

Commercial Bike Licenses Will Be Held to 1,315, Same as Last Year

By Karen Gould

Commercial bicycle licenses will be held to 1,315 this year, the same as in 2005 and 2006, the Mackinac Island City Council ruled April 25. The decision was reached two weeks after a public hearing, at which additional licenses were sought by bicycle livery operators.

In another bicycle license matter, Council approved the transfer of 35 commercial licenses from LaChance Cottage to Harbour View Inn at the request Michael Bacon, who owns both. He purchased LaChance Cottage this winter.

Council amended the busi-

ness license for Shepler's Freight Service to include restrictions the city imposes to reduce perceived street congestion. The city had approved the licenses two weeks earlier, but forgot to add the restrictions. The are: From May 14, through September 7, no freight can be delivered to, or from the dock using the streets or sidewalks between 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. or from 12 midnight to 6:30 a.m. daily. A dray also cannot be used at those times to transport freight. All freight will be on [carts], which are attached to a horse-drawn dray and must be unloaded while connected to the dray. All perishable freight

must leave the dock before 10:30 a.m.

City attorney Tom Evashevski was directed to draft a letter to Isaac and Elaine Bunker denying their request to be reimbursed by the city for planning commission fees and property survey fees. The couple had sought 10 variances for the Harrisonville lot, which was denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals April 11.

Drawing most discussion were regulations for the use of Great Turtle Park, submitted in the form of an application by

Five Operators Seek 135 New Bicycle Licenses

The Mackinac Island City Council issued rental bicycle licenses at its Wednesday, April 25 meeting, after taking applications from rental operators at a hearing April 11. The city issued 1,315 commercial bicycle licenses last year.

A key consideration in awarding commercial bicycle licenses is to meeting the needs of the public based on where the demand is and coordinating that demand with traffic, advised City Attorney Tom Evashevski.

The licenses are not automatically transferable from one business to another, he said.

At the April 11 hearing, five operators asked the city for 135 new licenses.

Pat Grodecki, manager of Ryba's Bike Rentals, has 395 licenses and requested an additional 25 to be used at her rental lot in front of the Island House hotel.

Kim Kolatski, operations manager at Sunset Condominiums, is seeking 20 licenses for bikes at Stonecliffe. The company does not have any licenses.

"With our guests being 1.5 miles from town," she wrote, "there is a volume of them requesting to rent bicycles."

Mackinac Island Bike Shop owner Ira Green requested an additional 25 licenses for his business on Hoban Street. He now has 25. Mr. Green wrote that since his business moved to Hoban Street, it is unable to satisfy rental requests from guests staying at the Lake View Hotel and neighboring bed and breakfast establishments.

Mackinac Wheels owner James Fisher has 15 licenses and requested 10 to 15 more.

"The demand for more rental bikes at the end of the marina is great, due to the number of hotels and bed and breakfasts in the area," he stated in his letter. "We were unable to satisfy the demand on many occasions during the 2005 and 2006 seasons."

Orr Kids Shops, which has 100 licenses, asked for 50 more to accommodate heavy traffic in July and August.

Other rental bicycle license holders are Island Bicycle Rental, 300, Iroquois Hotel, 100, Lakeside Bikes, 100, Mission Point Resort, 100, Grand Hotel, 100, LaChance Cottage, 35, Small Point Bed and Breakfast, 20, and Inn at Stonecliffe, 25.

the city's Recreation Board. The application will serve as a reservation form. Council asked for revisions and will review the rules again at its next meeting.

The fee structure includes a \$300 deposit for use by 300 to 500 people, \$150 for 100 to 299 people, and no fee for one to 99 park users.

Alderman Jason St. Onge questioned the need for the reservation.

"Has there been a big problem out there?" he asked. "You can tell I'm not really wild about this."

Reserving the park would help avoid conflicts with groups making plans to use the facility at the same time, said Alderman Mike Hart, who chairs the board.

The Recreation Board adopted the temporary use permit a year ago, although it has not been approved by Council. When adopted, board members said the permit would help them know who was using the park and would help ensure it was kept in good condition.

Mr. St. Onge asked if the board had made provisions to prevent someone from renting the park for each holiday and then not use it, thereby preventing others from planning activities at the site. After additional discussion, Council suggested the permit include a clause that would make the deposit nonrefundable after a certain time.

The city will solicit bids to paint the north and west side of the Stuart House on Market Street.

"It's getting really bad," observed Mayor Margaret

Doud.

City engineer Dennis Dombroski and Mr. Evashevski were directed to continue negotiations with Nextel, which would like to install three cellular telephone antennas on the copula of the historic Court House on Market Street.

The Mackinac Island Community Foundation will hold its annual reception Tuesday, June 19, and Council waived the fee for use of Community Hall. The celebration usually takes place in August, although it has been moved up to provide a better opportunity to connect with the community, which is often busy in August with summer tourists, Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Blosswick later told the *Town Crier*. The event recognizes the accomplishments of the foundation through those who have offered support through programs and made financial contributions.

Pam Finkel was given approval to use Community Hall for yoga classes each Friday at 6 p.m. Council also agreed to waive the use fee for the hall.

Council issued 33 temporary motor vehicle permits to Belonga Plumbing of St. Ignace for various jobs on the Island. An additional 18 requests were approved for other business, although a permit was denied to Prestige Construction Group of Traverse City for work at Tom and Sally McGovern's Forest Ridge residence. No payment accompanied the permit and the city has not received a 2007 business license application from the company.

Crystal Hilborm Hired as Island School's Special Education Teacher



Mackinac Island's new special education teacher, Crystal Hilborm.

By Ryan Schlehuder

Crystal Hilborm of Midland was hired as Mackinac Island's special education teacher Monday, April 19.

Ms. Hilborm is originally from California. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and is a certified elementary teacher. She has earned a learning disorder endorsement and is working toward a master's degree in special education.

She was hired as a contracted employee with a salary of \$175 a day and receives no benefits. She fills a position that was vacated by Andrea McClintock over Christmas break.

"This is an audition for both of us," said School Superintendent Roger Schrock at the school board meeting April 19. "She will finish the rest of the school year and, if things go well, she may become full-time."

Before finding Ms. Hilborm, Dr. Schrock interviewed a few candidates and attended a recruitment fair at Northern Michigan University in Marquette. Sarah Doud, a certified special education teacher from St. Ignace, filled in three days a week the last couple of months. Karen Allen, the school's 4th-7th grade language and arts teacher and special education director, also filled in when needed.

Ms. Hilborm, who has a daughter in college and a son, will commute from St. Ignace every day.

In unfinished business remaining from the superintendent's review at the March meeting, Trustee Leanne Brodeur suggested creating a calendar specifically for school board issues to allow board members advance notice of certain issues, such as the deadline for renewing contracts. She also proposed input from school faculty and staff for the superintendent evaluations and suggested an annual assessment of the board's performance.

Other suggestions she made to the board were creating time during board meetings to recognize an accomplishment from a student or teacher, and allow for public comment at the end of the board's agenda so the audience can respond to board decisions.

The board took no action, and deferred discussion, but set no date for it.

School maintenance was discussed briefly, based on a Buildings and Ground Committee tour of the school grounds in April. The committee compiled a list of repairs or upgrades, including building repairs, tree care, and yard clean-up.

The vents in the gymnasium may need to be replaced, said Trustee Larry Rickley. Water has leaked through the vents, getting the floor wet, owing to snow packing up against them outside.

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