



St Paul Yacht Club

Board Of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, September 8., 2026, 7pm ~ 8:00 pm (or when business is concluded)

SPYC Clubhouse at 375 West Water Street, St. Paul / Zoom Dial in: [Google Meet](#)

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/rec-pvtw-jhp>

Or dial: (US) +1 304-981-5485 PIN: 533 011 671#

Board members present: Bill Tschohl, Bob Smekta, Jim Camery, Andy Ristrom, Fran Potvein, Brian Backes, Tom Marrone, Mike Gude, Janeice DeLisle, Bonnie Jean MacKay (Secretary),

Board members excused: Greg Jorgenson (Immediate Past Commodore)

Staff present: Mike Shimshock, SPYC Executive Director

Guests/Club members at large present: Barbara Haake, Brett Cummings

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Agenda**

This meeting's agenda was not posted on the SPYC website as the secretary only submitted it earlier in the day on the day of the meeting.

4. **Open Comments from the Floor** (Up to 3 minutes per member)
 - a. Brett Cummings expressed dismay at not being able to find the Board Meeting Agendas in advance of the meetings, and not being able to find the meeting minutes to review between meetings despite a standard place that they should be posted on the SPYC website.
 - i. The secretary acknowledged his complaint and frustration and took responsibility for the failure. We will see whether performance improves over the remainder of her term as Board Secretary.
 - ii. No official reprimand was issued.

5. **Consent Agenda:**

a. **Flag Officer Reports**

- i. Commodore - Bill Tschohl
- ii. Vice-Commodore - Bob Smekta
- iii. Treasurer - Jim Camery
- iv. Secretary - Bonnie Jean MacKay

b. **Executive Director Report - Mike Shimshock**

Jim, Bill, and I (Mike) have been working to codify the somewhat nebulous slip cover and dockbox policy, and we have put together a document for approval at tonight's meeting. The document makes no real changes to how the policy has been enforced previously; it simply creates an actual policy we can fall back on. The highlights are:

- Slip covers/frames/dockboxes/dock wheels are personal property of slip holders
- The marina can enforce safety and appearance standards
- Sets real guidelines for abandonment and delinquent account enforcement



The policy document will be available via the SPYC Website. Check with Mike if you wish to read it and are having difficulty finding it.

c. Committee Reports

- d. Clubhouse & Amenities - Brian Backes reported that the committee had met. No one showed beyond the chair and his wife, so the meeting was adjourned within 5 minutes.
- e. Finance - ??
- f. Marketing & Membership - NOTHING
- g. Operations
No meeting this month.
Discussion included O'Neill Electric contract summary - what we need to know:
 - They are inspecting all SPYC electrical infrastructure belonging to and serving the Yacht Club annually for 3 years.
 - They replaced all items that were not up to code or standards this past year.
 - This year's inspection is in progress.
 - Mike Shimshock replaced a burnt outlet in Pedestal 217 in early September and corrected a mud dauber-caused issue in pedestal 216 on the same date. The mud dauber home inside pedestal 216 was immense and caused the neutral connection to be compromised for all 3 outlets in that pedestal. The boat plugged into that pedestal lost electric power in a puzzling way. All was corrected by Mike Shimshock after bringing the concern and the initial finding to the attention of the Office and Yard Crew.
- h. Social - Upcoming events:
 - September 19 6p - steak fry, \$10
 - October 2 6p - TGIF Halloween party
- i. Vision & Strategic Planning -
No Meeting this month.

10. Old Business

- a. **Slipcovers in the Upper Harbor:** See Exec. Director Reports above. Questions can be directed to Mike Shimshock in the SPYC office.
- b. **ByLaws revisions permit formation of an Elections Committee:**
 - i. Bill and Strategic planning team needs help in getting Bylaws evaluated and revisions written up.
- c. **Topic: Facebook community rules**
Commodore presented new Facebook conduct rules for discussion. Motion by Mike/Andy to adopt proposed policy. Passed unanimously in August 2026.
Question: Where are these rules to be found - how shared?
 - i. Mike will link the Facebook Official SPYC page management rules to the SPYC website.

11. New Business

Topic: Dock Security, Guests, Transients & Intruders:

- Discussion and impromptu updates from board members and executive director



- K C, Live-aboard near Gate G in the Lower Harbor (not present - so this was relayed by the secretary) said that two separate parties had come walking up the dock asking how to register and pay for a short term slip. They had arrived by boat and did not see any instructions. So they asked Kathy because they encountered her. So she wanted to know what the standard expectations were and how to respond.
Discussion:
 - Mike S: there will be signage posted on Gate H, inside and out with phone number to the main office, and website URL.
 - A suggestion was made to provide a link (QR code) that could take folks webbased form where incidental transients could pay for the time they are docked. No proposal to implement this was put forward.
 - The challenge would be to provide a gate code to enable incidental transients to get back in to their boats if they were to leave. A solution to this could be proposed.
- An incident spanning at least 2 weeks transpired at the downstream end of the Dahlgren Dock involving repeated trespassing onto an associate member's boat in his absence and culminating in his boat being moved into the yard. Another associate member's boat was vandalized by rocks thrown through the windshield and the front hatch. So after having served as a good neighbor, reporting the trespasser, the second boat was moved to a different marina.
- The trespasser was taken away 3 times by the police, but as of the September 8th Board meeting, he was reported to be watching from the shore again. Photos of the intruder, taken by the member whose boat was boarded, were shared with Lower Harbor residents for purpose of being able to recognize him.
- Marina response: Team of staff + commodore, per recommendations, to reduce the accessibility from the shore removed about 20 feet from the end of the Dahlgren Dock nearest the Railroad Bridge. This removed at least one slip. Then they reinforced Gate H by adding metal mesh to areas where people could reach an arm or a tool through to unlatch the gate from the inside. And they added the same along the bottom rail so it would be harder or impossible to place feet on the rail to maneuver around the gate and then climb onto the ramp.
- The address to Gate H is 5 Harriet Island Boulevard. Police are provided with a code to enter.
- Input invited from members-at-large who are present at the meeting
 - Barbara Haake relayed the incidents of finding strangers aboard her boat over the past few years and stated that it happens once or twice a year, but thus far has not resulted in any damage to her boat or injury to her person.
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- Determine whether any actions should be taken, or policies should be revisited
 - Current policies
 - Boaters anticipating a visit to the SPYC Marina can access the SPYC website and reserve a space in advance.
 - They can call the office during business hours and reserve a space in advance.
 - Current needs, and how well they are being met
 - For the most part we seem to be meeting the needs of transient boaters.
 - Do we need to codify planned responses to impromptu requests for transients arriving without prior arrangements outside office hours?
 - Incidental visiting boaters can tie off in any available slip or alongside the dock under the Wabasha Bridge in the Lower Harbor.

Motions Made: None

Made by:

Seconded by:

Status:

No closed session was conducted.

12. Adjournment

Motions Made: To Adjourn

Made by: Andy Ristrom

Seconded by: Fran Potvein

Status: Mtg Adjourned at 7:59 PM