

MINUTES OF THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM
COMMISSION MEETING
HELD TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 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
Mike Hogan Public Affairs Administrator
Tiffany DeSimone Manager of the Marinas
Don Goldberg Director of Economic Development
Carey Hansen 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, and read the closed session announcement. This announcement included letting the public know that the discussion will be about On Board Marine and Hamilton Fairhaven, which is potential litigation involving the Port of Bellingham- RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Then Commissioner Shepard immediately recessed to executive session and stated he will resume the open public meeting at 4:00PM. If the executive session runs long, the presiding officer will come back to the location of the regular meeting and announce the new time the open session will reconvene.

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

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

PRESIDENT MICHAEL SHEPARD READ THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

Bellingham International Airport Advisory Committee (BIAAC)

July 13 @ 4PM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://portofbellingham.zoom.us/j/86362422537?pwd=YUcvaTFsT3NvSVIUNXRQbDg2UWwvUT09>

Meeting ID: 863 6242 2537

Passcode: 248585

Phone: (253) 215-8782

In-Person: Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) Station (2005 West Bakerview Road, Bellingham)

IN-PERSON & ZOOM

Marina Advisory Committee (MAC) are on Summer Break, and will resume meetings September 12, 2023.

4:00 PM PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Bert Webber, a Bellingham resident shared that the Snow Goose (a small ship that acts as a science lab for public school students in Whatcom County) received enough funding (thanks to the Community Foundation) to support the program for another 5 years. Bert spoke about the toxicity of lead, and does not understand the resistance of banning lead in aviation fuel.

Mark Geri, a Bellingham resident and a member of the local International Longshore and Warehouse Union. Mark shared how grateful he is to the Port for their efforts that has allowed him to get into the industry, he hopes the workflow momentum continues to increase. He also mentioned how thankful he is to be able to work close to home, and not having long commutes and taking away time that he could otherwise spend with his family.

CONSENT AGENDA-

A. Motion to approve minutes from the May 23, 2023 Regular Scheduled Commission Meeting.

June 6, 2023

Page 2

- B. Commission motion approving Small City Economic Development Funds for projects in the cities of Blaine and Everson.
- C. Motion by the Commission approving Resolution #1362-D, adding a change fund for Dockside Market.

Discussion: No comments

Motion: Approve Consent Agenda Item A – C

Motion approved with a 3 - 0 Vote

PRESENTATIONS

- 1. Legislative Update

Discussion: Public Affairs Administrator Mike Hogan and Port lobbyist Ben Buchholz gave a recap of the 2023 Washington State legislative session and summarized key outcomes for the Port of Bellingham.

Commissioner Bell thanked Ben for his work on the Blake decision.

END OF MEETING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Briscoe spoke about adding WTA bus service to our harbor areas and restaurants. Executive Director Rob Fix said he will set up a meeting with WTA, and bring up the concern.

Commissioner Briscoe asked if the Port is testing noise levels at the shipping terminal during the week. Executive Director Rob Fix said yes, the Port has done testing for both the ships that were here. We are also ordering additional testing for the next ship, and we plan on doing some testing when there is not a ship at the terminal.

Director of Economic Development Don Goldberg reported that Senator Shewmake put in a funding request for the Whatcom County Agriculture Research Center.

Commissioner Shepard thanked staff for their work at The Portal Container Village, he said it is exciting to see all the activity on the Downtown Waterfront Site, including the Circus.

Commissioner Briscoe asked for an update on the crane the Port purchased. Is it getting used, and do you have staff that knows how to run the equipment. ILWU Local 7 longshoreman Joe Schmidt said they have not used the crane, they are waiting for the Port to get the dock reinforced. Joe said they have guys that are familiar with how to run the equipment.

END OF MEETING

President Michael Shepard adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:59 PM.



President/Vice President



Secretary

