ORDINANCE NO. 3385

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, amending Chapter 4.06 of the Kent City Code relating to the operation of personal watercraft on Lake Meridian.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENT, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 4.06.200 (C) of the Kent City code is hereby amended as follows:

Sec. 4.06.200. Lake Meridian - Motor powered vessel restrictions - water skiing and personal watercraft operation.

A. Generally. The following rules and regulations are adopted for the use of motor-powered vessels on Lake Meridian:

1. It is unlawful to use or operate any vessel powered by motor power on Lake Meridian, except that vessels with the following engines will be permitted:

   a. Water-cooled outboard engines of stock manufacture or stock manufactured inboard engines with outboard drive units (inboard/outboards) which vent all exhaust gases through the lower drive unit in conjunction with cooling water and/or vent at a point on the drive unit which is under water at all times; or watercooled direct drive inboard
engines equipped with a muffler or silencer of sufficient size and capacity, to effectively muffle and reduce noise similar to that of outboards and inboard/outboards. This includes both propeller and jet propulsion watercraft.

b. Air-cooled outboard or inboard engines of stock manufacture rated by the manufacturer at ten horsepower or less.

c. Electric fishing trolling motors.

2. No vessel shall operate in excess of eight miles per hour after 6:00 p.m. until the hour of 9:00 a.m. and not in excess of thirty-five miles per hour from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

3. Vessels exceeding speeds of eight miles per hour shall remain at least two hundred feet from the shoreline and one hundred feet from other vessels and swimmers and shall proceed around the lake in a counterclockwise direction.

4. All vessels operating on Lake Meridian shall carry United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices in good condition for each person in the vessel.

5. Motor-powered vessels operating after sundown shall be equipped with and have lit proper running lights.

6. The anchorage or moorage of unoccupied vessels is prohibited except when tied to a pier or dock with the permission of the owner of the pier or dock.

7. No remote controlled vessels powered by internal combustion engines shall operate before 9:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m.

8. Skin diving is prohibited except as necessary for public employees and their agents or other authorized personnel to perform their duties or in the case of an emergency.
B. *Waterskiing.* The following regulations apply to all water skiing activities as defined in RCW 88.12.010(22) including, but not limited to, being towed behind a vessel on skis, an aquaplane, kneeboard, tube, or similar device:

1. Water skiing on the lake at speeds up to and including eight miles per hour is permitted any time between dawn and dusk.

2. Water skiing on the lake at speeds over eight miles per hour shall be limited to the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

3. It is unlawful to water ski within three hundred feet of shore except as follows:
   a. from privately owned shoreline, water skiers may start at and return to shore by means of the most expeditious route;
   b. from City owned shoreline, water skiers may start or return (deep water start) from a distance of 200 feet or greater from shore but are prohibited from starting or stopping within 200 feet of shore. For purposes of this provision, City owned shoreline includes the swimming beach and boat launching areas of the park. For purposes of starting at and returning to shore as authorized herein, water skiers may temporarily exceed the speed limit of eight miles per hour.

4. All persons in vessels towing persons on water skis, tubes, surfboards, or similar contrivance shall remain seated at all times.

5. All operators of vessels having in tow or otherwise assisting a person on water skis, tubes, surfboards or similar contrivance shall comply with Section 4.06.060.

6. Regulations stated in this subsection shall not apply to vessels used in water ski tournaments, competitions, expositions, or trials therefore, which have been duly authorized by the City.

C. *Personal Watercraft.* In addition to RCW 88.12.145 adopted in Section 4.06.020, the following regulations shall apply to personal watercraft.
1. Personal Watercraft may be operated on the lake at speeds up to and including eight (8) miles per hour any day except during hours of darkness.

2. Personal Watercraft may be operated on the lake at speeds in excess of eight (8) miles per hour only as follows:
   a. between the hours of 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m.; and
   b. on even numbered days of the calendar throughout the year; and
   c. from and including May 16 through and including September 15th of any year.

SECTION 3. - Severability. If any one or more sections, subsections, or sentences of this Ordinance are held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Ordinance and the same shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. - Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from the time of its final approval and passage as provided by law.

JIM WHITE, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BRENDA JACOBER, CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ROGER A. LUBOVICH, CITY ATTORNEY

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PASSED: _____ day of _______________________, 1998.

APPROVED: _____ day of _______________________, 1998.

PUBLISHED: _____ day of _______________________, 1998.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of Ordinance No. _______, passed by the City Council of the City of Kent, Washington, and approved by the Mayor of the City of Kent as hereon indicated.

________________________________________(SEAL)
BRENDA JACOBER, CITY CLERK

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