



## Commission Meeting Minutes Monday, July 14, 2025

### **Call to Order**

Commission Vice President Maggie Sanders called a regular meeting of the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners to order and open to the public at 5:30 p.m., Monday, July 14, 2025, at the Percival Plaza at 626 Columbia Street NW, Suite 1B, Olympics Room, in Olympia, Washington 98501.

### **Present**

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

Excused Absence: Commissioner Jasmine Vasavada, President.

Staff: Alex Smith, Executive Director, Chris Wright-Pierce, General Counsel; Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development; Brent Barnes, Director of Enterprise Services; Tina Champion, Executive Coordinator; and Missy Goodell, Commission Coordinator.

Guest: Matt Kennelly, Executive Director, LOTT.

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Executive Director Report**

Alex Smith, Executive Director, reported on recent Port activities. She reported that she, Mike Reid and the Commission attended the grand opening of Tenino's Agricultural Innovation Park. The Port of Olympia partnered and assisted with a DNR derelict vessel operation, removing boats from around Squaxin Island. The Port of Olympia participated in the Olympia Pride Parade. Port tours were held for several student groups with the next free tour of the marine terminal to be held August 5. The Port held a half-day Commission Candidate Open House providing an overview of port operations and a tour of port properties. Port Summer Events continue to be held: the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Olympic Airshow at the Olympia Regional Airport, the Shoestring Circus and Summer Nights concerts will be held. Other upcoming events include the South Sound Block Party; Movies at the Marina; and a Music in the Park offering at the Port Plaza. Alex attended the WPPA 2025 Director Seminar with 25 other Washington port executives; and 5 new temporary and permanent employees were introduced.

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**

One individual provided public comments regarding the Port's new process to provide virtual public comment.

## **Consent Calendar**

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

## **Pending Issues or Business**

Briefing: LOTT Utility Update. Matt Kennelly, Executive Director at LOTT, gave an overview of LOTT Clean Water Alliance, including their role as a regional utility, an update on their performance, community connections and how they are educating the community, and what they are planning for the future.

Briefing: Foreign Trade Zone 216. Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development provided a foundational overview of Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs) with a focus on FTZ #216, which is administered by the Port of Olympia. He outlined the purpose and history of the FTZ program, key operational advantages to businesses—including duty deferral, reduction, and elimination—and described the zone's structure, designated jurisdictions, and current users. The presentation also highlighted recent activity, financial status, and opportunities for expanding utilization of FTZ #216 as an economic development tool to attract trade-related investment and enhance the Port's competitiveness in the regional logistics market.

Briefing: Olympia Artspace Alliance – Mural Project. Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development, introduced Olympia Artspace Alliance and the proposed project of a mural on the Marine Terminal Warehouse.

A large-scale mural on the Marine Terminal's 76,000 sq. ft. warehouse, located just 175 feet from the shores of West Bay in Budd Inlet next to the Port Plaza and Farmers Market. Both south and west side of the building is planned to be painted. This mural will celebrate the industrial international trade operations of the Port, various tribal elements, history and Olympia's rich artistic heritage, blending them into a singular visual story.

Olympia Artspace Alliance has the stated mission to preserve, develop, and advocate for affordable live, work and exhibitions space for artists in Olympia which makes them a perfect partner for this project. They will be presenting their organization and plan for this effort.

The Port of Olympia is partnering with the Olympia Artspace Alliance to create what is expected to become one of the largest murals on the West Coast. The Port is not only providing the mural site but also essential equipment and support services — including power washing, forklifts, scissor lifts, lighting equipment, and more.

## **Action Calendar**

None.

## **Action/Other Calendar**

None.

## **Advisory Calendar**

Financial Accounting System Upgrade. Brent Barnes, Director of Enterprise Services, shared that the Port's current Electronic Resource Planning (ERP) software for business management (Microsoft Dynamics SL, 2018 version) end of life is July 2028. Microsoft ceased providing year-end updates in January 2024, necessitating the issuing of a competitive procurement for a replacement system.

The Port issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) on May 1, 2025, for a new business management platform and selected the winning proposal from the twelve that were submitted on June 20, 2025. We will be seeking Commission approval at the July 28, 2025, Commission Meeting to move forward with issuing a contract with Advaiya for implementation of the new system and the follow-on licensing and service agreements to support the system.

## **Commissioner Reports/Discussion**

Commissioner Montano had nothing to report.

Commissioner Iyall provided an update on his committee assignment to the Transportation Policy Board. A few current topics were of note:

1. One issue that generated significant attention was the recommendation to remove the diversity, equity and inclusion language from the Regional Transportation Plan. It was due to concerns about potential conflicts with federal transportation funding requirements. The Thurston Regional Planning Council promptly and decisively rejected that recommendation. But it's important to understand that the intent of the TRPC board was to make sure that access to resources was retained to continue to support all transportation projects that benefit the community. There was no intention to compromise our shared values and no intention to undermine or exclude any segment of our population. The collective commitment was to equity and inclusion to remain strong and central in our policy-making.
2. The other topic was removing Log Cabin Road from the Transportation Plan. The TRPC recommended removing the road; however, the policy board decided to recommend that the planned road remain in the plan until the surveys were complete and that there is an amendment that will give the local jurisdictions the authority to remove that particular road if they see fit.

Commissioner Iyall shared an update on his appointment to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC): There was no formal meeting in July, but SWAC did have a scheduled tour of the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center on July 11. However, earlier that week, members of the teamsters Local 252 representing sanitation workers in Lacey held a picket outside the facility as part of their efforts to secure fair wages and improved health care benefits from Republic Services, the operator of the site. As a 46-year member of a labor union, Commission Iyall felt it was important to honor their demonstration and chose not to cross the picket line and as a result, he did not attend the tour.

As a representative to Joint Base Lewis McCord (JBLM), Commissioner Iyall was honored to attend the change of command ceremony for the 593<sup>rd</sup> Corps Sustainment Command.

Commissioner Harding added to Commissioner Iyall's comments regarding the Transportation Policy Board. Commissioner Harding is a representative on the Thurston Regional Planning Council. The Transportation Policy Board makes recommendations to the Thurston Regional Planning Council. Regarding the diversity, equity and inclusion language, there was some criticism of the recommendation and she just wanted to say that from her lens, there were some memos and meetings that happened between the Transportation Policy Board and the Thurston Regional Planning Council, that changed a number of the committee members' mind on the issues, so she thinks we are all on the same page as far as trying to continue to do what's best for everyone in our community and doing so in an authentic way, but also being practical.

Commissioner Harding attended a Youth Program at New Market produced by Leadership Thurston County. She joined other elected officials to talk to the group about what it's like to be an elected.

Commissioner Harding shared a quote from Leo Rosten, "I learned that it is the weak who are cruel, and gentleness is to be expected only from the strong."

Commissioner Sanders reported that she had a great time with staff and fellow commissioners when participating in the Capitol City Pride Parade as well as when she recently shared the stage with Commissioner Harding at the Port of Olympia's last summer concert.

#### **Other Business**

None.

#### **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, July 28, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners, the Monday, July 14, 2025, regular meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m. by Commissioner Sanders.

PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION

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Jasmine Vasavada, President

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Maggie Sanders, Vice President

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Sarah Montano, Secretary

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