PORT of OLYMPIA

Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 8, 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, June 8, 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; Shawn Gilbertson, Director of Environmental Planning and Programs; Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development; Chris Paolini, Airport Senior Manager; Taber Lee, Marketing and Outreach Senior Manager; and Missy Goodell, Commission Coordinator.

Guest: Kyle Baxter, Northwest Helicopters.

Approval of Agenda

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

Executive Director Report

Alex Smith, Executive Director, reported on recent Port activities. She announced that SPX Technologies, a company that specializes in solar airfield lighting, has partnered with Crouse-Hinds, a company that manufactures airfield lighting control systems, to expand the usability of complete solar airfield lighting systems at airports. Because the Olympia Regional Airport installed the Crouse-Hinds airfield lighting control system, as part of our runway project last year, we were a perfect candidate for SPX Technologies to install their solar lights on our airfield for demonstration and promotion of their integration with Grouse-Hinds systems. Airside Solutions is our local airfield lighting supply representative for these products and has partnered with SPX Technologies and Crouse-Hinds to install the solar lights on their behalf. These solar lights now illuminate the airport's longest taxiway, Taxiway "F", which has never had lighting until now. We are very excited and grateful for the opportunity to partner with these organizations to enhance our airport's usability and safety under low visibility and nighttime operations. In addition to the improvements to safety, this is a green energy system powered through renewable energy from the sun.

The Port hosted 25 fourth-grade students from Madison Elementary, giving the students an up-close look at Port operations and equipment. They also learned about water quality, our environmental initiatives, port history, and gained insights into the timber industry thanks to Weyerhaeuser's participation.

The Port of Olympia had the opportunity to partner with the Thurston County EDC to support the annual INSPIRE Women's Business Conference in Lacey. It was a day dedicated to recognizing women leaders in our community, featuring local guest speakers, networking opportunities, and valuable insights into our regional economy.

The third public marine terminal tour of the year was conducted. On June 6, our local community partner, SWAE Night Markets, hosted their second Car Meet at the Port's NorthPoint location. With more than 30 vendors and approximately 200 cars, the event created a vibrant scene full of photo opportunities, networking, and community building.

In preparation for the upcoming POCAC recruitment efforts, a clear overview of the application process and where to find key information was provided.

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
Five individuals provided public comment regarding Budd Inlet, dredging, air quality, aquatic facilities, and the Economic Impact Study.

Commission Response to Public Comment / Follow-Up to Public Comment
Input to public comment was provided.

Partner Spotlight
Olympic Air Show and Olympic Flight Museum. Kyle Baxter, Museum Director, Northwest Helicopters, shared information about the Olympic Flight Museum, a non-profit aviation museum located at the Olympia Regional Airport in Tumwater. Founded in 1998, their mission is to preserve, restore, and share aviation history with future generations. Their goal is to allow visitors to experience the sights, sounds, and excitement of historic or aviation.

Unlike many museums, most of their aircraft do fly, they fly at random times throughout the year, they perform at different air shows, and their own air show. There are opportunities for children and adults to climb on board the aircraft, and touch, move, push, and pull things, and see the results of those movements.

The Olympic Flight Museum works with the Hands On Children's Museum and has a reciprocal relationship with the Museum of Flight in Seattle. Each year the Olympic Flight Museum hosts an air show held Father's Day weekend. This year it will be held June 20 and 21, 2026. A new shuttle bus service has been established allowing quick movement to a new parking area.

The museum serves as an educational resource for the community, both aviation and military. Their space can be used for birthday parties, gatherings, or commission meetings. School students take field trips to tour their museum. These field trips include a mini aviation class with paper airplanes that teach

the four things you need to overcome for aviation: lift, gravity, thrust and drag. Their meeting space is also used for trainings with Airlift Northwest, Tumwater Fire Department, and Medic One.

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

Action Calendar
Economic Impact Study – BERK Contract. Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development, presented background information on this agenda item: In October 2025, the Port issued RFP 2025 1047 seeking a consultant to complete an updated Economic Impact Study across all Port business lines. Seven proposals were evaluated by Port staff and members of the Port's Community Advisory Committee, who unanimously recommended BERK Consulting. BERK's proposal emphasized methodological transparency, defensibility, and clear public communication.

As a first phase of the project BERK conducted pre-scoping interviews with each Commissioner to ensure alignment with Commission expectations. A revised Scope of Work was developed (May 11, 2026) that reflected these priorities. On May 18, 2026, BERK presented the revised scope (also referred to as Phase II) at the Commission Work Session, walked through methodology, and addressed questions. Staff is now seeking Commission approval of the contract and scope to begin the study.

The financial impact of Phase II and how this project aligns with Vision 2050 was shared: The Economic Impact Study directly supports the Vision 2050 Action Plan by enhancing transparency and public understanding of the Port's value. Most prominently, it aligns with: *Action 51 – "Communicate community benefits of Port activities*: Expand messaging about the value of investments that may not directly benefit the Port but otherwise benefit the community."

Goals, deliverables, a projected timeline, and proposed budget was also discussed.

Discussion followed.

Motion: Commissioner Hansen moved to approve the proposed Scope of Work and contract with BERK Consulting for the Economic Impact Study, as presented; Commissioner Montano seconded the motion. Motion passed with four votes in the affirmative and one vote dissenting.

Action/Other Calendar
None.

Advisory Calendar
2026 Action Plan. Alex Smith, Executive Director, presented the Port of Olympia 2026 Action Plan pursuant to Vision 2050. By Commission Resolution, Vision 2050 has been designated as the "Port's Plan" for our organizational focus for the future, it contemplates that the Port will complete one-year and five-year action plans to implement the vision. Staff developed an action plan for 2026 and they worked through it with the Commission at a retreat on March 24, 2026. The Action Plan reflects

Commission input from both March 24, 2026, retreat and an earlier Commission retreat held in February 2026.

The 2026 Action Plan identifies the actions Port staff plan to take pursuant to Vision 2050's ten policy goals. Items in the 2026 Action Plan are funded by the 2026 Annual Budget and 2026 Capital Investment Plan, approved by the Port Commission on November 24, 2026. Individual capital projects detailed in the 2026 Action Plan will undergo environmental review as part of their permitting processes.

Each goal was described with details.

This Action Plan is on the agenda for the June 15, 2026, Work Session. Staff will then bring it to the Commission for approval at the June 22, 2026, Commission Meeting.

A retreat will be held in August to formulate a five-year plan with Commission direction (the five-year plan will cover January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2031). The 2026 one-year Action Plan will be finalized this August through December. After alignment with the budget, the plan will be shared with the community as the Commission prepares to adopt the 2027 budget.

Commissioner Reports/Discussion
Commissioner Montano attended a Lacey Chamber of Commerce meeting, and a tour of the Port with Representative Lisa Parshley.

Commissioner Unsoeld attended a Thurston Regional Planning Committee (TRPC) meeting.

Commissioner Hansen reported that he attended an Economic Development Council board meeting, and he reviewed the Port's Bills and Vouchers with a Port accountant. When he attended the Grand Mound / Rochester Chamber of Commerce meeting, in the absence of their scheduled speaker, Commissioner Hansen gave a last-minute talk regarding the Port of Olympia. He met with Charles Castanzo, a consultant hired by WPPA, for the Marine Industrial work.

Commissioner Vasavada shared that she appreciated the opportunity to tour the Marine Terminal with Commissioner Montano, staff, and Representative Parshley.

Additional Public Comment
None.

Other Business
Commissioner Vasavada requested that the upcoming budget Work Session include information on reserves and provide other port budget examples.

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, June 15, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners, the Monday, June 8, 2026, regular meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION

Jasmine Vasavada, President

Joel Hansen, Secretary