

WATERFRONT & BOATING ACCESS SUMMIT

Saturday, October 14, 2006

USF St. Petersburg - Campus Activities Center

BREAK-OUT DISCUSSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

GROUP #1 - RECOMMENDATIONS

1. “Visually appealing” criteria for anything?
2. Mooring Fields - good way to expand dockage
3. Incentives to individuals who rent home/private slips
4. State statute for consistent anchoring models
5. Mooring Fields - Cost
6. Boat ramp conditions - extend the apron to prevent washout and erosion
7. Footprint for mooring field should extend past mooring fields boundaries (due to swinging room)
8. Derelict Vessels - State program for those who want to dispose of a pre-derelict boat
9. Basic inspection system in order to register a vessel
10. Derelict Vessels - eliminate auctions (don't recycle)
11. St. Pete Municipal Marina
 - Must be registered
 - Operate under own power
 - Good condition and insured
12. Boat Ramps
 - Parking meters as fee for ramp
13. Mooring Field at Vinoy Basin
14. Courtesy Docks at Vinoy Basin
15. Dinghy docks at Vinoy Basin
16. City financial incentive for Marine repair supply and dockage/storage
17. Develop Port into Marina
 - Marina
 - Wharf (fresh fish off loading)
 - Restaurants

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GROUP #1 (cont'd.)

18. Move Saturday Morning Market to The Pier

Mooring Fields (Old derelict vessels will always be)

- Expands dockage
- Regulated area
- Fee for svc improves quality of the vessel
- Must include dinghy dock and upland facilities

Possible Locations

- Vinoy Basin
- Boca Ciega
- Big Bayou
- Riviera Bay
- Maximo Park
- Coffee Pot Bayou

Financial Incentives to support and grow marine industry

- Private homeowners renting dockspace
- Marine repair facilities
- Marine supply businesses
- Dock and storage facilities and waterfront brokerages

Anchoring

- Standardize State level anchoring
- Prevents inconsistent and unconstitutional rules

Derelict Boats

- State plan for voluntary surrender for derelict or pre-derelict boats
- Basic inspection necessary to register vessel
- Eliminate auctions (destroy)

Port

- Convert to Marina (Slips)
- Wharf for fresh fish
- Restaurants
- City must retain ownership

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GROUP #2 - RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Mooring Fields

Vinoy Basin

- Has restrooms - needs improvements
- Needs dinghy docks
- Has transportation available
- Promote tourism

Big Bayou

- Boat ramp
- May help control “uncontrolled anchoring”

Little Bayou

2. Port Usage/Development

- Shops, restaurant
- Establish District
- More slips up to 65'

3. Break Water

- Vinoy
- Central Basin
- Harborage

4. Boat Ramps

- Gandy Blvd. - great area
- Snug Harbor Island

5. Charge for New Amenities/Facilities

6. Inoperable Boats - Derelict Boats/Abandoned in Marina

- Boat must be moved every XXXX days
- No transfer of slip unless it meets “initial” requirements
- Establish and enforce seaworthiness
- Don't enhance facilities
- Analysis/review of boats
- Liability insurance required

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GROUP #3 - RECOMMENDATIONS

1. More Boat Slips
 - “Cruise Ship” Port of St. Pete - Utilize docks/slips and commercial fishing boats (Port made \$\$ once in history - WWII)
2. Mooring Field - Permanent and Transient
 - Vinoy - Transient only - not permanent boats; dinghy dock near public restrooms
 - Air control tower area
 - Big Bayou
 - Riviera Bay (too shallow)
 - Hurricane Hole
3. Boat Ramps - Improve (ramp long enough to stop backwash)
 - Maximo Park (ramps, parking)
 - Gandy (Kayak/Canoe - end of 4th Street)
4. Encourage City to market our boating area
 - Boating-friendly enhancement
5. City Marina require boat insurance for boat’s inclusion
6. Establish a way to “opt out” of boat ownership (recycle)
 - Seniors own boats - no great value - how disposal?
7. “Sunshine City”
 - City has a boating heritage - flaunt it
 - Encourage a boating-friendly atmosphere
8. City Marina
 - If insurance were required - would some unused boats be removed
 - Seniors own boats - no great value - how disposal?

Additional comments for Group #3 received by email from Roy O’Neil (576-8754):

“The City has a check-off-list (I hope) that all employees use when developing or reviewing plans to create or improve something in the city. This would apply to real estate (condo, apartments, homes) as well as infrastructure (roads, bridges, trails). There should be a bullet on this check-off-list that reads “How will this plan effect St. Pete boaters?” Will it limit or expand their access to the water? In all cases that answer should be EXPAND access! Maybe even a citizen review board? There is one for everything else - except the boater!”

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GROUP #4 - RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Mooring fields are a good thing
 - Locations
 - a. Vinoy Bain
 - b. Clam Bayou (N.E. Boca Ciega)
 - c. Outside Vinoy seawall for mega yachts
 - d. West of O'Neill's Marina
 - e. Bayboro
 - f. Big Bayou

2. Facilities
 - a. Pump-out barge
 - b. Taxi (electric boat)
 - c. Admin.
 - d. Trash pick-up

3. More Boat Ramps

4. Additional High & Dry Facilities

5. Working Waterfront Facilities (Boat Yards)
 - Save existing facilities with tax incentives

6. Provide Adequate Marine Patrol Support

(Walt to administer Mooring Fields in his spare time)

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GROUP #5 - RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggestions: city to “take the bull by the horns” and be proactive with regard to abandoned/derelict boats.

Possible solutions:

1. An anchoring fee with decal (annual)
2. City Council and/or Police Task Force coming up with specific criteria of abandoned/derelict boats by City standards
3. State-funded amnesty program for owners of abandoned/derelict boats
4. Boating Nuisance Review Board - appointed by Mayor
5. Last documented owner responsible for boat
6. Tax structure provide monies for disposal of boats
7. Managed mooring fields which capture entire anchoring footprint (i.e., Big Bayou, Boca Ciega, etc.)
8. Breakwater from Vinoy Basin to north, to Albert Whitted Airport to the south, with a Mooring Field inside
9. Promote St. Pete as a boating destination
10. Port - Marina; Big boat destination

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GROUP #6 - RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Derelict Vessels

- Tighten definitions
- Enforce penalties
- Amnesty program to share cost of boat removal and disposal
- Organized method for boat disposal
- Utilize abandoned boats in building artificial reefs or solid waste

1. Mooring Fields

- Harbor float 60 x 60
- Waterfront developer impact fees to replace lost public slips/access (2 to 1)
- Protect existing waterfront access for residents
- Provide facilities for people on moorings, dinghy docks, pump-out
- Scout possible locations for moorings
- Multiple mooring fields around Pinellas County

2. Boat Ramps

- Parking, parking and more parking!!
- Coin operated boat wash
- Developers' impact fees could help fund these costs
- Florida Boater Improvement Funds (at least a portion) should be shared with City of St. Petersburg for boat ramp maintenance and improvements

3. Water Access

- We do not want local municipalities legislating regulations on rights of navigation
- Uniform state legislation on model anchoring laws
- Change attitudes to be more "boater-friendly" encouraging boater business and boater dollars to be spent
- Expand Bayboro Harbor into public docking or mooring field rather than servicing very large ships
- When Harborage's lease with the City expires in 7 years, City should take it back for City boating facilities
- Maintain channel depths constructing breakwater from Coffee Pot Bayou to Spa Beach

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GROUP #7 - RECOMMENDATIONS

Derelict Vessels - Need Proactive Early Contact

1. Must be able to contact
 - Registration enforced
 - Sale valid only when state is notified
 - Automate enforcement
 - Revoke driver's license
2. Resolve the confusion over HB #7175
3. Cities and County must allocate \$ for vessel removal use
4. Private removal companies
5. Any effort to regulate anchorage must include expansion of anchorage
 - Build mooring fields
 - Require developers to replace anchorage if they plan to take public anchorage for private ownership
6. For St. Pete Merchants
 - Install dinghy dock in Vinoy Basin
 - New slips with 400 boats on wait list - why not build slips in the Port?
7. Establish a St. Pete Maritime Museum
 - Pinellas County was home to Morgan, Irwin, Island Packet CSYBombay, Dutchcraft, Clark Mills, Helsen, Lippincott, Mystic South
 - Tall Ship for St. Pete
8. #327.6 Establishes Mooring Fields as the only responsible way to regulate water.