St Paul Yacht Club
Board Of Directors Meeting
Tuesday, October 13. 2026, 7pm ~ 8:15 pm
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: Bill Tschohl (Commodore), Bob Smekta (Vice Commodore), Jim Camery (Treasurer), 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: Phlaurel Fish, Brett Cummings

Call to Order
Meeting was called to Order by the VIce Commodore
Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Agenda
Open Comments from the Floor (Up to 3 minutes per member)
Lower Harbor Live-aboard Slipholder with current payment plan in place to cover slip fees is requesting options for meeting the membership fee obligation to obtain voting member status in the club.

1. Mike (Exec Dir.)has latitude to work with interested parties to figure out payment and potential discount or credit options.
2. Mike says he can work out a payment plan for membership fee & board consensus is that the executive director is authorized to proceed with resolving the request:
    - If a slipholder has been paying non-member rates, can the difference between non-member rates already paid and member rates be applied as credit toward the member initiation fee?
    - Or can a discount be offered on the 1500 fee?
    - Slipholder inquiring about membership fees was informed that a membership application needs to be submitted with the $1500 fee* and 2 current voting members as sponsoring signatories.
    - The inquirer was invited to engage in with finance-committee director and Mike S. to work out an agreement.
3. This issue arose due to lax enforcement by previous management of a policy dictated in the ByLaws. The current director has been working with those affected to resolve the policy breach while maintaining the best possible relations with those involved. The specific policy referenced is that in order to live aboard one's boat in the winter, one must be a full voting member. The policy breach affected as many as 5 or 6 boat-owner/slipholders.

Commodore arrived and took over chairing the meeting (ca. 8:10 pm).

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Consent Agenda:

Flag Officer Reports

- Commodore - Bill Tschohl
  i. Bill thinks that we are in a solid position financially, and we may be able to look forward to investing in improvements.
  ii. Long term debt will be paid off next July:
  iii. We have piles of dock boards and not enough time to get them installed.
  iv. Weather was good this year: no flood.
- Vice-Commodore - Bob Smekta
  i. Taking down your own slip cover, they need to be down by tomorrow (Oct 14)
- Treasurer - Jim Camery
  i. Preliminary budget work has been done - some work. And rules say that the treasurer will present the budget.
  ii. It is figured out by Bill, JIm, and Mike S in collaboration.
  iii. No increase in slip and storage fees this year. And we should till have some money to do some investments.
  iv. 4900 feet of slips. Paid for.
  v. Can we keep the costs down? Can we remain our value-oriented mission?
  vi. Investment ideas:
    1. Cheap things to do that will have a large impact to make things more alluring to new people.
       a. Improve security; cameras?
       b. Ship stores
       c. HVAC for clubhouse.
       d. Potentially a marina manager role? Start considering in May or June - and to figure out whether we want someone in the office full time. Seasonal position like the yard staff.
  vii. Interjection: (Brett C.) Historically board has presented and approved the budget - member at large is asking will we be presenting a budget to the club members?Where is the 2026 budget? Brett is looking for a published version. How can we share it with members? Brett hasn't found one available yet to review. Where can it be found? In the past it waws
  viii. Last year we gave bonuses.
  ix. Electric meters…? **What did Jim say about these?**
  x. We don't have wifi:
  xi. We removed th**e last …?**
  xii. Cameras discussion is tabled.
  xiii. Summer on land storage rates may increase to encourage people or get their boats into the water.
  xiv. Projected New Member fees - projecting 4 new members
  xv. Bill went through the proposed budget draft commenting on various lines.

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xvi. Mike S. said he was told that we should expect higher rates for insurance???
xvii. Credit card fees flat - so we need not budget for an increase.
xviii. Social club house events - keeping flat.
xix. Harbor rent to the city is about $445,000
xx. $164,000 net operating expenses.
xxi. BIll T sent a preliminary budget to Board members by Email. (This one is not ready for publishing)
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- Secretary - Bonnie Jean MacKay
  i. Checked into the roster options - one thing we discovered is that checking the box in the contract form which says that the contract holder wishes to be included in a member roster/directory does not result in a checked box when the contract is submitted. The check mark just disappears and the club admin cannot see any checked boxes, which leaves the impression that no one wants to be included in a roster.
  Board consensus is that we should find an online address directory app that we can use and have all the members, slip-holders, etc. opt in to a directory listing by completing the form. I created a Google form in the past, but I would like an app that keeps a data sheet that can be accessed by an administrator AND renders a nicely formatted print and web-based directory that will be easily readable on a variety of mobile devices, and searchable.
  Online systems. Must look into roster online system
  ii. Bonnie Jean offered a suggestion for an amenities improvement to Lower Harbor at Gate G: A railing mounted cargo trolley to to help people move loads up and down the steps and ramp between the entrance gate and the ramp. Would want a platform large enough to transport bicycles, including heavy e-bikes and toolboxes, construction materials, etc.
  iii. Story of snake: Bonnie Jean told a quick anecdote about a snake that she discovered on her boat suggesting that it had possibly not just swam over for a brief visit, but had taken up residence in August, as the infestation of ants had disappeared - and the absence of ants was noticed in late August after ants had been quite numerous onboard in the spring of this year.

- **Executive Director Report - Mike Shimshock**
  i. Lawyer fees:
  ii. Fewer than 10 stragglers remain to have their boats lifted out of the water for winter storage in the yard as of Oct. 13 mtg date.
  iii. All props have been sold from derelict boats, engines, and other parts have been sold for a gain of about $10,000 to the club treasury.

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iv. Booth has been purchased for a SPYC presence at the annual boat show in Minneapolis. Last year it wasn't worth it, but the Operation Metro Surge could have interfered with attendance.
v. An idea was proposed in a strategic planning meeting or some other discussion to build and put in a floating restroom in the lower harbor for the people who keep only small craft (pontoon and motorboats) or visitors arriving from the river who tie off for a brief visit to use. Such an amenity could make the club more attractive to small craft owners.
vi. Club had 60 vacant slips this summer season.
    1. 10 or so small slips were on the vacant list.

- **Committee Reports**

    - Clubhouse & Amenities - Brian Backes rMarketing & Membership - NOTHING NEW
        1. What costs?? Can we budget something?
    - Operations (now it is 8 PM)
        1. Getting rid of landfill dirt.
        2. Short pipe by new dredge hook-up
        3. Everything has been dredged and barrels have all been discarded.
        4. Fran: Gate to yard - please check it! It closed on Fran's bumper and wouldn't re-open.
    - Social:
        1. Great steakfry in September; Tommy in charge and volunteers - over 20 were helping out! The camaraderie was great. It had rained all day, but the rain stopped just before the steakfry.
        2. Upcoming November event: Thanksgiving dinner open to all members & boaters. Victoria Fritz will be hosting.
    - Vision & Strategic Planning
        1. Still looking for funding and finding grant money.
        2. Bylaws editing has not been tackled.
        3. No Meeting was held in September.

10. Old Business

a. **ByLaws revisions permit formation of an Elections Committee**:
    i. Bill and Strategic planning team needs help in getting Bylaws evaluated and revisions written up.
b. **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.
    i. Mike will link the Facebook Official SPYC page management rules to the SPYC website.
    ii. MIke said it is linked to the SPYC website.
    iii. GET VERIFICATION AND LOCATION, THEN CONCLUDE THIS ITEM.

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c. Signage update: can we get an update on signage? Posted yet? Gate H.
   i. Printed in Blaine, Mike has to go to Blaine to get them.

11. New Business

a. NO NEW BUSINESS HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY BOARD MEMBERS.

12. Closed session to discuss staff compensation matters.

a. Motion discussion:

i. Details are in a separate confidential document accessible to the current Board of Directors only.

13. Motion to ADJOURN FROM CLOSED SESSION. (made, seconded, approved)

14. Adjournment

Motions Made: To Adjourn closed session and return to the general meeting.
Made by: Andrew
Seconded by: Fran
Status: Approved 8:15 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Action items summary:

- ☐ Check Electric Gate: Investigate the malfunction with the electric bumper on the truck that prevented automatic retraction. Resolve the issue so the mechanism functions correctly.
- ☐ [Bonnie Jean] Research Roster Systems: Research costs and features for online membership roster management systems. Determine a viable digital solution for member information collection.
- ☐ [Mike] Dispose of dredge Spoils: Identify a cost-effective disposal service for the soil at the club. Coordinate the removal during freezing weather to facilitate site improvements.
- ☐ [Mlke, Brian K] Put together a written Marina Shut-down protocol and procedures document as the work is being done this season.
- ☐ [The group] Discuss Camera Security: Discuss the feasibility and necessity of a camera security system at a future board meeting. Evaluate alternatives such as improved lighting or neighborhood watch diligence.

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- ☐ [The group] Evaluate Manager Role: Evaluate the option of hiring a seasonal office manager. Determine whether the board should proceed with hiring for this position starting in April or May.
- ☐ [Bonnie] Plan Harbor Planters: Source a welding artist and collaboratively design planters for the lower harbor docks. Present a finalized landscape proposal to the board for review. (by next spring)
- ☐ [Mike Shimshock] Retrieve Signs: Travel to the facility in Blaine to collect the newly printed signs for sections G and H.
- ☐ [Mike Shimshock] Provide Facebook Policy: Share the link or the stored location of the Facebook policy with the team.

Respectfully submitted,
BJ MacKay, Secretary — Date: October 26, 2026

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