

MINUTES OF THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM  
COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023  
REGULAR IN-PERSON/REMOTE MEETING

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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
	Sunil Harman	Director of Aviation
	Emily Phillipe	Airport Operations Manager
	Dave Warter	Marine Terminals /Emergency Services Manager
	Carey Hansen	Executive Administrator

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**2:30 PM OPEN PUBLIC MEETING, IMMEDIATELY RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At approximately 2:30 PM, Vice President Bobby Briscoe 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**

**Ken Van Winkle** a South Hill Neighborhood resident in Bellingham spoke about his concerns due to the new recycling business at the waterfront.

**Jane Bright** a South Hill Neighborhood resident in Bellingham spoke about the waterfront recycling activities. Topics of discussion were mitigation, decibels, qualitative issues, and dust concerns.

**David Netboy** a Garden Terrace Neighborhood resident in Bellingham spoke about the noise activity, noise mitigation, and the overall downside effects of the ABC Recycling operation on the waterfront.

**CONSENT AGENDA-**

- A. Motion to approve minutes from the February 21, 2023 regular scheduled commission meeting.
- B. Motion by the Port Commission to approve a Consent to Assignment of Lease from Fathom Seafood 2 LLC, to Alaska Ice Seafoods, Inc., d/b/a Fathom Seafood, for property located in Fairhaven, Bellingham.

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- C. A motion to authorize the Executive Director to execute Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) anticipated Grant No. 3-53-0005-68-2023 to fund the FY 2023 portion of Taxiway F construction.

Discussion: No discussion

Motion: Approve Consent Agenda Item A - C

Motion approved with a 3 - 0 Vote

### **PRESENTATION**

#### 1. Aviation Lead Fuel Update

Discussion: Airport Operations Manager Emily Phillipe gave a presentation on Aviation Lead Fuel. Emily covered the initiative to eliminate aviation gasoline lead emissions by 2030, WA State Legislature Bill HB1554, and BLI Fuel consumption and strategy to accommodate unleaded fuel for aviation.

Director of Aviation Sunil Harman spoke about the lead-free fuel approval process, supply and demand challenges, availability, required safe operating octane levels, worsening pilot shortages, Federal rules restricting flights over specific homes and or communities, and airport noise abatement procedures.

Commissioner Bell asked if API is a government agency, and Sunil said API is a private lobbying group.

Commissioner Shepard asked about the 167 GA planes and the lack of interest in the adoption of non-leaded fuel. Sunil said the owners and operators of the aircraft based at BLI predominantly can't run on lead-free fuel without some modifications from a certified A&P mechanic and acceptance and approval by their insurance carriers. In closing, Sunil said he sees general aviation leapfrog from lead fuel to electric.

### **END OF MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**Joe Schmidt** a Bellingham resident expressed his appreciation to the Commission for standing up against the working waterfront opposition.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Briscoe reported that him and his wife Carol when down to the waterfront and stood on the ring of the hatch of the ship and listened to the scrap metal being unloaded, then they drove up to the hill by the armory and sat and listened to the scrap metal activity. He personally did not believe it was really noisy, he suggested folks put in ear plugs and close their windows.

Commissioner Shepard asked if the Bellingham Amtrak Station is back up and running it full routes. Marine Terminals / Emergency Services Manager Dave Warter said Amtrak has returned to a full service.

### **END OF MEETING**

President Michael Shepard adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:58 PM.



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President/Vice President



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Secretary

