

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

July 20, 2026

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, Charlie Krause, Sam Ferguson, Bruce Manner, Dan Messina, and Kim Sliwa. Harbormaster Tim Frame, Assistant Harbormaster Mary Ann Pawlicke and Attorney Joe Zaknoen were also in attendance for the meeting.

GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

- Tim Glidden, MC Park Board; Dale Moyer, South Shore Sailing School; Scott Meland; Mike Cooper, Slip 450.

MINUTES

- Motion by Dan Messina, seconded by Sam Ferguson to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2026, meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Dale Moyer stated that the South Shore Sailing School is very curious to learn more details about the upcoming work to be done by the Army Corp of Engineers.

REPORT FROM HARBORMASTER

Harbormaster Tim Frame reported on the following:

- Mr. Frame provided an update on two upcoming projects being completed by the Army Corps of Engineers.
 - The Lighthouse Pier resurfacing project will begin at the end of the week with the installation of fencing around a temporary staging area for materials and equipment. Major deliveries and barge operations are expected to begin following the Boat Races, at which time work on the north side of the Lighthouse Pier will commence. The project is anticipated to continue through mid-to-late September, weather permitting.
 - The second project to repair the breakwater will have Rowan Salvage Company is scheduled to begin work around October 4 to place approximately 1,300 tons of stone in the center section of the detached breakwater, completing an area that was not addressed during previous repairs. The stone is expected to be delivered in a single shipment by barge, and the project is anticipated to take approximately one week, weather permitting, with completion expected during the first half of October.
- The Great Lakes Grand Prix events will take place next week, with races scheduled for Saturday, August 1 and Sunday, August 2 and related tourism activities beginning earlier in the week.
- Mr. Frame also informed the Board of a letter from the Mayor's Office regarding International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31, requesting support for illuminating the Catwalk in purple lighting as part of the City's month-long awareness initiative.
- Utility trenching has been completed for the new guard shack, and the unit remains under preparation while air conditioning issues are addressed before installation.

REPORT FROM ASSISTANT HARBORMASTER OF ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Harbormaster Mary Ann Pawlicke reported on the following:

- Mrs. Pawlick noted the increased activity in the office, including a high volume of inquiries regarding slip availability for the upcoming boat races and increased traffic from boaters picking up stickers and parking passes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Financial Oversight Committee

- Chris Cipares reviewed the Claims Docket prepared for July 20, 2026.

Port Authority	\$	\$110,856.84
Capital	\$	0.00
Total	\$	\$110,856.84
- Motion by Chris Cipares, seconded by Bruce Manner to pay all bills for July 6, 2026, as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

Claims and Insurance Committee

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

Port Operations & Personnel & Marina Policy

- Socrates Gray discussed the future of commemorative marina plaques bearing the name of a former Harbormaster, noting the need to consider their removal and eventual replacement.
 - Motion by Sam Ferguson, seconded by Chris Cipares, to remove the existing plaques until funding is available to install replacement plaques with appropriate names.

Boater Communications and Special Events Committee

- Dan Messina noted that cooler weather has resulted in reduced boating activity during the past week. Perch fishing remains excellent, perhaps contributing to increased transient boat traffic at the marina.
- Mr. Messina continues to engage with boaters on the docks, encouraging them to share comments or concerns with the Marina Office.

Master Planning and Special Projects Committee

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

Advertising and Public Relations Committee

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

REPORT FROM THE ATTORNEY

- Legal counsel reported that the complaint regarding unauthorized parking on MCPA property previously authorized by the Board is scheduled to be filed.
- Efforts are also underway to coordinate a meeting with representatives of the Sailing School pending scheduling availability.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no new business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Board discussed a request from the Mayor's Office to illuminate the Catwalk in purple in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day. Members reviewed lighting options, costs, installation logistics, and the potential for reusing the lighting for future community events.
 - Motion by Sam Ferguson, seconded by Kim Sliwa, to authorize up to \$5,000 for the purchase and installation of lighting, with the work to be completed by Port Authority staff if feasible.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- Scott Meland commended the Port Authority for coordinating with the Army Corps of Engineers on upcoming Pier improvements. He also sharing suggestions regarding the proposed purple lighting for the Catwalk, recommending adequate illumination, consideration of reusable color-changing lighting, and minimizing impacts on dark skies.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chris Cipares, seconded by Kim Sliwa to adjourn the meeting at 5:23 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Accepted by: 
Tim Frame, Harbormaster

Respectfully submitted, 
Dan Messina, Board Secretary

Approved On: 8-3-2026

By: 
Socrates Gray, Board President