

CITY OF LAKE GENEVA SPECIAL PIERS, HARBORS, AND LAKEFRONT COMMITTEE MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 - 6:00 PM

LAKE GENEVA CITY HALL; COUNCIL CHAMBERS (MAIN LEVEL)

Members: Chairperson Linda Frame, Alderpersons: Shari Straube, Sherri Ames, Peg Esposito, and Ken Howell

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Frame

Alderperson Frame called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Roll Call

Present: Frame, Ames, Esposito, Howell, Straube (arrived at 6:01 pm)

Absent: None

Comments from the public limited to 5 minutes, limited to items on this agenda

Kate Meyer, 101 Broad St; spoke on item 5, and supported not replacing the piers in the lagoon.

Alderperson Straube arrived at 6:01 pm.

Depty Clerk Jahns read an email from Angela Podesta, which spoke against the use of rip rap for the seawall, against a kayak launch in the lagoon, and asked for a mirror to be added to the bridge to increase visibility and safety.

Discussion/Recommendation regarding sea wall repair options in the Lagoon (Naomi Rauch, Kapur)

- **Rip Rap-Boulder**
- **Cement Smooth Wall**

Frame explained that the special meeting tonight was needed in order to make decisions on the important items on this agenda.

Howell stated that the City has the money in the budget currently to repair the seawall and to complete the dredging. The pier replacement is not currently budgeted for.

Frame continued that if the piers are recommended to be replaced, a budget meeting would

Ms. Rauch from Kapur began by speaking to the packet material and noted that her comments are only on the pages that she submitted in her memo.

She explained the differences between the rip rap and cement sea wall options.

Discussion followed between the Committee members and Ms. Rauch regarding maintenance efforts on the different repair options.

DPW Director Earle spoke on maintenance efforts, stating that rip rap requires more maintenance and that pier replacement with a rip rap repair is extremely limited, if not impossible.

Ms Rauch discussed the differences between a smooth and modular cement sea wall.

Ames expressed support for the smooth cement repair option.

Esposito asked for a recommendation from Ms. Rauch.

Ms Rauch recommended the smooth cement repair option.

Motion by Ames to recommend bidding out the smooth cement wall option, motion dies for lack of second.

Motion by Howell to bid both the smooth cement and modular cement wall options, second by Esposito.

Ames expressed concern over maintenance of the modular wall.

Howell expressed support for having options.

Esposito stated that the modular wall looks less industrial.

Motion to approve bid process for both the smooth cement and modular cement wall options carried 4-1 on a voice vote with Ames voting no.

Discussion/Recommendation regarding Lagoon Dredging bids

Harbormaster Erick Nicia spoke about the cost estimates for dredging the lagoon.

He explained instances of dredging that the City has completed in the past compared to the estimated volume of dredging currently needed.

The lagoon would require mechanical vs hydraulic dredging equipment.

Ms Rauch spoke on other projects she has been involved in. She offered that an engineer's estimate could be provided but that the best way to get a number is to bid out the project.

Motion by Ames to direct the Harbormaster & the City Engineer to go out for bid on the dredging project for the lagoon, second by Howell.

DPW Director Earle spoke on interactions with the DNR regarding what to do with the seaweed that is dredged, and the Public Works time and resources that would need to be allocated to the hauling of the material.

Mayor Krause asked about boring samples from the spring. Ms. Rauch explained that the current material in the lagoon would need to be brought to a landfill.

Mr Earle spoke on trucking costs on trips to the landfill vs to the City's dump.

Motion to direct the Harbormaster & the City Engineer to go out for bid on the dredging project for the lagoon carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

Discussion/Recommendation regarding Lagoon Pier Replacement options

- **Floating Piers**
- **Steel Piers**
- **Slip sizes-18 foot maximum boat length**

Frame gave background information on the estimates for floating piers and permanent piers.

Howell asked for clarification on the number of boat slips that could be in the lagoon.

Harbormaster Nicia spoke about the cost estimates for the different options and potential costs for slip leases.

Howell asked about financial details.

Straube asked Harbormaster Nicia about a recommendation for a reserve repair fund.

Mr. Nicia offered an explanation of how to establish a reserve fund.

Howell asked Ms Rauch to explain her recommendation on whether the piers should be replaced or not. Ms. Rauch spoke about the dam maintenance and the effect of the piers in the lagoon on the dam. Piers with boat slips make repairs and inspections on the dam very difficult, and she stated that, in her opinion, the lagoon is not an appropriate place for boats and piers.

Frame shared that there are other options, such as open water piers across from Flat Iron Park or west end pier, but that they are very expensive.

Ames expressed hesitation about adding anything that would impede the view in front of the parks.

Straube expressed concern about removing buoys and asked if adding additional buoys could be added to compensate for boat slip removal.

Frame expressed that the DNR has stated the City is at its buoy limit.

Mayor Krause stated the DNR is in support of removing all buoys on Geneva Lake, and expressed that he is very careful about taxpayers not subsidizing boat slips and buoys for renters.

Mr. Nicia addressed an open water pier system, stating that a large and expensive pier system could be set up in a way that the renters are paying the cost of the project.

Esposito asked the Harbormaster for his reasoning for recommending not replacing a pier system in the lagoon. He explained the benefit of a potential pier system on the lake is much better in the long run than replacing the limited amount of piers in the lagoon.

Mayor Krause spoke on the cost breakdown, and explained the rent would end up being close to the west end pier lease rent.

Straube expressed hesitation with making a decision at this point because it's limiting the options.

Motion by Esposito to continue until there is more information, second by Howell.

Howell expressed that he requires more financial information in addition to the other available options.

Ames agreed that the future needs to be considered for the health of the lake.

Straube asked for clarification on if dredging is required in the future if there are not any boats in the lagoon. Mr.

Nicia answered that if there are no boats, then no dredging is required.

Motion to continue carried 5-0.

Motion by Esposito to suspend the rules to allow audience member Kate Meyer to speak, second by Howell.

Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

Ms. Meyer spoke on benefits to having boat slips on the other side of the bridge.

Lagoon Project Financial Report with a full breakdown of Lagoon costs (Harbormaster)

Adjournment

Motion by Howell to adjourn, second by Straube.

No discussion. Motion carried 5-0.

The Committee adjourned at 7:20 pm.

These minutes are unofficial until approved by the Committee.

Vanessa Jahns

Deputy City Clerk