

Harbor Commission remains mum on arbitration decision

July 3, 2023



The Crescent City Harbor District (CCHD) held its scheduled meeting, last Tuesday. Notably absent from the agenda was any mention or public discussion of the arbitrator's decision in favor of Fashion Blacksmith.

The Triplicate spoke from the public dais and asked three questions of commissioners:

- When do you plan to agendize either in a special meeting or regular meeting the \$ 2 million lawsuit decision against the Harbor?
- When do you plan to discuss the arbitrator's mandate to repair the CCHD building occupied by tenant Fashion by the September 15 deadline?
- When do you plan to discuss the mandate by arbitrators to dredge the inner harbor underneath the FB syncrolift, by October 31?

CCHD did not acknowledge any of the questions, though the item was again scheduled for closed session.

This item has been referred to closed session at least a dozen occasions but the CCHD has never reported out discussion or decisions by the public commissioners on this matter.

It was business as usual on an agenda filled with typical government business. Each of the votes were 5-0 with one exception. An amendment to the CCHD changing the bylaw that no commissioner may render his/her opinion on behalf of the commission without a statement of declaration separating the personal opinion from a commission position. The vote to pass was 4-0-1 with Commissioner Brian Stone deciding to abstain without declaring his reason to not participate on the vote. The commission also deferred any action on Tri-Agency participation.

Harbormaster Tim Petrick updated commissioners on the status to establish a Harbor police department. According to Petrick, the proposed police department would address persistent vandalism, theft and drug abuse on Harbor grounds. The costs for running a non-penal code department would be supported by grants.

The Harbormaster identified operational expenses at “several hundred thousand dollars “ for specialized training, equipment and vehicles. Currently, the Del Norte Sheriff Department is responsible for law enforcement within the harbor. Commissioners were reluctant to make any decisions on the proposed police department but agreed to continue to seek answers to some troubling questions, at a future meeting.

The CCHD meets again Tuesday, July 18, at 2 p.m. at the harbor office.