

WEfish Meeting Minutes 6/23/17

Mission of *WEfish*: to preserve the legacy and promote the value of commercial fishing in our families and community through promotion, education, outreach, and service.

- I. Order: Laura moved to call the meeting to order, Molly, 2nd.
- II. Attendance: Molly Bold, Marci Hollingsworth, Laura Roerich, , Sarah Beese, Jody Pope, Jennifer Custer, Greg Mueller, Shirley Urquhart, Sarah Hernandez, John Shaw, Andrea Towle, Holly Rydman.
- III. Approval of Minutes: Laura moved to approve, Holly 2nd.
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Weekend with The Fleet
 - i. As we reviewed the overall weekend, we all felt like it was a success. Friday was setup day, Saturday was our events/vendors and Sunday was the Blessing of the Fleet/Chowder feed. We had positive feedback from the Coast Guard and WDFW involvement. Merino's and the fillet stations were very popular. We had around 70 children come through to do our passport map stations. The map seemed to get the families around to see all the different activities WEfish had going on. We will start finding volunteers in January to make this event even bigger for next year.
 - ii. We had many suggestions to grow on for next year. It was suggested that we should have portable bathrooms around our venue and have someone sponsor signs to show where the bathrooms are located. A DJ/radio station could be on scene next year. Danny from the charter derby booth would be a great announcer too. A few other ideas were a tug-of-war, more food vendors, more activities inside the tent, face painting, alternative parking available, timing clearly stated for our events, life jackets available for the boat visits, and a place to sign up for passport maps. The vendors also suggested if we could split the events between Saturday and Sunday to bring in more customers for them.
 - iii. The Fisherpoets on Saturday evening ended up being a great event. We had a few guests suggest that it was too hard to hear inside the bar and there were lots of

distractions from those inside the bar who weren't paying attention. It was suggested for next year to extend the beer garden till the evening and have the Fisherpoets perform inside the tent on the Museum grounds. The luminaries would also be going on at this time and would be more of a draw for both events.

iii. Blessing of The Fleet turned out to be a wonderful event and was well attended. The Clam Chowder feed was a success and had a lot of positive feedback. For next year, we will ask the donut shop if they would supply our coffee, instead of Starbucks for the event. Jody suggested having the ceremony broadcasted on the radio, so the boats involved in the parade would know what is going on. The boat captains involved in the parade weren't given good instruction and were unaware of what to do this year. We will encourage all the boats to drop flowers next year. WEfish will be sending out thankyou's to all who participated. John also suggested that decorating the boats with more flags would be nice for upcoming years.

b. Billboard

i. The Billboard is up and looks great. Molly suggests placing some trees/shrubs around the sign to make it look even nicer.

c. Life Jacket Stations

i. All the life jacket lockers are built and there is one more that needs to be put in between floats 5 & 7. Darin Vandevour from South Beach EMS is donating more life jackets for the stations.

d. Fishermen's Memorial

i. Most everyone agrees, that we need a change with the Fishermen's Memorial. It isn't in a convenient place or a sidewalk for people to walk safely to view it. We want to continue honoring the old memorial but move forward with a new Fishermen's Memorial. John discussed partnering with the Museum to get started. We will be forming a volunteer committee involving Sarah, Jennifer, Molly, Andrea, and Shirley.

e. Emergency Committee

i. We will be tableing this to our next meeting.

f. Scholarships

i. McKenzie Ballo received our \$1000 and Mathew Hart received the \$200 scholarships. We had many more applicants this year. For next year, we need to have better criteria to go on for choosing the right candidate. The scholarship committee also needs to have paying members involved in the process.

V. New Business

a. Hosting Congressional & State Leaders

i. Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray will be coming to visit for a forum in August. Molly will have more info to come.

b. Coast Guard Appreciation Dinner

i. The dinner will be in October. Holly and Andrea will be leading this event.

c. Seafood Festival

i. The Seafood Festival is coming up September 2nd & 3rd. Last year we had a great turnout. Can we get enough volunteers to have a fish display and sell sweatshirts?

Laura adjourn, Molly 2nd.