



Commission Meeting Minutes Tuesday, May 27, 2025

Call to Order

Commission President Jasmine Vasavada called a regular meeting of the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners to order and open to the public at 5:31 p.m., Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at the Percival Plaza at 626 Columbia Street NW, Suite 1B, Olympics Room, in Olympia, Washington 98501.

Present

Commissioners: Jasmine Vasavada, President; Maggie Sanders, Vice President; Sarah Montano, Secretary; Amy Harding and Bob Iyall.

Staff: Alex Smith, Executive Director, Chris Wright-Pierce, General Counsel; Warren Hendrickson, Director of Operations; Shawn Gilbertson, Director of Environmental Planning and Programs; Don Bache, Cascade Pole Site Manager; Megan Folkers, Environmental Specialist; Emily Girton, Marketing and Outreach Coordinator; Tina Champion, Executive Assistant to Executive Services; and Missy Goodell, Executive and Commission Coordinator.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Montano moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Sanders seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Alex Smith, Executive Director, reported on recent Port activities. She reported that the Port was honored to attend and contribute to the "INSPIRE" Women's Business Conference event. Last week two break bulk vessels visited the Port of Olympia, a log export and eucalyptus paper pulp import. Free public marine terminal tours start on June 3. Tours will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. on June 3, July 1, August 5 and September 2. Reservations must be made online. 50+ students from Yelm Middle School will tour the marine terminal next week. Next week the WPPA will conducting a first-ever "Port Academy Series" event. Several Port of Olympia staff will be attending. The Pacific Shellfish Institute brought middle school students together at the Port Plaza for a 7-day educational event. Chris Paolini, Port of Olympia Airport Senior Manager, attended the Washington Airport Management Association Conference last week. 2025 Port of Olympia Summer Events were shared.

In addition, Alex reminded everyone of the ways they can communicate with the Commission. She stated there is a great deal of information available on the Port's website and encouraged everyone to check it out.

Public Comment

Three individuals provided public comments regarding tariffs, new projects and buildings, financial implications, Port Peninsula Integrated Master Planning and public involvement.

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Harding moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; Commissioner Montano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pending Issues or Business

Briefing: Green Marine. Megan Folkers, Environmental Specialist, provided an overview of how the Green Marine program works and encourages continuous environmental improvement. Green Marine is the leading environmental certification program for the maritime industry and the Port of Olympia has participated in the program since 2016.

The Green Marine certification program strives to mitigate environmental challenges and risks associated with operating a Marine Terminal. Adherence to and advancement through the Green Marine achievement levels indicates continuous improvement in environmental management and implementation of best management practices. These practices prevent pollution and other environmental impacts.

Action Calendar

None.

Action/Other Calendar

None.

Advisory Calendar

None.

Commissioner Reports/Discussion

Commissioner Iyall had nothing to report.

Commissioner Harding shared that she is excited to participate in the upcoming Pride Parade. She shared a quote from Plato, "He who does not desire power is fit to hold it."

Commissioner Sanders reported that she is excited that the Agriculture Innovation Park Grand Opening is being held tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

Commissioner Montano shared that she is excited to start a climate framework for the Port of Olympia. Wants to take a cumulative look at all the environmental policies at the Port of Olympia to see what we are doing well and continue to look at what we can do to mitigate climate change and reduce green house emissions over the next few years.

Comm. Vasavada agreed that the Commission would like to understand what are the policies and resolutions that are currently in place and look at them together.

Commissioner Vasavada communicated that the Destination Waterfront master planning had been on hold, because it was determined that we wanted to be working with an organization who had much deeper roots and understanding of our community here in Thurston County.

Other Business

Commissioner Harding requested 1) an Executive Session to discuss the performance of an employee; 2) to discuss parking in downtown Olympia; and 3) would like an update on the Port of Olympia's fuel dock.

Meeting Announcements

A list of upcoming events was displayed on the screen for viewers to see upcoming Commission and POCAC meetings. Executive Director Smith stated the next Commission meeting will be held on Monday, June 23, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners, the Tuesday, May 27, 2025, regular meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m. by Commissioner Vasavada.

PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION

Jasmine Vasavada, President

Maggie Sanders, Vice President

Sarah Montano, Secretary