

Elsen, Nikki

Subject: FW: Web Form

From: Leslie Olson [<mailto:leslie.olson@att.net>]

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2017 12:09 PM

To: Kabat, Tim

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Greetings –

I am unable to attend the council meeting on Thursday so I would like to take this opportunity to share my thoughts on the future of the marina. Over the past several years the City has attempted to terminate the lease of the current operator. On numerous occasions city officials have promised the boat owners input into the use of the non-city resident tax we pay in addition to the future of the marina. I am encouraged to see that finally the users of the marina have the ability for input. I am concerned that this comes after the city has already developed a plan and applied for permits with the DNR.

The recommendations I am about to share with you are a result of my experiences.

1. **I hold a Master's Credential issued by the United States Coast Guard.**
2. **For the last 28 years I have rented a slip at the La Crosse Municipal Boat Harbor. When I was a teenager my parents rented a slip at the harbor.**
3. **For the last 7 years I have rented slips in Florida. Most recently in Hollywood, FL.**
4. **My boating experience covers the Mississippi river, both coasts of Florida, the Virgin Islands and Lake Michigan.**

Recommendations

For a segment of the market a boat is like a camper or motor home. In many cases it has the same amenities, air/heat, stove, microwave, bathroom, bedrooms, TV, generator. The big difference is that it floats and is a captive of the waterway it sits on. A marina should have the following to meet the boaters needs.

1. **Fuel dock. There are limited options for refueling a boat on the water and La Crosse has limited options for marinas that sell gas. Hauling gas in cans down the dock is both dangerous and potentially harmful to the environment.**
2. **Pump outs. Boats with marine toilets have holding tanks which need to be emptied. Discharging tanks in the river is both illegal and harmful to the environment. Most marinas in Florida have systems that are able to pump out your boat without even leaving your slip. There are Federal funds to assist in the development of such systems.**
3. **Emergency and normal maintenance. From time to time boats hit things below the water and need to be hauled out to be repaired. Other issues arise and unlike a car they sink if the hull is breached. That can create a fire hazard and an environmental nightmare.**
4. **Storage and winterization. My boat is hauled out and winterized after the boating season ends. I rely on La Crosse Harbor services to do that.**
5. **Fire suppression. Most boats store fuel and many are made of fiberglass. At the marina I have a slip at in Florida we have 2 fire hoses on each dock. Last summer we had a fire on my dock and 2 boats sunk and 5 more were damaged.**
6. **Handicapped accessibility. Most of us have elderly parents, family members or friends who have accessibility issues that need to be addressed. I had knee replacement surgery in March and broke my ankle on the other foot in June. Accessibility was an issue and had it not been for the assistance of my dock neighbors I would not have been boating this summer.**
7. **Restroom/showers. On a hot summer weekend there are literally hundreds of people using the marina.**

If you want the marina to meet the needs of the marina's customers please consider our recommendations. My fear is that the approach the city has taken to this point may give the tax payers the perception that the city is subsidizing boaters.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10