

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA WATERFRONT DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 20, 2022
To: Harbor Commission
From: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director
Subject: **Director's Report**

NEW HARBOR COMMISSIONER ORIENTATION

The New Year brings some new faces to the Harbor Commission. Waterfront Staff would like to welcome Seth Anderson and Michael Hanrahan as the newest members of the Harbor Commission. Additionally, staff would like to recognize the continued commitment from Commissioner John Stedman who has been reappointed for another 4-year term as a Harbor Commissioner.

The new Harbor Commissioners had a chance to meet with Waterfront staff and were provided a welcome binder with relevant information including:

- 2022 Meeting Schedule
- Harbor Commissioner Contact List
- Waterfront Department Organizational Chart
- Waterfront Department Staff Contact List
- Harbor Commission Resolution
- Brown Act Summary
- Robert's Rules of Order
- Sample Harbor Commission Agenda
- Current Sub-Committee Assignments

The Harbor Commission member binder will serve as a great reference tool. If any existing Harbor Commissioners would like a copy of the member binder please let staff know.

HIGHLIGHTING STEARNS WHARF 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Stearns Wharf is an amazing piece of Santa Barbara infrastructure with a long and colorful history. It is the oldest working wood wharf in California and was built in 1872 by John Peck Stearns. Amazingly, 2022 marks its 150th year of existence, which is a milestone that warrants recognition and celebration.

After its construction in 1872 Stearns Wharf became one of the primary change agents for the growth of Santa Barbara, serving major industries such as lumber, fishing, oil, and tourism. Prior to the wharf, Santa Barbara was difficult to reach and virtually cutoff from the outside world. For the first 100-years the wharf was privately owned and operated, and primarily served industries such as lumber, fishing, and oil.

Today, Stearns Wharf is maintained and operated by the City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department. In the early 1980's the City took ownership of the wharf and developed it into essentially what it is today. The Wharf is roughly 2,300 feet long and held up by over 2,000 wooden piles, which are driven into the seafloor. Everything including the wooden piles, deck-boards, utility systems, and buildings are maintained by Waterfront Staff.

Stearns Wharf today is primarily visitor and recreation serving with a number of businesses and restaurants. The wharf sees nearly 1-million visitors per year making it one of Santa Barbara's most visited landmarks.

Although the actual completion of construction occurred sometime in the fall of 1872, the Stearns Wharf Merchants Association and the Waterfront Department are hoping to celebrate the 150th anniversary throughout the year with a number of events. The Waterfront Department has pledged \$25,000 in matching funds to help support the anniversary celebration in partnership with the Stearns Wharf Merchant Association. Some of the planned festivities include:

- Wharf Wednesday's (1st Wednesday of Every Month)
- Fall 2022 Fireworks Celebration
- Stearns Wharf Fish Market
- Music and other festivities

We look forward to drawing attention to the historic Santa Barbara landmark and welcome everyone to come appreciate Stearns Wharf throughout 2022.

Prepared by: Mike Wiltshire, Waterfront Director