

Marine Facilities Coordinator (MFC) Quarterly Staff Report

Ben Sadler, Marine Facilities Coordinator / Harbormaster

Monday, December 11th, 2021

My last quarterly report was at the July 19th General Meeting, and my next report will be at the December 13th General Meeting.

General Day to Day

As in all my quarterly reports, I will be separating the Harbormaster position from the MFC portion for clarity on specific tasks performed.

Harbormaster

In my role as harbormaster, I have spent my time monitoring activities at the Dock and Beach. This summer we averaged 27 boats moored out front with a high of 31 in July. Also, this summer a new fire pit was created between the parking area on the east side of the dock and the beach. This area quickly became a place to leave beer cans and bottles, trash and cigarette butts. I did my best to keep it clean but the effects of having a fire pit in this prime location is hard to hide. One vehicle drove around the barriers to the west side of the beach and dropped a load of logs at the fire pit there. This summer I only saw four tents at the beach. Two on City property and two on DeBoer property. I removed 854#'s of trash and 208#'s of recyclables from the beach receptacles so far this year. I did reach out to certain community members about their using these receptacles for their personal waste and saw less dumping at this location as a result. Two vessels sank off the dock this summer. Both were owned by charter companies, and one was recovered by the owner, and one was not located. For the most part maintenance of the floats was kept to a minimum because of high lumber prices. Someone broke into the fee box at the bottom of the ramp this summer. We are currently looking into installing a camera to help with the problems we see every season down on the floats. We also had vessels tossed from the skiff floats during the storm at the beginning of this month.

Marine Facilities Coordinator

In my role as MFC I was able to obtain a new shed for the City's Marine Facilities equipment and get it installed in the boat harbor. I was also able to secure funding to have electricity installed and have been working to get a tsunami siren installed (postponed by the contractor) before the end of the year. I have also been working with other departments to get everything moved out of the old Po (storage building). I was also able to get the scoping document for the Gustavus Fish Waste Disposal Station approved. I am currently working on a cost projection for the steel float maintenance schedule and hope to have something to present to the Council by early next year. I have been working with the Council and City Administrator to formulate a plan to address the "feeding sea lions" problem we currently have. (The second vessel to sink out front this year was believed to have sunk because of a sea lion being on the boat.)

I was also able to attend an Emergency Trauma Tech (ETT) course this summer and am now a certified ETT. Hopefully I will never have to use any of the skills I learned but the community is now a little safer if they happen to need emergency assistance and I am in the area. I have been in continuous conversation with the State about small changes and things we can do to make our Dock and Float system safer and more user friendly. I have also been working with the City Administrator and the Vice Mayor to rewrite Title 8 in an attempt to make it more specific to Gustavus.

This summer I assembled the new shed for the library and was also able to do maintenance work for other departments with direction from the Mayor and City Administrator.

Completed by BPS 10/03/2021