



PUBLIC MEETING: Port Commission Meeting

DATE: Tuesday **March 5, 2024, 6 PM**

LOCATION: Cascade Locks City Hall 140 Wa Na Pa St, Cascade Locks, OR 97014

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85806615790>

MINUTES

- 1) Commission meeting called to order 6:00 PM
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Roll Call
 - i. President Lorang
 - ii. Vice-President Klute
 - iii. Commissioner Nance
 - iv. Commissioner Peterson
 - v. Commissioner Thweatt
 - vi. Members of the Staff and Other Support – Executive Director Jeremiah Blue, Deputy Executive Director Genevieve Scholl, Secretary Keriane Stocker, Operations Manager Parker Nelson
 - vii. Members of the Public – Flora Gibson (Columbia Gorge News), Chris Matlock, Caden Pond
 - c. Modifications, Additions and Changes to the Agenda
 - i. ED Blue noted that the Budget Schedule that was approved in the last meeting was revised, and the updated copy is included to Consent Agenda.
- 2) Consent Agenda (***)Consent Agenda may be approved in its entirety in a single motion. Items are considered routine. Any Commissioner may take a motion to remove any items from the Consent Agenda for individual discussion).
 - a. Approval of minutes from Annual Planning Session on January 27, 2024 and Commission Meeting on February 6, 2024
 - b. Approval of revised 2024-2025 Budget Schedule

VP KLUTE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA IN ITS ENTIRETY AS STATED; C PETERSON SECONDED; Passed Unanimously

- 3) Presentations
 - a. Root Cause Analysis Team Report: January 13, 2024 Sternwheeler Unmooring
 - i. DED Scholl gave an overview of the report that the Root Cause Analysis (“RCA”) Team developed after their evaluation. It identified possible causes and recommended a number of improvements. The recommendations include establishing a program to manage the lifecycles of mooring lines, installing remote cameras and weather stations, installing unmooring alarms, and updating the Emergency Action Plan (“EAP”) to include marine incidents. As well as, installing life rings on the Thunder Island footbridge crossing, installing a net under the footbridge, and considering alternate mooring arrangements suggested by previous Sternwheeler Captain Randy Holmstrom. ED Blue also added the possibility of the boat operating in Vancouver during the winter.

C Nance encouraged that the recommendation list be sent to a contact at the United States Coast Guard ("USCG") for review and feedback.

b. Increase Rates for Campground

- i.** OM Nelson proposed an increase in the campground rates. Based on local campgrounds, the Marine Park Campground has been undervalued for a while. VP Klute stated that she believes there is a difference between campgrounds run by government entities and those run by private entities and would rather see a comparison based on other ports that have campgrounds. She also expressed concerns about affordability for locals and PCT hikers and that although the Port is in the business of driving economic development, she does not want to do it on the backs of recreation and the things that they, themselves, enjoy. DED Scholl pointed out that the decision also needs to include the consideration of ways to supplement bridge tolls if the Commission wants the Port to stop being supported by tolls. She also informed that many campgrounds are state run and are funded through other sources. C Nance requested cost analyses of the current budget, and a report on how much the Port could charge before they start to lose campers.

4) Business Action Items

a. Appoint Budget committee members

- i.** ED Blue pointed out that the Budget Committee has three (3) vacant positions to fill for citizen members. With the Commission's recommendation, he has been reaching out to several community members. The Port received three (3) letters of interest.

VP KLUTE MOVED TO APPOINT GEORGE TORRES, SHELLEY OLVERA AND BRYAN KEILTY TO THE BUDGET COMMITTEE; C THWEATT SECONDED; Passed Unanimously

5) Executive Director Report

a. A report was provided at the meeting.

C Nance inquired about the \$19,000 grant application to Experience Mt. Hood and the Gorge Strategic Investment Fund ("SIF"). DED Scholl answered that they had not received an answer back yet, however she explained that the Experience Gorge Mt. Hood is a regional destination marketing organization that receives a portion of the 1% of the transient room tax that goes to the state. The state then distributes it to the Regional Destination Management Organization ("RDMO"). Experience Mt. Hood and the Gorge has \$73,000 to give away this year. The Port is asking for a large portion of it but it is to offset and help pay for the cash match that the we are responsible for, for the restroom project.

6) Commissioner Comments

- a.** C Thweatt had nothing to report. She commended DED Scholl on facilitating the RCA and OM Nelson on bringing the Commission's attention to the campground.
- b.** C Peterson commented that he will have a busy month with the upcoming local budget trainings, the annual strategic business plan, and the city planning training. He gave an update on the three-day Sea Tow Foundation conference he has been attending. C Peterson informed that the Port is in first place to win the prize of a life jacket station building kit.
- c.** C Nance also expressed his appreciation to DED Scholl for her work on the RCA. He also mentioned that the museum reopened on March 1st. C Nance inquired about the Sternwheeler. ED Blue informed that the schedule for the repower has been delayed and they are planning to be operational in early to mid-April. He also brought up planning for the Christmas lights event as well as inquired about the next steps for Flex 6.
- d.** VP Klute mentioned that the Hood River bridge is no longer allowing heavy trucks to use the bridge, which will have an impact the Bridge of the Gods. She requested that the "Important

- e. Dates" section on the agenda be included regularly as she finds it helpful. VP Klute concluded with thoughts on the bridge's 100th anniversary.
 - f. P Lorang commented that Dan Mahr (Government Affairs Consultant) texted him an update while he was in Washington DC. He also noted that Jasper Smith (Native Cider) was featured in the Gorge Magazine.
- 7) Adjournment 7:43 pm

Port of Cascade Locks:

Port Commission President
Brad Lorang

Port Commission Secretary
Albert Nance

Date Approved

Prepared by: Keriane Stocker