



## Commission Meeting Minutes Monday, September 8, 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, September 8, 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; Warren Hendrickson, Director of Operations; Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development; James Sommer, Public Works Program Manager; Spencer Battersby, IT Manager; Tina Champion, Executive Coordinator; and Missy Goodell, Commission Coordinator.

Guest: Peter Philips, Calibri NW.

### Approval of Agenda

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

### Executive Director Report

Alex Smith, Executive Director, reported on recent port activities. The Port received the *Great Friend to Kids Award* at the Hands On Children's Museum Summer Splash! Gala; the Port participated in the Panorama Community Partners Appreciation Gathering; Commissioner Harding was honored with the Experience Olympia & Beyond "Boldness in Tourism" award at their annual meeting. The Port's Marine Terminal and Environmental teams were thanked for their hard work on the annual stormwater pond cleaning project. Several Port construction projects began this week: parking lots at the Olympia Farmers Market, and the Rants Group property will undergo crack sealing, seal coating, and restriping with the Anthony's Homeport parking lot undergoing major reconstruction and resurfacing. Restoration of Marine Drive NE between Olympia Avenue and the Franklin/Market Street intersection commences today and should conclude in 45 days. Phase 1 of the Airport's runway improvement project will close the main runway for approximately 12 days for repaving and restriping. In partnership with the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce and the Olympia Yacht Club, the Port hosted local law enforcement and first responders at the Marine Terminal for the annual Foofaraw event, honoring our military service members. The last free public tour of the Marine Terminal was recently held. The 2025 Port Event Season has concluded. A new monthly newsletter, the *Port Pulse*, will be distributed updating the community on the latest news and happenings around the Port.

In addition, she 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**

Two individuals provided public comments regarding the Airport and water taxis.

### **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: Electric Ferry. Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development, introduced Peter Philips with Colibri NW who presented information on the possibility and opportunities for an electric passenger-only ferry service in the South Puget Sound. Demand, feasibility and operations were discussed as was program administration and funding. The production of electric ferries and batteries was also examined.

Pending Issues Updates. Executive Director Alex Smith provided brief updates to some ongoing projects that the Port has been working on: the Budd Inlet Cleanup, the Marine Terminal Warehouse, the Dancing Goats Building Renovations, the Airport Master Plan, and the Peninsula Master Plan.

It was requested that the Foreign Trade Zone be added to the Pending Issues list.

### **Action Calendar**

None.

### **Action/Other Calendar**

None.

### **Advisory Calendar**

Colibri NW LLC Contract. Alex Smith, Executive Director, shared that Colibri NW has provided the Port with advice and expertise on transportation, public infrastructure and policy development for marinas, ports and marine transportation. The Port retained Colibri NW to assist with attracting electric ferry manufacturing to the Port Peninsula, and to explore fast electric ferry service to and from Olympia. The current contract pays a flat monthly fee for services. The work under the contract has exceeded the authorized amount by \$2,000. Two amendments will be sought at the September 22, 2025 Commission meeting: 1) to extend the term of the contract through December 31, 2025, and 2) and to increase the not-to-exceed amount to \$25,000.

Swantown Boatworks Stormwater Retrofit Contract. James Sommer, Public Works Program Manager, presented project purpose, scope, funding information, and status related to the Swantown Boatworks Stormwater Retrofit contract. This item will come to the Commission at the next Commission meeting as a Consent item.

## Commissioner Reports/Discussion

Commissioner Montano reported that she attended the Lacey Chamber of Commerce Forum who provided information on Veteran Affairs. She also commented that she would like more structure around the Commission Committee meetings that commissioners are supposed to be attending,

Commissioner Iyall recently attended several Port meetings and events: the Thurston Chamber Forum regarding the FIFA World Cup Fan Zone; the Panorama Community Partners Appreciation event; the Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting; the Annual Meeting of Experience Olympia & Beyond; and he participated in the Foofaraw celebration on Home Island.

Commissioner Harding shared she attended Foofaraw and Experience Olympia & Beyond's Annual Meeting. She is also involved with the planning of the Thurston County Economic Development Council's Real Estate Forum, held Thursday, September 25. She gave a shout-out to St. Martin's Abbott and their monastic community as the Abbott has been travelling to the Ukraine to work with a Benedictine nunnery helping widows and children. Her quote of the day is from James Baldwin, "The most dangerous creation of any society is the man who has nothing to lose."

Commissioner Sanders stated that she attended the Grand Mound/Rochester Chamber of Commerce meeting where they listened to a summer fire-wise prevention plan by Chief Nathan Drake of the West Thurston Fire Authority who shared fire safety information. She also attended the Experience Olympia & Beyond Annual Meeting; Foofaraw; and the Sea Level Rise Collaborative meeting where by-laws were updated and the group was briefed on the Collaborative's 5-year plan.

## Other Business

*Motion: Commissioner Harding moved to authorize the Executive Director to engage the services of a professional coach or consultant of her choosing to support her in leadership development. Meetings would be a minimum of twice per month with no maximum budget at the discretion of the executive director. Commissioner Montano seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion passed unanimously.*

## Meeting Announcements

A list of upcoming events was displayed for viewers to note upcoming Commission and POCAC meetings. Executive Director Smith stated the next Commission meeting, a Work Session, will be held on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

## Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners, the Monday, September 8, 2025, regular meeting was adjourned at 6:47 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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