

**MICHIGAN CITY PORT AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

March 17, 2025

The regular meeting of the Michigan City Port Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Socrates Gray in the Port Authority board room.

ATTENDANCE

President Socrates Gray presided. Board members in attendance included Chris Cipares, Bruce Manner, and Sam Ferguson (telephonically). Board Members John Haynes and Kim Sliwa were absent. Harbormaster Tim Frame, Assistant Harbormaster Mary Ann Pawlicke and Attorney Joe Zaknoen were also in attendance for the meeting.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

Dale Meyer, South Shore Sailing School; Scott Kingan, South Shore Sailing School.

MINUTES

- Motion by Chris Cipares, seconded by Bruce Manner to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Scott Kingan, South Shore Sailing School, requested more information or a contact person with information about the pending Coast Guard work on the seawall.

REPORT FROM HARBORMASTER

Harbormaster Tim Frame reported on the following:

- Four boats are currently in the marina with more to be launched on the schedule.
- All fire extinguishers have received their safety checks and been placed in the marina. Small water leak was fixed and put the hoses back on the pump out machine.
- The small barge in Trail Creek was pulled and repairs will be made this week.

REPORT FROM ASSISTANT HARBORMASTER OF ADMINISTRATION

- Mary Ann Pawlicke reported that the 2025 slip lease final payments were due today and payments have been coming in steadily all day.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Financial Oversight Committee

- Socrates reviewed the Claims Docket prepared for March 17, 2025.

Port Authority	\$	\$448,218.61
Capital	\$	0.00
Total	\$	\$448,218.61

- Motion by Bruce Manner, seconded by Chris Cipares to pay all bills as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Claims and Insurance Committee

- There was no report from the committee at this time.

Port Operations & Personnel & Marina Policy

- Socrates Gray reported that operations are ramping up for the summer boating season.

Boater Communications and Special Events Committee

- There was no report from the committee at this time.

Master Planning and Special Projects Committee

- There was no report from the committee at this time.
- Bruce Manner reported that the MC Parks and Recreation Department approved demolition of the Millenium Plaza fountain. The Board also approved the major relations agreement for the 2025 Pride Festival in Washington Park.

Advertising and Public Relations Committee

- Chris Cipares reported that he has been working with Tim Frame, Dan Messina to find possible solutions for overnight boat mooring on the wall from the Coast Guard going south to the Corner and also the wall extending from the Trail Creek Bridge to the parking area of the Harbor Country Adventures boat, the Émita II. Both areas are under the authority of the MCPA. Between the Coast Guard and Corner there is electricity and power available. The other area there are no utilities available.
- Chris distributed a proposal:
 - Coast Guard to the Corner – 1. Along the entire white ledge stencil "Boat Mooring" at intervals the entire length from the Coast Guard to the Corner. 2. Install signage in locations to say "Fishing Permitted when Boats not Mooring." 3. Install signage on power boxes to say "This Area is for Boat Mooring. Contact the MCPA for Overnight Mooring Rates."
 - Corner to the Trail Creek Bridge - 1. Along the entire white ledge stencil "Boat Mooring" at intervals the entire length from the Corner to the Bridge. 2. Allow pay per hour boat mooring using a software management system to capture potential mooring revenue.
- Motion by Bruce Manner, 2nd by Chris Cipares to instruct the attorney to research legality of limiting fishing to only when Boats are not mooring along the ledge. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE ATTORNEY

- Attorney Zaknoen reported that an email was sent to the Board members a Draft copy of proposed license agreement with the LaPorte County Convention & Visitors Bureau for the 2025 Great Lakes Grand Prix Race without a License Fee. He recommended that the Board schedule an Executive Session to establish the amount of the License fee. Meeting to be scheduled after the sale of the Yacht Club so that any pending items on that issue could be discussed in the same Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business to be discussed

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to be discussed.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Comment that the idea to install signage along the seawall would be good and also suggested to the Board that there possibly could be some rules relating to fishing in that area as it is considered a Federally Navigated Waterway

ADJOURNMENT

Motion Bruce Manner, seconded by Chris Cipares to adjourn the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Accepted by:



Tim Frame, Harbormaster

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Messina, Board Secretary

Approved On:

April 7, 2025

By:


Socrates Gray, Board President