

Friday Harbor Port District

Port Commission Meeting Minutes
Port Conference Room
Wednesday March 08, 2023 at 12:00 pm

With Covid-19 restrictions lifted, the public is now able to attend the meeting in person. You may also dial into the meeting via Zoom. Please note that if you are attending via Zoom, it will be in listen only mode, and comments will not be able to be made. Comments can be e-mailed to the Port to be addressed to the commission during the public comment section.

Commissioners Present: Barbara Marrett
Graham Black
Victoria Compton

Port Staff Present: Todd Nicolson, Executive Director
Phyllis Johnson, Auditor
Amber Garcia, Executive Assistant
Mike Roling, IT System Administrator

Public Present: Kelly Balcom-Bartok, The Journal of the San Juan Islands
Jill Belcovson, LWVSJ
Lee Brooks, Arctic Raven Gallery
Sharon Kivisto, San Juan Islander
Freddy Lane, Gathering of Eagles
Peter Lane, SJI Museum of Art
Janet Thomas, Orca Relief Citizens Alliance
Jay Julius, Se'Si'Le
John Veeche, Se'Si'Le

Citizen comments/requests: Citizens can make a brief comment or may ask the Commission to schedule a topic for further discussion at a future meeting. **None**

Presentations:

A. Gathering of the Eagles Canoe Journey Presentation

Freddy Lane, Chair of the Gathering of Eagles Intertribal Canoe Journey shared that 167 years ago canoes were commonly seen coming ashore in the region. The Gathering of the Eagles Canoe Journey is a continuation of that tradition.

On May 21st the canoes will leave Anacortes and arrive at Lopez Island. On May 22nd they will land at Jackson Beach. The public is welcome, and they are very appreciative of the Port to have a place to land.

B. Lummi Nation Totem and Virtual Reality Interpretive Center Presentation by Jay Julius

Jay Julius, founder of the non-profit organization Se'Si'Le, shared about the organization and is requesting use of the room at the clock dock as part of a Virtual Reality Interpretive Center. John Veeche, an honorary member of the organization, added that they would be able to use the space without having to change the space and create something that would be an educational destination. The experience would virtually take people back in time. It would be a place to tell stories of the salmon, orca, and First Nation people from a perspective that you can't get on a video. It would be an enriching series of stories that can connect people closer to the islands, closer to the salmon, closer to the whales, and ultimately closer to each other as a society.

In addition to the Interpretive Center, Se'Si'Le would like to donate the carving that was discussed at the previous meeting. It's a carving of an orca whale to represent Tahlequah, the orca that carried her deceased calf for several days. With the VR headset you can see and feel the totem pole with its possible placement of it on the dock. Mr. Veeche assisted Commissioner Marrett put on the VR set to explore the totem. Commissioner Black and Compton viewed it before the meeting began.

Commissioner Marrett acknowledged the Commission is very excited about working with them and shared that there is a town process for public art and would like to give the Community more of an opportunity to give feedback. She's also been working with the Town on another piece of art for that space in the corner.

Commissioner Compton stated that the Commission had a first touch on the totem pole concept at the last meeting and that this is a historic moment for the Port to build a strong connection with the Lummi Nation. This the first connection building of many with all our local First Nations.

Commissioner Compton made a motion to accept the generous gift of the sacred relic of the totem pole and the VR experience, and to allocate \$30,000 to cover logistics and other costs. Commissioner Black seconded the motion and asked if Commissioner Marrett would like public comment at the time and the vote was called. Commissioner Marrett voted against, and the motion was approved by majority vote.

The Executive Director will work with Mr. Julius to get organized and shared Se'Si'Le is interested in fundraising for the totem and that our community might want to also be a part of that effort.

Commissioner Compton asked her fellow Commissioners if she can help with the crowd funding as a citizen; the Commission responded that it would be okay for her to do so.

Janet Thomas with Orca Relief Citizens Alliance expressed her total support and would like to be involved in whatever way she can to help make this happen.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes: February 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of Vouchers: Payroll and Vouchers #03521-03562 for \$112,511.69

Commissioner Compton moved to approve all items in the Consent Agenda, Commissioner Black seconded, all in favor, all items approved unanimously.

Action Items:

- A. Consider Selecting and Contracting with Reid Middleton as On-Call Marina Engineer

Commissioner Black moved to approve Reid Middleton as On-Call Marina Engineer, Commissioner Compton seconded, all in favor, approved unanimously.

- A. Consider Authorizing Executive Director to Submit the AIP 44 Airport Energy Assessment Study Grant Application to FAA, and Execute the Energy Assessment Study Contract with the FAA Approved Scope

Commissioner Black moved to approve Executive Director to Submit the AIP 44 Airport Energy Assessment Study Grant Application to FAA and Execute the Energy Assessment Study Contract with the FAA Approved Scope, Commissioner Marrett seconded, Commissioner Compton abstained, approved by majority vote.

- B. Consider Authorizing the Executive Director Authority to Award the Taxiway A Contract to the Lowest Responsive Bidder
 - a. AIP Taxiway Work is 90% Funded (Surety Covers Costs Beyond Original OPCI Cost)
 - b. Non-AIP Hangar Access Drives (Port Funded but Surety Covers Costs Beyond Original OPCI Cost)
 - c. Non-AIP Hangar Slab Extension (100% Port Cost if Awarded)

Commissioner Compton moved to approve authorizing the Executive Director Authority to Award the Taxiway A Contract to the Lowest Responsive Bidder, Commissioner Black seconded, all in favor, approved unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Maintenance Supervisor, Erik Edshammar

The Maintenance Supervisor gave the Commission an update on the Spring Maintenance Projects around the Port facilities:

- Leveling Uneven Walkways to try to Eliminate Slips and Falls
- Will be Replacing Whalers
- Replacing a Bunch of Rotten Fillets with Grating
- Secured New Seaplane Float with Counterweights
- Going to Replace the Spike Africa Dock
- Replacing water lines there with HDPE to Avoid Breakage

- The Shower Improvements Should be Completed by the Middle of April

Executive Director, Todd Nicholson

The Executive Director is continuing to have discussions about the potential mitigation bank to offset the cost of our upcoming maintenance and that will be going on for years. He is going to get a hold of the higher levels of DNR to find out if there is a way to prevent the issues that caused a previous Port of Tacoma effort to fail. If the DNR obstacles cannot be overcome there are other ways to still accomplish the goal.

He's also been working with Senator Murray and Congressman Larsen's office on a congressionally directed funding for 1.8 million. This would cover 75% of a state-of-the-art 50-ton travel lift pier and travel lift. The congressional cutouts are very competitive.

Port Commissioner and Committee Reports:

Commissioner Compton shared the Public Records Workers Act Workshop is this upcoming Monday.

Commissioner Marrett shared that she spoke to the owner of the fuel business at the fuel pier about the renewable diesel she mentioned at the last meeting, and he is not interested at this time.

New Business: Commissioners May Share Information or Introduce Topics for Discussion at a Future Meeting. **None.**

Citizen comments/requests: Citizens can make a brief comment or may ask the Commission to schedule a topic for further discussion at a future meeting.

Sharon Kivisto with San Juan Islander stated she doesn't understand why Commissioner Marrett would want to add another layer of people for choosing art. Why not streamline with the Commissioners that were elected to make decisions.

Adjourn: 1:12 PM



Graham, Black, Commissioner



Barbara Marrett, Commissioner



Victoria Compton, Commissioner