

Despite complaint, docks remain same in Commercial Bay

White Bear Lake's water level April 19 was 921.93 feet; almost 10 inches above last year.

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EDITOR

WHITE BEAR LAKE — Permits were finally granted for the municipal marina, just in time to place the order for new floating docks.

The White Bear Lake Conservation District had tabled approval of the city's dock layout until the April 19 meeting to gather more information. Among the concerns was the exact number of slips requested, as it does not conform with city code regarding density of one slip per four feet of adjacent shoreline; the exact length from shore to the end of each dock and the possibility of shrinking the width of the layout, which extends to lot lines.

City Engineer Mark Burch answered the concerns, saying that the City Council granted a conditional use permit to the marina property in 1988 for a 160-slip marina. The permit remains valid today, Burch said, and into the future. He added that the city also constructed a public parking ramp with 40 stalls allocated to the marina.

The dock system will take a year to complete, at a cost of \$529,000, by MINNCOR Industries of Bayport, which

uses prison inmates for its labor force. In order to have the docks ready for installation in the spring of 2017, the city needs to place the order this month.

The new dock system will be the same width as the existing and the same used for the past 30 years.

Boat traffic, Burch said, will not impact adjacent marinas. "Both neighbors, the VFW and Pete Sampair (owner of property Acqua leases), are happy with the city's docks," he told the board.

Docks of White Bear Lake owner, Brian McGoldrick, complained to the district about what he believes is a lack of fairness in Commercial Bay.

"I came to the board last month because traffic near our marina costs me 60 boat slips. It's a contentious situation," he said. "Commercial Bay is about money. Look at these not as boat slips but \$2,400 bills."

The marina owner was upset that the city can place its docks right to the edge of its property, but he cannot. McGoldrick also feels the "ordinances are getting pretty loose," when it comes to the number of slips per property. "The number of boat slips is growing around us. The city ordinance is bunk," he said.

The chairman of the lake utilization committee, which dispenses dock permits, saw no reason to change

the city's dock configuration.

"The ordinance says objects going into the lake should not be within 10 feet of each other," noted Mark Ganz. "But there are many cases on the lake where it has been allotted if neighbors are willing to come together. Both the VFW and Sampair said they're happy with things the way they are so it seems to be no issue. It's been like that for 30 years. My personal belief is it's fine the way it is."

In other business, the board:

- Approved the treasurer's report. Board Chairman Jane Harper noted the "healthy reserve" of \$171,000 in the district's checking and savings account, adding it was there "in case we have to spend more on Eurasian water milfoil treatment."

- Approved a permit for the Redpath waterski course. The slalom course will be moved at least twice a month.

- Heard comments from Harper regarding the augmentation bill. "There has been a lull," she said. "If it's not in the bonding bill, we won't need money for our fiscal agent role."