

Minutes

Waterways Board Operations, Finance and Safety Committee Kyrouz Auditorium, Gloucester City Hall Thursday, October 1, 2015

Present: Jim Bordinaro, Jim Caulkett, David McCauley, Patti Page, Mayor Romeo-Theken

OFS convened at 4:05 and welcomed Mayor Romeo Theken who joined the committee for an update on the status of the Solomon Jacobs project.

There were no Oral Communications

The Minutes of the May 21, 2015 meeting were approved.

OFS received an update on the Solomon Jacobs Complex timelines and costs from Jim Caulkett to assist in a discussion of a long-term financing plan. David McCauley anticipates decreased prospects of funding from the Seaport Council, given the reduction in funding, increased number of stakeholders and wider scope of the reconstituted Council. While other OFS members were more optimistic, there is currently no funding available or promised. The Mayor noted that the Council had reduced funding for the seawall project.

The current balance of the Solomon Jacobs (SJ) Capital Construction account is \$30,482.64. This balance must be raised to accommodate costs and provide matching funds for the BIG funding to be sought. OFS agreed to submit a proposal in March, 2016 for an October, 2016 award for Phase 2 of SJ. The City Council is in the process of formally accepting the previously awarded BIG funding but this money is fully dedicated to Phase 1 costs. Jim will be in contact with Stephanie Cunningham of the BIG program about our plans. The mix of funding sources has covered nearly all of Phase 1 costs with the exception of 3 floats under Alternative 4. These floats would cost \$94,500 but a temporary solution using current floats is available. These floats are for Harbormaster/law enforcement uses and are not BIG-eligible so a long-term funding issue remains.

OFS discussed allocating \$50,000 in "free cash" to SJ, although the figure is flexible. A motion will come to the WWB after the certification of free cash levels.

OFS received the 9/17/15 letter from GZA about an amended contract for the SJ "Harbormaster Berthing Improvement Project". Several questions were raised by OFS and it was agreed to invite GZA to the November WWB meeting to make a presentation.

OFS discussed the status of plans for renovation of the Harbormaster building and who is responsible for the planning. Little has happened on a plan but there have been significant recent changes to the building interior. OFS agreed to raise this concern at

the October WWB meeting and have the WWB convene a sub-committee to be responsible for the planning process. We will need definitive plans to request funding from BIG and other sources. OFS and the Mayor agreed that, with sufficient lead time, Gloucester High School students/staff could assist in the physical renovation and even the preparation of planning and construction documents once the WWB establishes the parameters (building space allocation, transient boater facilities, public restrooms inside or outside of the building). OFS urged prompt action on restarting the planning process.

OFS reviewed the FY16 budget and made no recommendations for changes in accounts at this time.

OFS reviewed cost/income figures for 2015 (and prior years) launch operations provided by Jim Caulkett. Ridership is increasing but so is the deficit. OFS asked Jim to provide a grid for the 3 years of operation with the following categories: Salaries, Fuel, Miscellaneous Costs (repairs, fees), Length of Operating Season, Launch Fees Collected, Paid Ridership, Operating Deficit. This will later be presented to the WWB.

OFS received the report on the Magnolia Pier improvements and agreed that it should be handled initially by the Public Facilities Committee. No cost figures were included in the report. Jim Caulkett suggested that pier replacement rather than repair might be better. While understanding some of the issues, OFS urged- since Manchester residents would be important beneficiaries- that any significant action/cost be undertaken within an Inter-municipal agreement.

OFS identified agenda several items for next meeting: a motion on a “free cash” allocation to SJ, the SJ Special Committee, a review of launch operations, review of GZA amended contract and WWB concerns, other items emerging from the October WWB meeting. No meeting date was set.

OFS adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Minutes prepared by David McCauley, OFS Chair