

**Special Meeting of  
Milford Harbor Management Commission  
January 26, 2022  
Via Zoom**

Present: Ray Kirmaier, Bob Brennan, Nancy Bennett, Jim Donegan, Rich Preneta, Bruce Kuryla, Lee Henchman, Dora Kubek, John Nevin, Ray Vitali

Absent: Jim Beard, Ray Oliver, Joe Gilbert, Greg Harla

The purpose of our meeting was to review a tabled matter of a permit review of an application from the City to build a fishing pier at Gulf Beach on the south side of the old Gulf St. bridge.

Jim Donegan presented us with more information on the history of the permit request.

The project was first brought up for consideration in 2020 as the area needs attention:

1. To improve the upland area
2. To stabilize wall and protect shoreline. Sections of the wall are in bad shape with one corner shifted.
3. To restore public access for fishing

Mayor Blake, Public Works Director Saley and Jim Donegan met and the Mayor asked to bring in Race Consulting because of the concern with the flow of water from Gulf Pond. It was important to have coastal engineering expertise for this project.

In January of 2021 Finance approved \$650K in financing and bonding for the project.

In February of 2021 this project was added to the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

Race Consulting performed site visits, surveys and a topographical survey for the project and were provided with copies of the permits for the "new" Gulf St bridge which included the earlier flow studies. A major concern is what effect do these structures and abutments have on the continued shoaling issue at the mouth of the harbor. It was questioned whether a new flow study was needed and the answer was no.

Race concluded that cutting the slope back on the south side would have a negligible effect on the flow and the City didn't want to give up any land which would decrease the public access.

They had hoped to go with COP (Certificate of Permission) which would mean only a 90 day review period. After discussions with DEEP, they rejected our request to get this done through a COP and we now needed a full-blown permit. This is because any projection beyond existing conditions required a full permit.

At that point there was discussion about making a full bridge again but there are land issues on the north side and concerns about navigational impacts. There was also discussion about putting the pier on timber pilings rather than cantilevered but there were concerns about longevity of the pilings and also impacts to navigation.

So that led to the final plan which is the cantilevered platform shown on page 6 of the plans.

John Nevin questioned the material being used for the decking which will be some sort of timber.

Jim Donegan also pointed out that wherever possible, the existing stone would be reused which is not only a cost effective measure but aesthetically pleasing.

The commission was grateful for all of this explanation of the planning process for this project and after a motion by J. Nevin and second by N. Bennett, it was voted unanimously that this project was in keeping with the Harbor Management Plan.

Our meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM The motion was made by J. Nevin and seconded by R. Kirmaier.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Bennett  
Secretary