

Kuether-Steele, Molly

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 4:35 PM
To: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Subject: Fwd: Milwaukee River Bridge Opening Hearing

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Begin forwarded message:

From: "Claude J. Krawczyk" <Claude.Krawczyk@wilaw.com>
Date: April 24, 2018 at 4:28:46 PM CDT
To: 'Nancy Debbink' <ndebbink@gmail.com>
Cc: Tom Nackers <tomnackers@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Milwaukee River Bridge Opening Hearing

Thanks Nancy. I will also forward your comments to Ald. Bauman.

Claude J. Krawczyk
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From: Nancy Debbink [<mailto:ndebbink@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 10:46 AM
To: Claude J. Krawczyk
Cc: Tom Nackers
Subject: Re: Milwaukee River Bridge Opening Hearing

Hi Claude and Tom,

I wish I could attend tomorrow but I've already got a commitment at that time. I think Tom has made some great suggestions. We cannot fit under Wisconsin or Michigan bridges. The others going south are close, but we were able to fit as of last year. I wonder about this year as the water has been higher the last few years.

I have also experienced mixed communication from the bridge operators about what channel to use (12 or 16) and agree that some consistency would be best.

I've always thought that the noises made by bridges is part of the fun of living downtown. Some of the large party boats (especially late on Saturday night) can be festive if you're in the right mood or down right obnoxious if you aren't. Most of the time we experience it as a lively, vibrant part of our community.

Having designated times for the bridge to open could work, though it might create a jam-up in spots. Although this would be hard to communicate to everyone, perhaps having a schedule for weekdays and weekends could be devised. For example:

For WEEKDAYS

Morning until 12 noon--->as needed

12 noon until rush hour--->specific time interval

Rush hour (last year the bridges would not open until 5:30)--->no access

5:30-8 pm--->specific time interval

After 8 pm--->as needed

For WEEKENDS

Morning until 5:30 pm--->as needed

5:30 pm-8 pm--->specific time interval

After 8 pm--->as needed

I'm sure there are several issues I'm not thinking about and this obviously needs much discussion given that impact on boaters and non-boaters.

Thanks for attending tomorrow, Claude.

Nancy

On Mon, Apr 23, 2018 at 9:12 PM, Claude J. Krawczyk <Claude.Krawczyk@wilaw.com> wrote:

Thanks again for your thoughts Tom. I will pass them onto Ald. Bauman. If there is an opportunity for boaters and residents to get together to talk, it would be great for you to attend. Nancy too. Your perspective as boat owners, as well as a residents with riverside balconies, is very unique and probably allows you to see things more evenly and fairly than one or the other. I'm going to suggest on Wednesday that DNA would be willing to facilitate that kind of discussion.

Claude J. Krawczyk
Attorney at Law

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On Apr 23, 2018, at 6:20 PM, Tom Nackers <tomnackers@gmail.com> wrote:

Claude,
One other thing:

I presume that another complaint is boats sounding their horns to alert bridge tenders. Maybe a marine channel would help.
Marine channel 16 is often overused. All of the big party boats call the bridge tenders to alert them that they are heading out or in.
Often times we'll hear conversations that redirect boats to a different channel to get them off of 16, which is the Coast Guards main emergency channel.
Maybe the city and the US Coast Guard could agree on a channel specifically for smaller boats to call the bridge tenders, (that call would go to ALL of the tenders).
For boats like mine and Nancy's it would be great to know how long the waits are. Not sure it's practical, but there are obviously many channels that are seldom used.
If there are going to be intervals, it would be a lot better than boats hanging around the bridges and sounding their horns for openings.
Thanks,
tn

On Mon, Apr 23, 2018 at 5:46 PM, Claude J. Krawczyk
<Claude.Krawczyk@wilaw.com> wrote:
Excellent idea Tom. Thanks.

Claude J. Krawczyk
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On Apr 23, 2018, at 5:32 PM, Tom Nackers <tomnackers@gmail.com> wrote:

Claude, thanks for letting us know. Unfortunately I have a conflict that won't allow me to attend. Here, for the record, are some random thoughts:

A: I believe this has become an issue because of the high water levels last year. Many of the pontoon party boats, pedal tavern boats, etc. fit under the bridges until last year.

B. So with the sheer number of those smaller party boats, the bridges were opening and closing at very short intervals.

C. I believe that if the city had a rule that the bridges could open no more than every 15 minutes, let's say, that the operators of those pontoons could manage to adjust their schedules.

D. The big party boats are also an issue. The bridges often open well before those boats arrive. Maybe those companies could agree to make their departures coincide. Then the bridges could open every 15 minutes and allow two or three of them to go through.

As you know Claude, my boat fits under all the bridges. So I'm not really complaining about the openings, but I do think they could simply open them less often and let people wait a little bit longer. But . . . no one wants to wait a half an hour for a bridge either. I think 10 or 15 minute intervals would be reasonable.

Let me know if I can answer any other questions.
Tom Nackers

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 23, 2018, at 4:54 PM, Claude J. Krawczyk
<Claude.Krawczyk@wilaw.com> wrote:

Neighbors, you may be interested in an issue now being explored by the City of Milwaukee regarding the way that bridges over the Milwaukee River are opened and closed for boaters. The Common Council's Public Works Committee is holding a public hearing this Wednesday 4-25-18 @ 9:00 a.m. in Room 301B of City Hall to hear from neighbors, motorists and boaters who may have concerns about the frequency of and noise generated by bridge openings during summer boating season. I plan to attend.

<image001.jpg>

Claude J. Krawczyk

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