

Friday Harbor Port District

Port Commission Meeting Minutes

Port Conference Room

Wednesday March 22, 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
Tami Hayes, Harbormaster
Amber Garcia, Executive Assistant
Mike Roling, IT System Administrator

Public Present: Jill Belcovson, LWVSJ Lee Brooks, Arctic Raven
Bill Cumming, Customer Don & Shyrl Eaton, Customer
Greg Hertel, Customer Lisa Lawrence, Citizen
Peter Lane, SJI Museum of Art
Frances Robertson, San Juan County
Justin Youso, Arctic Raven

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.

Customer, Bill Cumming encourages the Commission to consider allowing the slip to go with the boat, when a boat is sold.

Lee Brooks with Arctic Raven made a Declaration of Presence. This declaration is included at the end of these Minutes.

San Juan County's Cultural Liaison, Frances Robertson shared with the Commission that the County will be offering training and cultural competency for their leadership managers and senior staff and welcome partners like the Port to participate. It provides insights into the complexities that we have here in the islands coordinating with Tribal partners. They're really encouraged in the Port's effort to establish meaningful partnerships with the tribes; however, they would like to further discussion when it comes to providing space for the tribes to tell their stories at Spring Street Landing.

Customer Greg Hertel, shared concern about the vote that was taken two weeks ago. His understanding was it was a gift from a private party and wonders how the other tribes might feel about that. He also inquired about where the funds for this will come from for this.

Commissioner Marrett responded to Mr. Hertel, that it was not an action item on our last agenda, so people were surprised when it became one. It is fair to do that but hopes that going forward we can put this back on the agenda as a discussion item. This cannot be voted on again unless one majority wishes to bring that vote forward again.

Commissioner Compton added, she had discussions with other tribal leaders, and they're excited by the fact that the Port is starting to build bridges, and this feels like a good first step. She's happy we're making the connections, making valuable good decisions, and is proud of the decisions that were made.

Commissioner Black shared his decision was made more about activating that space. The Spring Street Landing Pier has been in need of rejuvenation for as long as he's been around. He's also extremely interested in building bridges with the tribes. He's been having conversations about the possibility of setting aside locations and having an exploration journey that people could travel along as they move from art piece to art piece throughout all Port properties.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes: March 08, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- B. Approval of Vouchers: Payroll and Vouchers #03579-03610 for \$65,294.06

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

Discussion Items:

- A. Consider Level of Solar Panels Required for Lease Renewals
 - a. 30% of best sun facing slope; sufficient to create a net zero building; other?

Commissioner Marrett shared a new idea from a meeting with the County, instead of having the twenty-acre ground mounted solar panels that they plan to put along Bailer Hill Road, they would like to look at ground mounting at the Port and putting the solar panels on all hangars. The way it is now, they cannot be put on hangar because there aren't large enough transformers.

The Executive Director recommends limiting solar requirements to the lesser of 30% of best sun exposure roof slope or the maximum allowable by OPALCO with the existing electrical service equipment.

- B. Sky Trails Hangar Lease Renewal Terms

The Executive Director suggested since there is between three and four years left on

the lease, and this is a complex set of decisions with the possible solar requirements, this should be revisited when more research has been done. The Commission agreed to table this discussion pending additional information from OPALCO.

C. Transfers of Moorage with Vessel Sales

- a. Should the Port consider transferring moorage and bypassing waiting lists with vessel sales? Should different facilities, moorage types, or vessels be considered differently?

The Commission previously made a policy for only Jensen Marina that would allow a one-time transfer of the existing moorage contract to a new vessel owner. This exception expires once the Jensen Marina reconstruction project commences. The reconstruction began sooner than expected due to the covered moorage collapse.

Don and Shyrl Eaton addressed the Commission, five other publicly owned marinas allow transfers under certain circumstances. They are asking that the moorage slip go with the boat that is sold at Jensen Marina.

The Commission discussed various ideas of possibly changing the language. Each Commissioner along with Don Eaton will email the Executive Director the language that they would like to see in regard to transferring moorage and bypassing wait lists with vessel sales. The variations will be brought to the next meeting.

D. Aquarium

- a. Should it be Replaced at a Cost of Approximately \$25,000 or be Decommissioned?

With the aquarium getting more dilapidated and kids writing letters to the Port about lethargic, sad fish the Executive Director asked the Commission what they would like to do with aquarium. Purchase a new aquarium for approximately \$25,000 or decommission the aquarium which would allow for greater space and flexibility for interpretive information.

The Commission has concerns about the water in the aquarium being polluted and isn't sure if getting a new one would solve that problem. This item will be brought back to a future meeting.

E. Citizen Advisory Committee Membership and First Task

The Executive Director shared seventeen citizens have submitted letters of interest for the Citizen Advisory Committee. He will send an e-mail to the citizens that were previously on the original committee to remind them to send a letter of interest.

The Commission discussed various methods on choosing the committee as well as their first task. Their first task will be to do some analysis and make recommendations on the Shipyard Cove/Jensen Master Plan including its land use

with financial considerations.

The Commission will speak to the Executive Director individually a week prior to the next meeting to let him know their individual top picks.

Action Items:

A. Shipyard Cove Chip Seal Budget and Schedule

- a. Consider approving \$70,000 of unbudgeted Shipyard Cove chip sealing of the access road and parking areas. This work would be conducted by the County under an interlocal agreement and should be covered by existing Commerce or PFFAP Grants.

Commissioner Compton moved to approve \$70,000 of unbudgeted Shipyard Cove chip sealing of the access road and parking areas, Commissioner Black seconded, all in favor, approved unanimously.

- B. Award contract for the IOSA Headquarters Foundation and Additive Bid for building construction to PNW Civil, Inc. of Bellingham, WA. Both portions of this contract total \$242,375.40 including sales tax. The contract will be 100% grant reimbursable between Washington State Department of Commerce and National Fish Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).**

Recommend approval of Executive Directors signature on contract 23-010.

Commissioner Black moved to approve the Executive Directors signature on contract 23-010 for the IOSA Headquarters Foundation and Additive Bid for building construction to PNW Civil, Inc. of Bellingham, WA., Commissioner Compton seconded, all in favor, approved unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Executive Director, Todd Nicholson

He will give a report at a future meeting.

Port Commissioner and Committee Reports:

Commissioner Compton shared that she learned at the Public Records Workshop that drafts in your email are open to public records requests.

Commissioner Black shared that he is excited about art being on the Spring Street Landing Pier and looks forward to future discussion about the possibility of more art throughout Port property.

New Business: Commissioners May Share Information or Introduce Topics for Discussion at a Future Meeting.

Commissioner Marrett would like to continue the discussion of the use of Spring Street Landing Pier at the next meeting.

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**

Declaration of Presence by Lee Brooks:

In Native cultures it was once common to send witnesses to important events where proclamations or decisions are made. Witnesses would then listen in silence, before going home to share what they have learned with other tribal members. Justin Youso is a local descendant of the Lummi people. Justin does not speak for the rest of the group. Lisa Nash Lawrence is the matriarch of the Mitchell Bay Band who have called San Juan Island home for generations. She does speak for the people that live here! Neither one of them has a say right now. They are not given presence by the Port of Friday Harbor. I humbly ask that you show some dignity and respect for them by giving voice to Lisa and Justin as well as the rest of the indigenous citizens who live here on the Island.

Members of the Friday Harbor Arts Commission have received written permission from the Port to place a Welcome Figure on Port property and have conveyed their preference for placing it on the deck at Spring Street Landing. They are waiting for a feasibility report on the engineering for the project. Referrals will then be sent to seven indigenous groups that were here before us. Both figures will not fit on a 20ft x 35ft space on the deck above the water. The people who live here have a right to choose which face they want to put forward.

Your offer to place a massive whale sculpture on the deck was not in their name! It was not in my name! That voice belongs to the citizens of San Juan Island who own the Port of Friday Harbor. Let them make the choice!

Adjourn: 2:10 PM



Graham, Black, Commissioner



Barbara Marrett, Commissioner



Victoria Compton, Commissioner