



Commission Meeting Minutes Monday, March 23, 2026

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 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 23, 2026, at the Percival Plaza at 626 Columbia Street NW, Suite 1B, Olympics Room, in Olympia, Washington 98501.

Present

Commissioners: Jasmine Vasavada – President, Sarah Montano – Vice President, Joel Hansen – Secretary, Jerry Toompas and Krag Unsoeld.

Staff: Alex Smith, Executive Director, Chris Pierce-Wright, General Counsel; Warren Hendrickson, Director of Operations; Shawn Gilbertson, Director of Environmental Planning and Programs; Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development; Jonathon Wolf, Environmental Manager; Taber Lee, Marketing and Outreach Senior Manager; Britt Hoglund, Lease Administrator; and Missy Goodell, Commission Coordinator.

Guests: Erin Timms, Board President and Program Director at Olympia Community Sailing (OCS), and Erin Pamplin, OCS Director and Head Coach.

Approval of Agenda

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

Executive Director Report

Alex Smith, Executive Director, reported on recent Port activities. She announced that the Port recently hosted our partners at TRPC for a two-hour Port Peninsula walking tour where information was shared about the entire Port Peninsula. Students from Oakville High School in Grays County attended a Marine Terminal tour with a focus on agriculture and forest management.

The airport recently completed the installation of a new pilot-controlled lighting system, enabling pilots to activate runway and airfield lighting to enhance visibility and safety during periods when the control tower is not in operation.

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

None.

Commission Response to Public Comment / Follow-Up to Public Comment

None.

Partner Spotlight

Olympia Community Sailing. Erin Timms, Olympia Community Sailing (OCS) Board President and Program Director shared who OCS is and where they are going. The OCS mission: "OCS is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating an inclusive, diverse sailing community in the greater Thruston County area by providing access, recreation, and competition for all." OCS history was conveyed, as were their programming offerings and competitive achievements. How sailing can positively affect individuals throughout their lifetime was shared. Public waterfront access was discussed and ways to get involved with OCS were communicated.

Consent Calendar

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

Action Calendar

None.

Action/Other Calendar

None.

Advisory Calendar

Climate Change Policy and Sustainability Plan. Jonathon Wolf, Environmental Manager, presented a review of the draft Port of Olympia Climate Change Policy and provided an update on the Port's Sustainability Action Plan and Strategy. Goals of the plan are to 1) reduce carbon emissions, 2) building climate resilience, 3) work with regional partners, and 4) continue environmental stewardship and community engagement.

It was shared that the Sustainability Action Plan and Strategy (an internal and iterative document providing distinct direction to staff): Offers a path toward sustainability; shares the strategy and vision; reiterates the goals from the Climate Change Policy; explains the steps to reach our goals; gives us tools to get us to our goals; and explains the implementation strategies.

Next steps are to edit the draft policy per Commission input and return for Commission action to adopt the resolution.

Foreign Trade-Zone Briefing. 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. He 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.

Commissioner Reports/Discussion

Commissioner Hansen attended the Thurston County Chamber Forum; he served on an ad hoc committee with the Thurston County Chamber that is exploring public procurement rules and barriers to small diverse local businesses doing work for public entities; and he attended an alumni event for Leadership Thurston County. Commissioner Hansen also attended a fundraiser for Wolf Haven International; a Joint Work Session with the POCAC; he met with Puget Sound Energy; attended Ag Day at the Thurston County Commission; a Tenino Chamber of Commerce meeting; and he attended a STEDI South Thurston Economic Development Initiative meeting.

Commissioner Montano also attended the Thurston County Chamber Forum, and she attended Experience Olympia and Beyond's meeting.

Commissioner Toompas reported that he met with a communications strategist regarding what the Port is about, what his goals were as a Commissioner, and what the near-future looks like; he met with Dan Stahl regarding the upcoming Port Commission retreat; and he attended his first POCAC meeting.

Commissioner Unsoeld attended the March POCAC meeting; he interviewed with a communications strategist and Port advocate Dan Stahl; and he attended a Tumwater Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Commissioner Vasavada attended a TRPC retreat planning call.

Additional Public Comment

None.

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, April 13, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners, the Monday, March 23, 2026, regular meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION

Jasmine Vasavada, President

Joel Hansen, Secretary