

Marine Access Committee Annual Report to Council

December 2017

While the Marine Access Committee (MAC) uses a multi-year plan for setting out tasks and projects, our Annual Report to Council focuses on what we have accomplished during the previous calendar year.

2017 Highlights

- Waterfront Park and dock recommendations
- Viewing platform recommendations
- 2nd Annual Island Beach Cleanup
- 9 bench placements
- Advocacy on behalf of Live-Aboards and Kitsap Water Trail users
- Protection of public access to the shore and navigable waters.

We also continue smoothly combining the two city committees, Road Ends and Harbor Commission, into a well-functioning group of MAC members. MAC includes representatives from the rowing, sailing, power boating, canoe & kayaking and trailer boating communities, and from each Island harbor.

2017 Work Plan Progress

In 2017, MAC focused on the four work streams delineated in our Work Plan:

1. Infrastructure Projects
2. Education, Outreach and Liaison
3. Framework Management
4. Stewardship

I. Infrastructure Projects

City Dock & Waterfront Park Projects Support

MAC continued to provide input to Dock Project Manager Mark Epstein and to liaise with Harbor Master Tami Allen in meeting the needs of the City's dock and boat ramp users. We are especially pleased that our recommended wheelchair accessible pathway has been provided through Waterfront Park to the dock area.

Capital Project: Harbor Viewing Platform

MAC's recommendation that the City develop one or more viewing platforms near the WS Ferry terminal in cooperation with WSDOT was approved by City Administration and is proposed for approval by Council in the 2019 City Capital Improvement Plan.

Viewing Benches & Bike Racks

Benches – With the generous support of the Woodworkers Program at Bainbridge Artisan Resources Network (BARN) 9 benches were constructed with City funds and installed at various road end sites, such as Ocean Drive and Harborview Drive.

Bike Racks – The City supplied both a bench and a bike rack at the Manitou Beach Open Space. Together with the ADA parking spot at the site, this Open Space is a model for marine accessibility on which MAC hopes to build at many other public shore sites.

2. Education and Outreach

Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails Signs Program

As part of our ongoing work to promote the Bainbridge sites on the Kitsap Peninsula Water Trail (KPWT), MAC obtained signs from Evan Stoll of KPWT Association for Dock Street, Ocean Drive, Lytle Road and Fletcher Landing. The signs were installed by O&M.

Community Events and Outreach

MAC provides community input and support to activities associated with the marine environment within the City's boundaries.

This year, in coordination with the Harbormaster and Sustainable Bainbridge, Committee members participated in the Boaters' Fair and International Coastal Cleanup Day. The Boaters' Fair is an annual event during which we provided a map and information on public road ends, shoreline access and a Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails map.

The 2nd annual Bainbridge Coastal Cleanup Day involved months of planning and resulted in a total of 250 volunteers who used public parks and road ends to access beaches for cleanup.

Develop Contact with other groups and agencies

MAC continues to reach out to among others, the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum, Kitsap Peninsula Water Trails Association, and the Bainbridge Island Rowing Club.

3. Framework Management

Monitor Comprehensive Plan, Shoreline Master Program, and Development Proposals The Committee has offered guidance to the City on areas in the Comprehensive Plan and SMP that impact access to marine waters. Guidance has included a request to restore the percentage of allowable live aboard residents in marinas to 25% from the 10% inadvertently designated in the approved SMP. This work is ongoing as the General Amendment to the SMP is now working its way through the Planning Commission.

MAC submitted a proposal to the City to investigate and establish construction limit lines in order to protect navigation in Manzanita and Madison Bays and to review the existing limit line in Eagle Harbor.

The Committee also monitors shoreline development that may impact road ends or access to navigable waters, such as docks, piers, floats and buoys. Notification of such development currently depends on the vigilance of a committee member who monitors the “Proposed Land Use Actions” webpage announcements. The committee is working with the City to get earlier, systematic notification to the committee via the planning department of pre-permit applications involving navigable waters in order to comment in a timely manner. (Some comment periods extend for only two weeks that may fall between our monthly meetings.)

Review Shoreline Sign Content

As part of a review of existing signage in the vicinity of road ends, the Committee established communication with the BI Historical Society to get input for signage at important sites.

Work Plan

A Work Plan and list of prioritized projects for Council’s consideration during the biennial budget development process is an ongoing requirement of the Committee and has been completed for 2018/2019.

Social Media & Web-based Outreach

We are involved in an ongoing effort to provide updated photos and content of road end and community access information to the City’s Community Engagement Specialist.

We also provided feedback to the City regarding the GIS map of road ends and additional content such as harbor or cruising information.

4. Stewardship

Maintenance Projects (O&M)

MAC continues to identify and prioritize ongoing repair or maintenance of existing road end sites, signage and access. Signs and boundary markers were installed or replaced at several road ends and access sites, notably at Ocean Drive & Reitan Road. The Committee would like to thank the workers of the O&M Department for their prompt and accurate work at each of these sites.

Site Visits to All Marine Access and Road End sites

Annual visits allow us to update the list of amenities for inclusion on the City GIS map and to make note of repairs, signage needs or encroachments on public land.

Encroachment Prevention

MAC continues to actively work with City staff on encroachment issues in order to enforce state law on public access to shorelines (RCW 34.79.035). This is an area that often requires education of adjoining landowners, and potentially support from the City Attorney.

Harbor Stewards

Harbor Stewards, a volunteer arm of the Committee, are boaters and/or waterfront residents who take an active interest in the various harbors around the island, and are often first to notice something amiss: a sinking or derelict vessel, an unmoored boat or buoy, a boat in trouble. When necessary, Stewards alert the Harbormaster or take action themselves to assist. Stewards are located in Eagle Harbor, Blakely Harbor, Manzanita Bay, Madison Bay, Fletcher Bay and Point Monroe. The stewards are represented at each monthly meeting of the MAC and report to the committee on their activities. They actively participate in each of the Stewardship Projects below.

- Harbor Steward Recruitment – Additional Harbor Stewards were recruited at additional sites as needed.
- Monitor Navigational & Safety Issues - This year committee members reported on a boat fire in the ferry channel, explored navigational issues related to shoreline development, and submitted a letter from the Stewards requesting more Police surveillance in Eagle Harbor.
- Buoy Monitoring Program - MAC & Harbor Stewards continue to monitor private mooring buoys and report any issues to the Harbormaster.
- Emergency Flotilla – Recruitment of local boat owners and Yacht Clubs to sign up for the Emergency Flotilla. An ongoing issue regarding liability assignment on the sign-up form was raised by the Harbor Stewards and is being reviewed by the City.

Conclusion

MAC strives to promote and protect public access to and enjoyment of marine waters. Our meetings and activities are unfailingly supported by Roz Lassoﬀ. Morgan Smith, Mark Epstein, various City Attorneys and the staff of the Operations and Maintenance Department all make it possible for our recommendations to reach concrete form. We are also grateful for the advice and support of our Council Liaison, Kol Medina, and the many community members who support public access to our marine waters.

Frank Ostrander, Co-Chair

Elise Wright, Co-Chair

2016-17 Committee Members

John Brownlow
Fred Grimm
Tom Hudson
Frank Ostrander
Greg Spils
Elise Wright

2017-18 Committee Members

Paula Elliot
Fred Grimm
Peter Hill
Anthony Oddo
Frank Ostrander
Greg Spils
Elise Wright

Marine Access Committee Members, July 2017 - July 2018

Members are appointed by City Council to three year terms and limited to 3 consecutive terms. Appointments have been staggered so a balance of new and experienced members serve in any given year.

Paula Elliot has been a resident of Bainbridge Island since 2008, after many years of visiting. Retired academic librarian; formerly employed by Arts and Humanities Bainbridge; freelance editor and indexer. Active with the Bainbridge Island Land Trust, Bainbridge Performing Arts and The Amabile Choir. Married to Paul Brians, retired professor and active community photographer.

Fred Grimm An Island orthodontist until retirement in 2005, has been a resident since 1970. Community service activities include Bainbridge Kiwanis Club, Park District Commissioner through the 70's, BI School Board member through the 80's, Bainbridge Performing Arts (BPA) Board throughout the 90's, several years as a Harbor Steward and since 2015 a MAC member. Fred was also a member of the City's Health, Housing and Human Service Board throughout its existence and has been a current Board member of the Japanese Exclusion Memorial Board from its inception. Fred and his wife Willie live on the waterfront in Manzanita Bay, next to the Wood Avenue city road end, where he spends a lot of his time on the water.

Peter Hill joined the MAC in June of 2017 with the goal of helping our community become better connected to the waters around us. Peter has lived on the Island for fifteen years and is a Seattle lifer who grew up on the beaches of Three Tree Point in Burien. Peter has a BA in Accounting, is a Project Management Professional and has several decades of experience in IT and project management. Peter is an avid sailor who also enjoys fishing and kayaking.

Anthony Oddo is a relative newcomer to Bainbridge Island and the MAC, having relocated from Seattle last February and beginning his term in July. He was previously involved in road end restoration efforts in Seattle and is excited to be part of the MAC on Bainbridge. Anthony is also a competitive rower with the BI Rowing team and recently joined the Board of the Bainbridge-Ometepe Sister Islands Association.

Frank Ostrander (Co-Chair) has been a Bainbridge Island Harbor Commission/Marine Access Committee member since December 2014, an Island resident since 2012. Education: Rutgers University BA, MCRP, JD, Harvard University MPA. Former Oregon Assistant Attorney General. Retired U.S. Department of State Foreign Service Officer - overseas assignments in South Africa, Germany, Canada, Iraq and Bosnia as well as Washington D.C. assignments that included oceans environmental issues, trade negotiations and representing U.S. interests in United Nations technical agencies such as the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization. Retired Captain U.S. Navy Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps - specialized in international and operational law issues. Married to the former Bonnie Cole, four grown children and eight grandchildren.

Greg Spils has been a Bainbridge Island resident since 2002. Married with 2 children attending Woodward and BHS. Marine Access Committee member since 2013 (originally on Road Ends Committee). Education: Boston College BA. Peace Corps volunteer in Swaziland 1993-1996. Election Supervisor in Bosnia and Kosovo 1996, 1998, 2001. Work experience: various roles at Amazon.com 1997-2012, Rhapsody International 2014-2017, currently consulting.

Elise Wright (Co-Chair) has served on MAC since its creation. She has been sailing and boating the waters of Puget Sound since 1975, and was a member of the Harbor Commission prior to its combination with the Road Ends Committee. Preservation of public access to marine waters has been a priority since she was introduced to Puget Sound by two of the original Harbor Stewards, Bob and Rachel Smith. Elise and her husband John have been caretakers of the 1950 era wooden converted gillnetter SKAMOKAWA since 2005. Two adult sons.