feature for boaters.

Negative attributes solicited from slip holders:

We need to keep Rick in the Harbor...the city council needs to try to understand that he is vital to the well being of the harbor for so many reasons a non boater wouldn't understand....

Very Negative!: The city is NOT being "Transparent" like Steve Carlyon had said last fall to the harbor community. It seems that the city is going to do whatever is on their agenda no matter what the harbor community wants or needs to know. Forcefully removing Rick Clemment & his beneficial business from the premises is mind boggling!!!

The Rick Clemment situation

No Rick, no emergency service.

My only disappointment to date is the mystery that surrounds the treatment of our favorite mechanic and go-to guy. Perception from afar leaves me wondering what benefit there is for us pushing him out?

Rick, Rick, Rick

The brush clearing continues, with chemical treatment as they cut. Are the mature trees next? Hopefully not.

Wind and my boat: I have a pontoon that has a Bimini top. For the most part I am not affected by the wind. However in this Marina I find it more difficult to get in and out of the slip when the winds pick up. Plus having a shorter fairway (space between docks) does not allow you to make a wider turn for better control when entering the slip. I'm not sure what will happen with the continued clearing of the underbrush that provides protection from the wind.

Cutting down the windbreak

Safety is the concern for boat owners not appearance of the harbor.

Cutting down the windbreak, Oh, seriously! Why does this feel like a part of a preplanned agenda?

Wondering why all the trees there were cut down?

Saddened that the windbreak was removed both for us as boaters but also for the trees and wildlife. Now we are looking at freaking rock!

I agree that the windbreak should not have been cut down. Safety is the concern for boat owners, not the appearance of the harbor.

Also, while I've not had a chance to weigh in on the wind block issue, I agree with you wholeheartedly. I foundered badly last summer with my 29' boat. I can imagine how much worse it would have been in a bigger boat. And that was pre-trimmed.

My biggest question to the park board is why does it seem like they are trying to drive us out?

Everything we have tried to give them advice on, they have done the opposite. The windbreak for example. Pump out area, slip assignment, Rick...every single thing. We don't know if we can afford to be here next year because nobody has a clue what the slips are going to cost. There are no experienced dock hands.

Again we tried to tell them.

As for positives...at this point I would rather have the crappy old docks back with the great service we had for dock hands and I am not talking about Steve Mills I am talking about his employees with years of experience.

Negatives: Docks are way too close together. I have a 17' pontoon & you think it should be pretty easy to maneuver; no its not! If there is any wind at all it can be a real pain in the a** getting in & out. Speaking to several of my neighbors, they all have the same concern. Nice "Professional" design.

Parking lot is frustrating due to standing water at times.

Is there any way of moving the cleat locations or adding more cleats so that the boat can be properly tied up?

The ends of some fingers are very wobbly. Very unsteady and hard to navigate walking.

Area where you park by the east stairs is graded poorly, and you have to wade in ankle deep water to get to the stairs or your car.

Water? Is it on the list to finish?

The material spec on the water piping is on back order; how long and what is the material?

No bathrooms, showers, laundry facilities.

Not enough portable toilets– run out of toilet paper, fill up fast, no handicapped portable toilet

Need a railing at end of gangways to keep wheeled vehicles from running into river like wheel chairs.

Add railing to the end of the gangways where it meets the dock. There is an exposed corner float piece with metal edges. Makes it feel like you should turn left or right, especially at night, too soon where the railing ends and you will go into the water.

End of the dock fingers where the dock connectors are exposed need padding. Bigger boats use the ends of the docks to pivot on to get in and these 3-4" square extruded aluminum are going to damage boats.

No storm shelter.

Mark the old power pole that was busted off with a buoy until they can get it removed.

What is going on the point across from the old harbor store? What about a transient dock and pump out there?

A email was sent out over two weeks ago about the north and west ramps being down for a concrete pad installation; there has been no activity there except two saw bucks put up with caution tape between them.

We need at least one windsock starting on the end of D dock

No wake buoys and signs would be good to have in the harbor, if in fact it is a no wake zone.

The water hoses that multiple members have donated to the cause; several have burst under the constant pressure; city could maybe purchase 600-700 feet since we are looking at July if we are lucky for water installation.

We are hearing the removal of the gravel from the parking lot where the ball field is going; will this be rinsed or cleaned some how to keep all the mud and dust materials down on our parking lot? Right now boat owners on C Dock are getting a lot of dust from the parking lot traffic.

Pump out area there are no fenders, cleats, or ropes for tying on when getting a pump out. The pump out hose length is still too short to reach the holding tank on some boats.

What about getting a ramp for the pump out area so that the person giving the pump out does not have to go all the way up the main gangway and all the way around to access the turn on and off for the tank and motor?

Need a dedicated hose for the pump out area to use for flushing holding tanks.

There was supposed to have been signs made up for the walkways, saying the docks were for boat owners and guests only. 3-4 weeks now and still no signs.

No bumpers on the end of the fingers.

Doesn't appear to be enough space to hang a hose on the power pedestal.

The grade in the boat/trailer dry storage area slopes in the wrong direction. boats drain from the stern which is the direction of the highest elevation.

No railing on the steps or at the end of the ramp. Dangerous for a wheel chair bound person.

Power pedestals are not compatible with a number of boats.

Doesn't appear to be any staff around on the weekend when most boaters are using the marina which means no help.

No marking for parking.

Gangways are poorly laid out so that the majority of access is at a single point. Need another access point where the pump out equipment is located

No security

The usual - No gas - No ice - No ship's store

We went to our boat today to find rock embankments on the east side of the marina. How seriously sad it looks!!!!!! Nothing but piles of lifeless rock smothering the few trees left standing. No windbreak, no place for the wildlife we love to forage or nest, and no green vegetation. I remember in the beginning when you and I (Jay) talked on the phone you said we should go look at Veterans Park. That was your vision for our marina, and after all the requests you have had from the boaters I can't believe our voices fall once again on deaf ears. Why does it need to be this way? Many of us have traveled to many marinas, and they are wildlife friendly and pristinely surrounded with the windbreaks needed for safe portage. Why do we need this harsh impassable limestone barrier that we see on the La Crosse shoreline? As a nature lover it breaks my heart to see the tiny bit of wild we had at the marina, adamantly, just shoveled away! We are newer boaters, and we too notice it is harder then ever to navigate the marina's new layout, and now it is more of an obstacle with the wind! Happy boat owner, but we find ourselves making excuses and being more than ashamed to talk to anyone about the way La Crosse has treated our marina residents in the past year. Please, please listen to what we are saying