

MINUTES OF THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM
COMMISSION MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023
REGULAR IN-PERSON/REMOTE MEETING

Present:	Commissioners:	
	President	Michael Shepard
	Vice President	Bobby Briscoe
	Secretary	Ken Bell
Staff:	Rob Fix	Executive Director
	Tamara Sobjack	Chief Financial Officer
	Holly Stafford	Port Legal Counsel
	Adrienne Hegedus	Sustainability Program Manager
	John Michener	Economic Development Project Manager
	Carey Jones	Executive Administrator

3:00 PM OPEN PUBLIC MEETING, IMMEDIATELY RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

At approximately 3:00 PM, President Michael Shepard opened the public meeting, read the closed session announcement, and immediately recessed to executive session.

4:00 PM CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENED PUBLIC MEETING, ROLL CALL

At approximately 4:00 PM, President Michael Shepard closed Executive Session and reconvened the public meeting, and announced all three Commissioners were present.

PRESIDENT MICHAEL SHEPARD READ THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

Marina Advisory Committee (MAC)

March 14 @ 6 PM Harbor Center Building Conference Room (1801 Roeder Ave., Bellingham)
IN-PERSON ONLY

Bellingham International Airport Advisory Committee (BIAAC)

April 13 @ 4PM

ZOOM ONLY

4:00 PM PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Bert Webber, a Bellingham resident thanked the Port for the improvements to the Marine Drive Park. Bert requested the Airport do what they can to prevent flames from flying over residential neighborhoods. He spoke about the toxicity of lead, and does not believe it is fair for residents that are affected.

CONSENT AGENDA-

- A. Motion to approve minutes from the February 7, 2023 regular scheduled commission meeting.
- B. Motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute a settlement agreement with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. settling a design error for the Snow Removal Equipment Building project at the Bellingham International Airport.
- C. Motion authorizing the Executive Director to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Personal Services Agreement with DH Environmental, Inc. to support the Port's 2023 Environmental Compliance Assessment Program.

Discussion: Commissioner Bell made a comment on Consent Agenda item C. He said this is basically a proposal to do environmental audits, and wants to know what system the Port uses to prioritize who we do the audits on. Sustainability Program Manager Adrienne Hegedus said the Port chooses them based on their environmental risk.

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Motion: Approve Consent Agenda Item A - C

Motion approved with a 3 - 0 Vote

PRESENTATION

1. Port of Bellingham EDA Revolving Loan Program Update

Discussion: Economic Development Project Manager John Michener gave an update on the EDA Loan Program. John shared these are Federal dollars that are loaned to private businesses in Whatcom County to support job creation. John introduced Erin Graham with Egis Mobile Electric, she shared her loan experience with the Port Commissioners.

2. SeaFeast Update

Discussion: Program Director Kevin Coleman spoke about his partnership with Dockside Market, the new KISS program, and gave an update on SeaFeast 2023.

Commissioner Briscoe gave input on the timing of this year's SeaFeast event.

Commissioner Shepard asked about the staging of the event in case of inclement weather. Kevin said they will be using the Fishermen's Pavilion for staging the expo hall, but there will also be some outdoor experiences.

END OF MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Molly Hasten, an Anacortes resident gave thanks to Erin Graham with Egis Mobile Electric. Molly said when she was down on her luck, Erin hired her, and gave her a chance. Molly said she will be forever grateful to Erin for her vision and kind heart.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Bell asked Joe Schmidt for an update on the ship that is scheduled to load steel. Joe said the ship is currently unloading in Vancouver BC, and is supposed to start loading the steel in Bellingham on or around the 25th of February.

Commissioner Bell spoke about the EDI Fund, and how it has become more of a road fund.

Commissioners had a general discussion about aviation led fuel and how it affects our community.

Commissioner Shepard thanked Senator Shewmake, for getting her first bill passed to streamline the removal of derelict vessels in Washington waters.

Commissioner Shepard said he met with Northline Seafoods, and was very impressed with them. He is looking forward to working with them in the near future. They have plans to take an old barge in Fairhaven and turn it into a fish processing facility.

END OF MEETING

President Michael Shepard adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:15 PM.



President/Vice President



Secretary

