



**WATERFRONT ORGANIZATIONS OF OREGON October 4, 2023\_Noon**  
WOOO Board Zoom / Live at Portland Yacht Club (PYC) / Hybrid Meeting  
Minutes – **APPROVED**

<https://waterfrontoregon.com/>

**Call to Order / Ron Schmidt**

Thanks and recognition of PYC for their Support - Asia Von Sonn  
Thanks to PYC Daniel Wilkins, and Kelly Butler Holtz for IT assistance.

**WOOO 2023 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS Board Roll Call**

Secretary, Maura Hayes conducted Roll Call—QUORUM PRESENT (minimum: 4 needed)

**PRESIDENT**

X Ron Schmidt (The Planning Group / Oarboard)

**VICE PRESIDENT**

X Kelly Butler Holtz (Oregon Yacht Club)

**SECRETARY**

X Maura Hayes (Macadam Bay Moorage)

**TREASURER**

X Stan Tonneson (Rocky Point Marina)

**TECHNOLOGY OFFICER**

Bryrick Shillam (Portland Realty Services, LLC)

Kellyn Gorman (Bridgeton Harbour)

**DIRECTORS**

X Doug Romjue (CRYA)

X Harry Braunstein (Portland Yacht Club)

Marlon Bump (Riverplace Harbormaster)

X Mark McCuddy (McCuddy's Marinas)

X Pascal Le Guilly (Schooner Creek Boat Works)

X Justin Tuetsch (Columbia Crossings, Inc.)

X Don Gire (Tomahawk Destiny)

Kellyn Gorman (Bridgeton Harbour)

X Randy Phillips (Columbia River Yacht Club)

## **Welcome & Introductions / Ron Schmidt**

Stan Tonneson and Don Gire moved to approve the September meeting minutes. September Meeting Minutes were approved by the Board.

## **Treasurer's Report / Stan Tonneson:**

Previous Balance as of last meeting: \$13,938

Current Balance: \$14,045

Stan will be absent at the next WOOO meeting due to his role on the governor's ADVAC Task Force advisory committee.

## **Reminders**

Today and future WOOO Best Practices Leader's Group has been moved to the 11 AM slot, meeting before the monthly WOOO Board Meeting.

Now is your Last Chance to get on WOOO Board - Nominations on Weds for 11.4 Elections.

Rain Tax II tentatively being presented to City Council by BES 10/18 - Please be there!

## **NEWS AND INFO FROM OUR GOVERNMENTAL ALLIES**

**Chris Castelli DSL** submitted a written report.

Stan Tonneson is on the ADVAC Task Force for 3 months.

The derelict boat, *Tiffany*, boat in Rainer, WA has been relocated for disposal.

Jacob Taylor has left the DSL. The ADVAC Task Force is searching for a new moderator.

Justin Russell, our rep for DSL is currently on parental leave.

Ron: DSL and Port of Portland have an agreement re: West Hayden Island ownership. DSL will own south shore of West Hayden Island. They hope it will be sold for public use.

### **MCSO Sergeant Steve Dangler:**

He reported on vessel removals. 732 boat inspections were done on the Willamette River. The Vessel Recovery Program has been a success with 66 vessels turned in and destroyed. An additional 35 boats await paperwork. The program ends later this month. It has cleared a lot of abandoned, derelict vessels from our waterways.

### **Kelly Butler Holtz – Riverfront Community Advisory Committee/ BDS**

6 committee members have 3 year terms, they need new members to represent the river community, especially from the floating home construction/trades, and the BIPOC community.

### **Jane Gire-Social Committee**

**Annual Dinner is Saturday, November 4th** Mark Your Calendar!

Kelly has created invitations to post to our communities.

Our Annual Dinner keynote speaker will be retiring Sergeant Steve Dangler presenting the history of River Patrol. The Harbor Master can arrange a water spray by the fireboat, if requested.

Ron read the proposed list of 2024 Board Member offices for the Nov vote.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Legislative Update**

Stan Tonneson

#### **Stormwater Committee**

Tim Gorman Chair

“Rain Tax II”

General Discussion

Testimony Needed for Meetings with City Hall on 10.18

Need large member turn-out to fill City Council Chambers

Legal Counsel and Funding

Tim: City Council is holding the meeting on October 18 for the ordinance that they are voting on. Defeat or delay the ordinance! We need a big turnout. The past meetings have not been collaborative enough.

BES Meeting, City Hall

Mingus Mapps will meet with a small group this Friday.

Legal Council is needed, we will pursue after the Oct 18 meeting.

They have hired a media consultant who is coordinating the messaging language. They want moorage, marina owners, and home owners to write to Aaron Abrams at the BES. Bullet talking points will be refined.

Marin Colbert (Tyee) at Schwabe Consulting will be temporary counsel prior to the meeting.

Two separate Legal Accounts have been established for legal funds and a Go Fund Me Campaign.

One by Sundance, another one is No Sneaky Rain Task LLC for more temporary funding.

WOOO Bylaws allow for certain political contributions.

WOOO will raise funds through its constituents when the plan is refined.

One fund is tax-deductible, one is not.

A discussion ensued on the types of corporate entities and their potential tax deductibility.

Stan: 501c "may" be deductible if it is a business-related expense.

If we need to go the legal route, it will likely cost \$100,000+.

Can we each commit to 3-6 months of our (projected rainwater) fees to fight this legally?

Donate to:

Riverview Community Bank Account 9100219556

Stop Sneaky Rain Tax LLC.

This will help fund the communication campaign, etc.

Justin Tuetsch: Asked about plausibility for fighting this.

Ron: It is the third time they have tried to add this Rain Tax, we hope to fight it again.

We will only fight it if we feel we have a good chance at succeeding. The city has refined their process over time. They really want to get it passed. So far, they are fronting their campaign through their community communication person.

Why should others care about this? They have redefined impervious surfaces in a manner as a category for services, even if no service is actually provided. They may use the same principles for land owners re: their decks, etc.

Ron: No service is provided, thus it is a tax. Even our parking areas have their own stormwater catchment, so we are paying for that service, which we do not use. They say that we benefit from their flood control! Their position is quite weak.

During the City Council meeting only 3 minute presentations will be allowed, but a link is provided at 9 to submit a WOOO document that identifies all of our agendas. One page or less is more desirable. Dan Yates of the Portland Spirit will deliver the messaging.

The City of Portland doesn't want anything on the water.

Ron: Portland Tribune has covered every inequity that is represented on this topic from our original battle. The city says this is "revenue-neutral".

Public waterways are controlled by the federal and state governments, not the city, so they are not entitled to this revenue stream.

Paula \_\_ , Tomahawk: The next step will be an additional tax, this is just a first step.

Even *delaying* this tax is financially worthwhile!

Media members want to address this issue, they are watching the developments, so we need to work this effectively.

George Donnerberg: Stormwater fees vs Tax: the semantics of this question indicates that the city does not have the authority to levy a tax without voter approval. They need the revenue but it needs to be redistributed equitably.

To counter city assertions that floating homes contaminate the waters, can we examine/submit previous dredge soil sample reports to see/prove whether the moorages are contaminating the sediments?

Ron: Can we separate the roofs from the account owner (ie. Renter)? As a landlord, there are awkward renter/landlord issues. Must landlords process all of the pervious services? Can these costs be added to renters under the city's strict rental rules?

A likely future scenario might be moving from impervious surfaces to everything?

Multiple accounts; floating homes are separately owned properties but we all share the utility bills. This complicates things immensely.

The city uses Google Maps to add up all the over-water surfaces.

A city service bill should be transparent about what is being billed for what purpose.

A Call for funding. Who can commit?

WOOO can make a financial commitment after this upcoming meeting.

A suggestion was made to create a Press Release for Moorage Boards stating the case needs, soliciting funds, listing deadlines and mobilizing the masses.

Stan Tonneson listed the attorneys that they have interviewed thus far to field a case. They estimate that it will cost about \$100,000 to make it through the trial. (Attorney DiLorenzo estimate)

Others think it should wait until after the meeting.

BES has invited everyone to see what the rate survey would look like for your moorage. That counts as outreach.

Various estimates were discussed for potential floats.

When we request funding, state all the basics, the attorney info, case approach. Is there a refund mechanism if the funds are unspent?

Perhaps 3-6 months savings might be a good financial contribution suggestion?

\$5000 a piece? \$100 a house for 4 months—since that is a likely amount that the tax will be?

Ryan (media consultant) has put in a lot of hours working on the messaging. He has proposed \$65,000 as a target amount for PR and some legal assistance. This should motivate the troops.

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:08 pm**

**Next Board Meeting first Wednesday of the Month 11.1.2023**

**Minutes submitted by Maura Hayes, WOOO Secretary**