

The 2009 boating season is fast approaching. As I write this article Milwaukee just received between 10" to 15" of snow, depending upon your location in the county. Those of us outside of Milwaukee saw sun and blue skies. Hence, is boating season just around the corner? With this said please look at the web site, and read the article from Eric Lesch regarding the opening of McKinley Marina.

Your board has been very busy since the end of the boating season. We have fought very hard with the county in trying to keep the marina fees from a no increase or just a moderate increase. In this regards we were not successful, since we were blindsided at the last minute by Supervisor Mayo who submitted an amendment of 9% that was accepted by a majority of the Supervisor. We were successful in getting the Marina tenants active in writing to their supervisors. We have heard a lot from the county and other groups how we were able to get our members active, thanks. I have heard from a number of tenants that they are not going to pay the fee increases and are moving on to other marinas. I have heard that at this point in time the Marina will have vacancies!

We have had talks with the county, Sue Black, Chuck Ward, and Supervisor Gerald Broderick to discuss future needs of the marina and keeping the fees from increasing any further. Again we need to keep in contact with the Supervisors or Scott Walker about the dissatisfaction with the goods and services we receive from Milwaukee County and the fees that are paid for the slips at McKinley.

I have had talks with other groups or individuals regarding the Marina and getting our voices heard. As I have always said there is strength in numbers. I have talked with a group called "Friends of the Parks" and they also are concerned about the decrease in the goods and services that the county is giving to the parks. This relates to the Marina, Golf Course, Swimming Pools, Dog Parks, or just the parks in general. We are all fighting for a piece of the pie.

To let you know what your board is doing is still working on goals and needs for the coming year. We are planning the educational meeting for the end of March or early April. We will be having our McBoat cook out on June 13th and I hope to see you all at the McKinley Pavilion. The time will be on the web site! We will be looking at having signs put up for a neighborhood watch around the Marina. This will hopefully keep crime down in and around the Marina. We will have phone numbers published for contact with the Marina or Milwaukee County Sheriff's office.

Your board wants to hear from you and needs your help with increasing our membership. We are looking for members for the board to help with the committees. We are looking for new ideas and faces to keep Mcboat going strong. Please visit the Web Site for updates, www.mcboat.org

I just got an e-mail from Chuck Ward and they will be giving out two parking passes for the 4th of July events.

Thanks and please join McBoat

George Graubner-President McBoat