



Commission Meeting Minutes Monday, May 11, 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 4:01 p.m., Monday, May 11, 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; Taber Lee, Marketing and Outreach Senior Manager; and Missy Goodell, Commission Coordinator.

Guest: Cheryl Selby, Olympia AHA! Museum and Visitor Center Board President.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hansen moved to amend the agenda, moving Action Item H.1. *Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee Resolution* to Item J.1. on the Advisory Calendar. Commissioner Montano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Report

Alex Smith, Executive Director, reported on recent Port activities. She announced that the Port welcomed the newest member of the Port team, Jake Hobson, our new Airport Maintenance Technician. The Port recently hosted students from Ignite Academy, a homeschool program in the North Thurston School District for a tour of the marine terminal. The Port participated in the Annual Lacey Chamber Golf Classic and will attend the Yelm Chamber May Forum where speakers Fire Chief Mark King and Fire Marshall Matt Russell will speak about all things related to Fire Safety.

Next week, Alex Smith will be joining Port staff and several commissioners at the WPPA Spring Meeting in Skamania. This event provides a valuable opportunity to gain industry insights, engage in discussions on key port-related topics, and connect with colleagues from across the state in an environment designed for networking and learning.

Regarding the Sandman, community members can visit the Port's website and navigate to the Community Hot Topics section. The most recent updates and a detailed fact sheet outlining the latest plans for the historic tug are available.

The current Port Pulse publication for the month of May, featuring up-to-date information on activities and developments around the Port is available. This month's edition highlights our "maritime" theme in celebration of National Maritime Month. Thank you to the Port staff, local organizers and all the community members who put on some great community events this past week throughout Port properties along the peninsula's waterfront. Much success was had with the Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association Annual SLURP and Wooden Boat Festival alongside Swantown Marina's first Maritime Trades Fair that brought in 30 vendors a few hundred community members to Swantown Marina.

On May 5, the Port hosted our first free public marine terminal tour of the year. Community members can join us for free marine terminal tours the first Tuesday of each month through September. Those wishing to attend can email inquiries@portolympia.com to reserve a spot.

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

Thirteen individuals provided public comment regarding the Evergreen pool, and DERT.

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

Commissioners provided input to public comments.

Partner Spotlight

Olympia AHA! Museum and Visitor Center. Cheryl Selby, Board President of Olympia AHA! Museum and Visitor Center gave a presentation on the new museum and visitor center, whose mission is to "create a museum and visitor center that will be a destination and gathering place for learning about, and becoming inspired by, Olympia's uniquely rich arts, cultures, and history."

The Olympia Arts and Heritage Alliance (AHA) was founded in 2018. The intent of the alliance was to secure a facility for the purpose of housing an Olympia museum focused on art, culture and history/heritage that will both be economically sustainable and foster economic development in Olympia. The museums Vision and Core Values were also shared.

Consent Calendar

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

Action Calendar

None.

Action/Other Calendar

None.

Advisory Calendar

Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee (POCAC). Alex Smith, Executive Director, shared that over the past eight months, the Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee (POCAC) and Port Staff have been updating a draft of the Commission Resolution that governs the POCAC and its operations, as well as a draft of the Operating Procedures and Rules the POCAC is to follow in conducting its business. The POCAC discussed the drafts in a joint meeting with the Port Commission on March 16, 2026, and additional changes to the documents were proposed following that meeting. The draft documents before the Commission are the most recent versions supported by POCAC members.

New or clarified provisions in the draft Resolution and Operating Rules were shared and discussed.

Commissioner Reports/Discussion

Commissioner Vasavada had no report.

Commissioner Toompas attended the Local Officials Social hosted by Thurston County.

Commissioner Unsoeld attended the Maritime Industries event.

Commissioner Hansen reported that he also attended the Maritime Industries event and the SLURP! event, where he won the "Slurp Off" representing the Port of Olympia.

Commissioner Montano will attend an Experience Olympia and Beyond meeting next week.

Additional Public Comment

None.

Other Business

A Work Session to discuss the Evergreen Pool was requested. Multi-jurisdictional convening was also requested.

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, a Work Session, will be held on Monday, May 18, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners, the Monday, May 11, 2026, regular meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Jasmine Vasavada, President

Joel Hansen, Secretary

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