

Port Authority Timeline

1959

Feb 5 Port Authority Bill, penned by attorney Paul Jackson, was introduced in the Indiana State Legislature. Rep. Henry "Bud" Kintzele introduced the bill.

March 16 Port Authority Bill signed into law by Gov. Handley.

April 14 Michigan City passes Port Authority ordinance. Mayor Fedder appoints a board of directors consisting of Hartley Job, Mark Moorman, and John Kelley. Lakeland Township appointed Roger McKee and Paul Jackson a month earlier.

June 15 The Board conducts the first meeting of the Port Authority.

1960

March 18 The LaPorte Circuit Court hears arguments on the issue of jurisdiction in the harbor.

August Control of Harbor granted to the Port Authority.

October 21 John Kelley and Hartley Job submit plans for slips in the basin.

1961

April 24 Two positions added. Mayor appoints to Board Louis Cotts and Stanley Przybylinsky to fill them.

May 10 Fred Kreuger hired as the Port Authority Attorney.

1963

- January 21 Jaycees given permission to placed a car in the basin, taking chances on its sinking to raise funds.
- February 18 Attorney Mercellus Meyer replaces Attorney Kreuger
- April 1 Job introduces a funding idea that later becomes the basis for the Cumulative Channel Maintenance Fund.

1964

- January 6 Moorman, Brooks, and Kelley left the Board. They were replaced by Merle Swendson, Bernard "Bernie" Solberg, and Matt Goerg.
- January 20 The Board wrote the residency rules for allocating slips. They also began the process of bringing the office of the Harbormaster under the jurisdiction of the Port Authority.
- February 10 Ben Lisiecki hired as the first Harbormaster.
- April 20 John Carow is hired as the first maintenance personnel.

The office of the Harbormaster is transferred from the City Engineer's Office to The Port Authority.
- June 5 Jack Haycock hired as the Port Authority Police.
- July 6 Job elected Chair.

Haycock fired. Securing the marina becomes duty of MCPD and Coast Guard.

Adele Faroh, the Port Authority's first secretary, is hired.

1965

March 22 Wilson Oil Company is hired to build the gas docks.

June 21 The Board allows the overnight dockage for boat races and rendezvous.

July 12 Dock Committees are born, an advisory committee of boaters acting as liaison between Board and the boater.

Marina Dedication Ceremony.

September The first annual Dock Party held. Dock committee members selected.

1966

April Board decides to give half of the salt profits to the Historical Society to restore the old lighthouse.

May Land and basin construction is finished.

1968

October Michigan City Marina is listed in the Canadian Seaway and Ports 25th edition.

1969

April Howington hired as first nightwatchmen.

June PA joins forces with other boards to combat pollution in the harbor.

1970

January Paul Wilhelm is first charter boat captain to ask permission to operate in the harbor.

February PA and Chamber of Commerce coordinate to host annual Coho Seminar.

November Morton announces plans to end salt transport to Michigan City, citing increased costs.

Board is forced to decide if Trail Creek is to be deep water for commercial or for pleasure boating.

1971

January Boating season officially becomes 4/1 to 11/1.

March PA begins selling fishing licenses.

November Morton officially ends relationship with PA.

1973

January Board approves first salary for themselves of \$500 a year.

Sprague land gifted to PA.

March Partnership rules for slipholders established.

1974

March Sprague Marina opens.

Lawrence Novak is first to register for a permit for the launching ramp.

April Henry's sell land to PA. Construction of dry stack begins.

Sprague Municipal Marina dedicated.

December Marina bonds languish on dead bond market.

PA begins to establish rules for private marina construction in Trail Creek.

Board decides to close PA office on Sundays beginning 12/1.

1975

May 5 The Board views plans for a Vietnam Memorial to be built between the Yacht Club and the Coast Guard.

August 8 Sprague Dry Stack building construction begins.

1976

January 12 Bonds finally sold

April Special meeting with charter boat captains produces mutually agreed upon rules and regulations for operation in the marina are developed.

August Dock parties are ended.

September Harbormaster Maule announces the opening of the dry stack storage for winter.

December Sprague marina gets a security system.

1977

May A boat house built by Rogers High School students is delivered.

December Ron Halus suggests three-day boat show set in April; would need 60 slips for vendors. Board approved.

1978

January Chamber of Commerce joins in boat show plans.

March Board decides to dispense with boat show plans, because not enough time to notify slipholders of needed relocation.

July Job and Mayor to get study on the impact of boating on the community. To be done by university. To aid city's North End committee and the Port Authority.

October Boaters polled on boat show prospect.

The Board appoints an In Water Boat Show committee.

December Boat Show '79 is shelved due to negative boater response, and lack of sufficient planning by organizers.

1979

October Boat Show '80 is discussed.

November LEMMTA to sponsor Boat Show, slated for late August 1980.

1980

January Boat Show named The Michigan City In Water Boat Show.

April Fish cleaning station idea introduced.

June Indiana University begins impact study.

September Boat Show a huge success.

1981

May Port Authority office overcrowded. Plans begin to expand building.

August Job's impact study complete and distributed to public.
September Board officially bans jet skis and windsurfers in harbor for safety reasons.
December Port Authority is gifted the Cargill property.

1982

January NIPSCO to lease the Port Authority land next to the Cargill property.
June Skeptics Tour or See-it-for-yourself Tour is open to the public
Marina Picnic idea is born in a Dock committee meeting.
A dock Committee newsletter is started.
July Lease with NIPSCO complete. Area is to be a public fishing area.

1984

August Hoosier Slide Park (Cargill property) officially opens.

1985

January Michigan City to host '87 Pan Am Games Sailing event.
February Cargill deeded to DNR.
March Plans hatched for Bathhouse owned jointly with Park Department.
May Pan Am Games committee visit Washington Park Marina to observe Colombia Race.

1986

June Concrete traffic dividers are purchased to divert park from marina.
September Movie "Terror Squad" to be filmed in the Washington Park area.
November Boardmembers begin to realize that marina revenue losses will result from Pan Am Games participation.

1987

January Public outcry over Port Authority plans to expand on North Shore of Lake. DNR and EPA also against expansion.
February The Board puts North Shore expansion plans on hold.
March Board votes to close the marina on weekends for December through March.
April Charter Captains required to register with the Port Authority Office.

1988

October DNR building completed and dedicated.

1991

- February The Lighthouse is placed on the Historical Society register.
- August Harbormaster Rudisell revives the Dock Party in the form of a Boater Appreciation Party.
- November To fix deteriorating marina, the Board decides to refinance their bonds.

1992

- June 100th anniversary of the Colombia Boat Race.

1993

- January Atty. Meyer resigns.
- February Atty. Jeffrey Katz is hired as the new Port Authority Attorney.

1995

- February Due to loss of revenue, the Riverfest is gone, but the Cardboard boat race and Gizmo Regatta are continued.
- May The Park/ Port Authority Bathhouse is opened.

1996

- February The Board drafts a resolution to the Gaming Commission supporting the “upstream development”.
- May Blue Chip is coming to Trail Creek.
Cardboard Boat Race to become a part of Summerfest.
- September Presidential Visit. Harbormaster Rudisell is commended for his hospitality.

1997

- March The new marina is officially named Trail Creek Marina.
- June John Quinn and Sue Warnke join the board. Warnke is the first female member of the board.
Blue chip donates the peninsula in Trail Creek back to the Port Authority.

1998

- January The peninsula is named Sprague Pointe.
- December The Coho Club has 25th fishing tournament.
The Port Authority website is created.

1999

January New officers: Warnke, Treasurer.

2000

July Millenium Park is dedicated and turned over to Port Authority; is still owned by the Board of Works.

2001

December Picnic shelter to be built on 100 dock.

2002

March Bruce Manner unveils the new Port Authority newsletter.

July The Board will host a Boater Tent (Garage) Sale.

August Boat ride rides for the disabled.

2003

December Deal brokered to sell back Sprague Pointe to Blue Chip Casino.

Park Department to take Port Authority ramp fees at the gate, while the Port Authority will take Park fees at their entrance.

2004

November The death of founding members Hartley Job and Maurice Brooks are commemorated.

