Marine Advisory Committee Minutes

April 7, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER: Dianna Chonka, Chairperson, at 5:00 pm.

Members in attendance: Bud LeMeiux, Dan Averill, Dianna Chonka, Kurt Goodale, Marcus Abbott, Skip Dassler, Wendy Britt.
Virtual: Brent Senff
Absent: Scott Propst, Corey Joyce, John Sanford, Justin Parkins, Martin Snyder.
Port Staff, Commissioner, and City Official: Brad Johnson (HM), John Dumas (ED), Mary La Fleur (Commissioner), Terry Nemeth (City Official)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion and second to approve minutes as written. Motion approved.

3. APOLOGY TO COMMITTEE - Dianna

Dianna apologized to the MAC for sending the incorrect information to the Commissioners in regard to the Liveaboard position. The recommendation that the Mac approved was not the recommendation that she presented to the commission. She reported to the commission that the Liveaboard position would be shelved until filled. The motion by the Mac was that the position would be eliminated. She said due to so many side discussions during the motion she misunderstood and thought the position would be shelved. Wendy confirmed she had to watch the video many times for confirmation and that John Dumas asked for clarification during the motion. But this was not heard by most of the MAC members. So now, after discussion, members agreed that they thought the motion was to shelf the position only. The Liveaboard position was created in 2024 with Karen Meyer filling the position. The bylaws state the position can remain vacant until filled. It was explained if we eliminate the position, the bylaws would have to be changed and involve the Commission. While members read their by-laws during this discussion some members discovered they had outdated bylaws. John Dumas will email the new bylaws to members. Dianna stated she would step down from the Chairperson position if members felt someone else should take her place. It was decided to address this topic under New Business.

4. MARINA HAPPENINGS - Brad Johnson

- 1 vessel anchored out, has been there several months. DNR is aware and in contact with the owner.
- Marina seasonal positions are hired for the season. Lots of returnees. The Port has become thee place to work for a summer job. They are now picking the best of the best and setting the stage for 2027.
- HVAC units on the HMO roof will be replaced; these serve all the suites and the restrooms. Work is from April 27-May 5. This time of the year was chosen due to minimal need of heat and AC and to stay away from the busy season. They will use some of the parking lot for staging and as a work zone.
- Larval crab monitoring at SMP starts this week in September by the Swinomish Tribe.
- Port will have a Centennial booth at ABAY, staffed by Commission.

- ABAY is on track, with a sell-out of in-water and Upland tent space. Waitlist has started. There is still space in the trailerable boat area.
- Port has a new bathymetric survey coming out soon. This is a survey of the sea floor to tell us how deep the water is in the marina. The last one was done in 2019. Projects will use this when they plan the N end replacement, and staff reference this when boaters ask us about depths when transiting the marina.
- N end RR and laundry remodel is moving along, should be done in a few weeks, maybe less, moving to free services. RV park has moved to free showers/laundry. West Basin Will be converted to free to coincide with the N end re-opening.
- Attended an A Dock Electrification Meeting with PM and consultants. Adding power to a couple of Arrow Launch's slips, and a couple other slips on East end of A dock. Fall of 2026.
- NCTA Mark interviews were held last week. Lindsey (HR) was there, along with Bud here tonight. Preparing HS student entering the workforce. To help develop their interview skills. Great group this year, the groups seem to be getting better each year. Students were from the Aerospace Manufacturing, Carpentry, and Marine classes.
- Recent work at the FD Upland vaults has proof successful to keep the water out of the tank lid/ turbine area.
- Activity floats get dressed tomorrow, first rendezvous is April 17.

Like everyone here, the Port closely monitoring, fuel prices, and wondering how that will impact this season and they monitor KPI's bi-weekly.
Questions for Brad- When asked about the free showers/laundry, Brad answered that the RV Park currently offers free showers/laundry and the north basin will offer the same when open. The west basin will follow. The buildings are more secure with daytime security and card lock system so maintenance costs have been way down. Very positive feedback from tenants on active daytime security presence in marina.

1. MARINA/FACILITIES UPDATE - JOHN DUMAS

a. Ribbon Cutting/North Basin Remodel - Slated for April 20 but not going to wait for the ribbon cutting ceremony to open. There have been challenges with the contractor so additions have been canceled for this contractor. The Mac will be sent a ribbon cutting date reminder, with starting time around 10 AM.

b. Updated Gate Survey - There have been 18 responses from A & B dock survey: 14 in favor, two with questions, and two opposed. With 70 to 80 surveys sent, that's a 15% response rate. Tenants were just asked if they wanted gates. But a few minutes later the Port added an email to clarify the gates would be open during the day and closed at night. The commission wanted this information for further reference.

c. Boat Tours - The Port will be offering 2 hr boat tours on May 5 and May 8 on the Island Explorer to celebrate the Port's Centennial. This will include a tour of the area around the refinery, down the channel, and Stabberts. A centennial video and staff speaking about Port projects will be presented. And also offering hors d'oeuvres, water, soda, and a bar with attendees purchasing their own alcohol. The May 5th tour will be heavy on Olympia representatives, emphasizing the economy that's associated with maritime environment. The Mac is invited on the May 8th tour and also includes the Chamber, Marine Trades, Port Staff, and City Leaders, and Department Heads. An invitation and RSVP will be

sent to Mac members with more information. That's the main kickoff for the Port Centennial and there are four or five more events that will be addressed later.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Liveaboard Position - For clarification, Diana read the recommendation she sent to the Commissioners, stating that the Liveaboard position can be vacant and filled at a later date. John Dumas explained that he gets the MAC recommendation from the chair person, then he emails it to the commission, as is no changes. So the commission sees it as written. The second part of the process is that he resends that back to the Mac so they see what was forwarded to the Commission by John. So this process occurred. When this was sent out to the Mac no one responded. Wendy said she didn't receive that email or she would've responded to Diana about that recommendation. Motion to shelf the discussion concerning the Liveaboard position until such a time that an individual comes forward to serve at that position after they are interviewed. Motion second and approved.

After a discussion, it was clarified that Terry Nemeth is a voting member. It will be corrected on the list. Terry agreed to continue his term as the City Representative.

Question was asked to John if the gate survey was going to be brought up at the study session. John answered that there is an opportunity. John Dumas will download the results of the survey after the deadline and send that to the Commission and loop back to the Mac. He was asked if he could send out another survey but he said he would have to be directed. The MAC would need to bring that to the Commission.

Diana had a request to ask the Port to install a live camera feed on the fuel dock. There is a live feed camera at the airport and surrounding area so John will check with IT. They will be adding cameras to the commercial dock because of vandalism and damages. Motion to have the Port install a live feed camera at the fuel dock that shows the fuel dock and surrounding areas. Discussion: Diana asked guest attendee, Dave Sargent, for his opinion and he agreed it would definitely benefit boaters using the fuel dock. Motion seconded and approved. Suggested to Mary to put in her report to the Commission.

John emphasized the need for members to use Mary's port email: LaFleur@portofanacortes.com and NOT her business email (altinsurance) when communicating about port business. If members continue to mix these, her business becomes public record.

Date for next meeting will be changed to May 12, due to Port boat tour.

Meeting adjourned 6:00 pm.
Submitted by Wendy Britt, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: MAY 12, 2026 (changed from May 5, 2026)