

The Times Peninsula

Marina Boating Regulations Set

Regulations controlling boating on Marina Lagoon have been referred by the San Mateo City Council to the Park and Recreation Commission and are expected to be adopted at the council's March 7 meeting.

George K. Dress, longtime leader of the original boat operators and homeowners' association, said the regulations are good and should be enacted as quickly as possible.

Once approved, the rules and regulations will require that everyone launching a boat into the lagoon obtain a sticker.

The city's patrol boat will be equipped with a higher horsepower motor and will be clearly marked. The operators, members of the park and recreation department, will be empowered to issue citations to those who violate the law.

City Atty. Maurice Hamilton told the council that 18-year-olds are legally adults and may operate boats on the lagoon. However, anyone towing a skier must be at least 21.

John Lewis, president of Mariner's Island United Homeowners Association, urged the council to require that boat owners carry insurance.

Mayor John J. Murray was authorized to immediately send a letter to Assemblyman Dixon Arnett to introduce such legislation.

At present, the state licenses boats but does not require insurance, as it does on autos.

All agreed with Lewis that an unlicensed boat could knock down docks and cause damage to homes which have piers, leaving authorities no way to trace it.

Murray also expressed concern that Coast Guard regulations permit nighttime

use of waterways. That, he noted, could become a serious problem with a high-powered boat in operation.

The mayor also pointed out during discussion that recent approval of a subdivision at the 40th Avenue end of the lagoon required provision for a boat ramp, yet regulations limit use of that area to fishing only. A change will be made.

A reciprocal agreement will be sought with Foster City, which also has a boat ramp, enabling boaters from the neighboring city to travel to Marina Lagoon and operate there without a fee or sticker. Councilman Floyd E. Welch said the owners of boats launched in Foster City should be required to get a sticker allowing their use of Marina Lagoon.

Noting a cleanup operation is scheduled for March 5 starting at 10 a.m., Lewis offered the services of the homeowners' association. They were gladly accepted.

The city's Youth Advisory Council, headed by Penny Padgett, will be in charge. Those wishing to participate should contact the San Mateo Recreation Department.

In regard to regulations controlling construction of additional private ramps, Lewis was told by Public Works Director Robert Bezzant that while the city has control of the land, a permit must be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The corps controls construction intruding on waterways.

The corps does not want any more individual ramps in the lagoon, only group launching facilities, it was pointed out.