

**Homer Marine Trades Association
Regular Business Meeting
March 20, 2024
Harbor Master's Office**

MINUTES

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by President, Aaron Fleenor.

Officers/Directors present/quorum: Aaron Fleenor, Eric Engebretsen, Jen Hakala, Cinda Martin, Kate Mitchell, Bruce Friend, Adam Smude, George Hall, Mark Zieset, Matt Alward and Amy Woodruff, Communications Director. A quorum was established.

Guest Presentations:

- Harbormaster – Bryan reported that the Federal Budget came out with \$800K in funding for the study for 2025, it remains on the President's desk for signing. Float repairs are ongoing; parking is getting revamped to create special parking for oversized vehicles and also step-up enforcement. The City is working on the Comprehensive Plan that will be a two-year process where the plan will be revised in the first year and policy/ordinance changes will happen in the second year to complete and implement the plan. The plan will include the harbor expansion and impacts of the expansion construction. They applied for a Dingle Johnson grant to replace the fish grinding plant which is a metal building where the fish waste goes built 22 years ago and has deteriorated. The grid is down for piling replacement. Bryan also reported on the airport project that will have some impact on travel due to several closures.
- Nine Star – Presentation by student intern about Nine Star, it's mission, programs and eligibility; ED, Rhapsody Soderberg invited our board members to a meeting next Friday, 3/29 at KPC with the main presentation at noon, relating to a new virtual training program that she would like to get employers involved in and implement in Homer. Rhapsody will forward information to Amy to distribute.
- Janel Harris of KPC – reported that the college will be hosting a Marine Safety Open House on May 1st partnering with the USCG and other marine trades businesses to educate the public about boat safety, regulations as well as licensing. She is also working on recertifying KPC's licensed courses however it takes about 90 days to run through National so it isn't likely that they will have licensed courses this spring. Ivy Borland will be teaching Deck Hand Skills and Navigation. She's looking for other courses and instructors for April and into May.

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Adam Smude to approve the Agenda as presented, 2nd and carried.

Approval of Minutes of February 13th 2024 meeting: Motion by George Hall to approve the minutes of the last meeting as written, 2nd and carried.

Treasurer's Report – Jen Hakala gave her report, a copy is attached. We came out a little short on the Anchorage Boat Show but she did not have the exact information. There are no payables outstanding at this time.

Communication Director's Report – Amy reported that she would like a weekly check-in contact, Aaron/Cinda. Spring Round Haul options include Northrim who has had their soft opening with grand opening on March 25th, and potentially the HHS with the newfound focus on CTE; will discuss further under new business. She plans to draft a letter to the organizer of the Boat Show petitioning earlier end times. Amy reported that there is a non-resident opening on the Harbor Commission, if anyone is interested or knows someone; the Harbor needs a new letter of support of the PIDP grant for float replacements; Amy will update the letter from last year with our permission and submit; and lastly, we received an inquiry about employment and needed direction.

Committee Reports:

- Draft Marketing Plan – no update
 - Advertising – Amy/Kate National Fisherman and Fisherman's News are both digital. Eric reported that he is having National Fisherman come up to do some writing for them and will try to get some ads in for HMTA.
 - Website/Social Media – Amy reported that we are plugging Scholarships on SM and she has made flyers as well
 - Radio – Mark (re-visit spring agenda)
 - Podcast options – Amy touching base with Shannon
- Workforce Development - Aaron
 - FOLs – Discussion held regarding Doug's presentation and the level of HMTA's involvement in future FOLs. Consensus to meet with Doug to see if it is possible to make the FOLs mandatory. Janel suggested holding the FOLs at the college. Cinda will reach out to Doug to further the conversation.
 - KPC courses – Janel/Jill via email upcoming courses include Marine Electronics, CAD and Deckhand Skills

- Hoodies/shirt status – Amy/Jen reported that she will hang some up at NOMAR to sell.
- Scholarship – Cinda reported that we received \$1,000 from Rotary and \$3,000 from Aleutian Harvester Fund; we have expended \$4,245 to date and have \$2,755 remaining to award for the year not including our spring scholarship. We've received 1 application for that so far.
- Membership – Amy reported that in an effort to grow membership she has made a list of potential community business members for us to reach out to: SPH – Kate/Cinda; HEA – Eric; Boat Yard Café – Aaron; Global USA – Aaron; Lazer Print – George; Cook Inlet Aquaculture – Matt; Grog Shop - ?; Grace Ridge – Cinda; Alaska Plumbing & Mechanical – Adam; Salty Dawg – Cinda (Amy will send me a complete list)

Old Business:

- Annual To-Do List – Mark review/action items
 - HHS Awards Banquet – May 1st time TBD
 - Homer High School picnic – ask Doug for date/time
- Anchorage Boat Show thoughts - organization was poor; timing/days advertising had errors; felt that attendance was down as well; hours were long and without high impact. Improvement on number of booths, coffee availability and lots of good conversations and connections for most of us but the consensus was that the show didn't have the value that the price demanded. Eric is looking at moving focus toward the Alaska Sportsman's show and would like to start a conversation with the organizers to move that event back to the Sullivan with a large show. More to come.
- Chamber upcoming events –
 - Winter King Tournament – HCOC put out a blast for HMTA in their advertising and we are manning their after party from noon to 7pm on Saturday 3/23, need 4 volunteers – Amy, George, Jen, Bruce and Kate. Will have tide books and membership applications.
 - Food Truck Festival – Friday May 10th, Saturday, May 11th noon-6pm; HCOC wants us to create and run the beer garden for the event; interest was luke warm as all volunteers would be required to have a TAMs card and we would need to arrange for the tent and beer, etc.

New Business:

- Spring Round Haul – consensus to hold spring event at the HHS to help advertise for a new CTE instructor; Amy and Cinda will meet with Doug to discuss along with FOL organization and the year-end picnic
- Promotion Ceremony for Will Singletery who has been promoted to Lt Commander – George will find out when his promotion is happening and let us know so we can attend.

Action Items for Amy:

Nine Star flyer

Comprehensive Plan events flyer

Scholarship application to HCOC

Meet with Doug re: Round Hall, FOLs, CTE and year-end picnic; Cinda will accompany

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 24th at the Harbor Office

Adjourn: There being no business to come before the board members, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cinda Martin
HMTA Secretary