



Commission Meeting Minutes Monday, July 28, 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 5:34 p.m., Monday, July 28, 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; James Sommer, Public Works Program Manager; Tina Champion, Executive Coordinator; and Missy Goodell, Commission Coordinator.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Sanders 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 the Port hosted 15 students from Tumwater High School's summer course, Forest and Stream Ecology where they learned about our log terminal operations, the stormwater treatment facility and the current status of Budd Inlet. The Port held a public auction for the historic Sandman tugboat. The auction will remain open for 10 days; if no qualified buyer comes forward by the end of that period, ownership of the vessel will revert to the Port. Alex announced that she will be hosting a Town Hall on Tuesday, November 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the Port's Commission room. On August 5, another free public tour of the Port's Marine Terminal will take place. Summer events continue at the Port with Harbor Days, Movies at the Marina and the South Sound Block Party coming soon.

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

Two individuals provided public comments regarding the Port Peninsula Master Plan and 2025 Port financials.

Consent Calendar

Commissioner Harding moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; Commissioner Montano

seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Pending Issues or Business

None.

Action Calendar

None.

Action/Other Calendar

None.

Advisory Calendar

Marine Drive NE Restoration – Contract Award. James Sommer, Public Works Manager, provided background information on the Marine Drive NE Restoration project. A construction bid package was published using a formal competitive bid process with the bid period closing on August 1, 2025. As of July 23, 2025, 41 firms have downloaded the bid package. At an upcoming Commission meeting, staff will recommend the Port Commission award the construction contract to the lowest responsive bidder and authorize the executive director to enter a contract with the construction firm.

The Marine Drive NE restoration project is the heavy haul freight route connecting the Port of Olympia's working waterfront to the I-5 corridor.

Commissioner Reports/Discussion

Commissioner Harding shared a quote from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: "A person hears only what they understand."

It was suggested that standing agenda items be included on the Port Commission meeting agenda, that will serve as a touch-point for discussion. The City of Lacey does this and also includes a current report with the Commission Meeting Packet (with corresponding minutes or meeting agenda) so that the Port Commission is constantly updated on certain key items.

Commissioner Iyall reported that he recently attended and enjoyed the Washington Public Ports Association (WPPA) Commissioner Seminar; he found it very informative.

Commissioner Vasavada reported that one of the committees that she serves on, the Thurston County Economic Development Council (EDC), provides a write-up after their board meetings, and she suggested that she forward that report to her fellow commissioners for their information.

Commissioner Sanders shared exciting news about the tribal journeys of Washington State Tribes. There will be over 100 canoes landing in Lower Elwah to celebrate canoes and tribal resiliency across Washington State.

Commissioner Montano mentioned that she also enjoyed the WPPA Commissioner Seminar and learned a lot from fellow commissioners attending from around Washington State. Commissioner Montano mentioned that the Port of Olympia could use an economic impact statement update. The

cumulative impact to the community and importance of the Port's business lines will be better displayed with this type of statement. She believes that more public comment and communication is needed regarding the waterfront center planning.

Engagement with Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) was shared. Alex communicated that the Port decided to partner with TRPC after original contractors working on the Port's Waterfront Master Plan took the project in a direction that the Port was not in agreement with. TRPC will essentially be the contractor for the Peninsula Master Plan. A Work Session will be held on September 15 to discuss restarting of the Peninsula Master Plan. TRPC will talk with Port Commissioners about the Scope, ensuring that it aligns with what the Commission is envisioning from the Master Plan. TRPC will then assist with public participation and opportunities for the public to provide input.

Other Business

Commissioner Harding requested future discussion of a possible amphitheater at NorthPoint as it has been well-received by other ports across Washington.

It was suggested that a fun team-building activity might be a "going back to school Commission" with kids attending, perhaps conduct a tour of the Marine Terminal before school starts.

Commissioner Vasavada would like to schedule a legislative conversation and more conversation or another work session regarding the opportunity to have an electric ferry.

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, August 11, 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 28, 2025, regular meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m. by Commissioner Vasavada.

PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION



Jasmine Vasavada, President



Maggie Sanders, Vice President



Sarah Montano, Secretary