Commission Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 14, 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, September 14, 2026, at the Rochester School District, Archive and Research Facility, 10140 Highway 12 SW, Rochester, WA 98579.

Present

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

Staff: Alex Smith, Executive Director, Megan Lin, General Counsel; Warren Hendrickson, Director of Operations; Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development; Jon Wolf, Interim Director of Environmental Planning and Programs; Don Bache, Cascade Pole Site Manager; Spencer Battersby, IT Manager; and Missy Goodell, Commission Coordinator.

Guests: Diane Weaver, President, and Donna Wheelers, Member, of the Grand Mound/Rochester Washington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; George Sharp, Rural Program Manager, STEDI (South Thurston Economic Development Initiative); David Schaffert, President/CEO Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, and Jennie Foglia-Jones, JFJ Strategies.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Hansen 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. She announced that with our partnership with the Olympia AHA! Museum, we've now joined their waterfront tours as the final stop on their route. Last week, the Port hosted their last Free Public Marine Terminal Tour for the year. In August, we held our annual Summer Employee Appreciation Luncheon. In mid-August, the Port attended our partner's Hands On Children's Museum's Summer Splash Gala.

After nearly a decade of dedication and community collaboration, the historic 1906 tugboat Parthia has found her forever home beside the Olympia Farmer's Market, where her story can continue for generations to come. Led by the South Sound Maritime Heritage Foundation, this has been a true community effort.

After the recent announcement from organizers of the South Sound Block Party that this was their last year producing this event, the Port says farewell to the beloved South Sound Block Party after five years of being hosted on Port waterfront property. This past Friday we celebrated the annual Foofaraw event, hosted by the Thurston Chamber in partnership with the Olympia Yacht Club, honoring more than 250

active-duty military service members as they journeyed to Hope Island for a day of camaraderie and festivities.

We recently entered a partnership with the New Market Skills Center to launch the new Aviation Careers Academy at the Olympia Regional Airport. From pilots and air traffic controllers to aircraft maintenance, aerospace engineering, and airport management, the program gives local students hands-on exposure to the wide range of aviation career paths available and shows them what's possible right here in Thurston County.

The first week of September marked the start of the new port HQ renovations. The Port sponsored and supported the annual Harbor Days Festival over Labor Day weekend. Last Saturday night over Harbor Day weekend, the last Movies at the Marina screening of the year was held.

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 comment regarding the Cascade Pole contract amendment and Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee appointments.

Commission Response to Public Comment / Follow-Up to Public Comment
None.

Partner Spotlight
Grand Mound/Rochester Update. Diane Weaver, President, Grand Mound/Rochester Washington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and Donna Wheelers, Grand Mound/Rochester Washington Chamber of Commerce Chamber Board Member, thanked the Port for funding a heritage project that digitized 166 local oral history recordings spanning from 1970 to 2000.

The Grand Mound/Rochester Chamber of Commerce was awarded Port of Olympia Small Cities Award related to their new community archive and research space in partnership with the Rochester School District, which served as the meeting space for the night's Commission meeting.

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

Action Calendar
Contract for Grant Assistance – The Beckett Group. Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development, presented information to execute a two-year contract not to exceed $250,000 with Gig Harbor-based firm The Beckett Group to provide strategic grant writing, lifecycle administration and funding strategy services.

Motion: Commissioner Hansen moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with The Beckett Group for grant writing, grant administration, and funding strategy services. Commissioner Montano seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Action/Other Calendar

Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee (POCAC) Appointments. Mike Reid, Director of Community and Economic Development, gave a brief overview of the POCAC Resolution and background of the advisory group. Information on POCAC reappointments, new applicants, applicants by district, and alternatives to consider was shared. Possible areas for future resolution updates were also discussed.

Current Members seeking reappointment:

	Name	Election District	Current Term End Date	Appointment Start Date
1	Jack Havens	3	December 2026	January 2024
2	Darlene Kemery	3	December 2028	January 2023
3	Debby Pattin	3	December 2028	January 2018
4	Sue Patnude	3	December 2027	January 2023
5	Jim Thornton	2	December 2027	January 2023
6	Bob Wubbena	1	December 2027	January 2023

New Applicants:

	Name	Election District
7	Heather Christenson	1
8	Dan Decker	1
9	Erin English	1
10	Sherrie Ilg	1
11	David Lund	1
12	Timothy Smith	1
13	Edward Humble	4
14	Cami Jones	4
15	Rose Gunderson	4
16	Dylan Stuwe	5

The board also appointed a complete 15-member roster to the Port of Olympia Community Advisory Committee. For the first time since the commission expanded to five districts, the advisory body includes representation across all five Thurston County commission districts.

Motion: Commissioner Hansen moved to conduct an informal discussion regarding POCAC appointments; Commissioner Unsoeld seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

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Discussion followed regarding the appointment of POCAC members.

Motion: Commissioner Hansen moved to appoint individuals to Districts; Commissioner Toompas seconded the motion with the motion passing unanimously.

Commissioner Hansen moved to appoint these individuals to his District 4:
Debby Pattin
Ed Humble
Rose Gunderson

Commissioner Toompas moved to appoint these individuals to his District 2:
Jim Thornton
Jack Havens
Timothy Smith

Commissioner Montano moved to appoint these individuals to her District 5:
Dylan Stew
Sue Patnude
Heather Christensen

Commissioner Unsoeld moved to appoint these individuals to his District 3:
Darlene Kemery
Dan Decker
Erin English

Commissioner Vasavada moved to appoint these individuals to her District 1:
Bob Wubbena
Candi Jones
Sherry Ilg

David Lund was named as an alternate.

At 5:18 p.m., Commissioner Vasavada called for a "Bio Break."

Meeting resumed at 5:21 p.m.

Advisory Calendar

Briefing: Olympia-Lacey Fan Zone After-Event Report. David Schaffert, President/CEO Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, and Jennie Foglia-Jones, JFJ Strategies and Olympia-Lacey Fan Zone Project Manager, presented an update on the 2026 Olympia-Lacey Fan Zone.

Staged at Port Plaza, the fan zone welcomed 7,700 total visitors across four featured match days, showcasing the working waterfront as a premier regional gathering place. The fan zone attracted attendees from 50 Washington communities, 17 U.S. states, and four foreign nations, Finland, Taiwan, Egypt, and Kenya. In addition to driving local economic activity, the event achieved notable

environmental milestones through volunteer efforts that diverted 620 pounds of recyclable material from landfills, accomplishing a 30 percent waste diversion rate without plastic bag contamination. To mark community contributions, local partner Well 80 Brewery received a Seattle FIFA "whale tail" beacon, while a permanent neon sculpture donated by Puget Sound Energy will remain installed at Port Plaza.

Cascade Pole Update and Landau Contract Amendment. Don Bache, Cascade Pole Manager, presented an update regarding ongoing environmental remediation at the Cascade Pole site. He explained that unexpected testing directives and new analytical expectations from the Department of Ecology required expanded groundwater sampling and complex data evaluation by consultant Landau Associates, prompting a requested $300,000 budget increase to raise the contract ceiling to $780,000.

The current consultant services contract #2024-1030 is a unit price contract with Landau Associates. The estimated budget for this contract was $480,000 over 4 years.

Staff are recommending approving the budget increase to ensure the Port remains in compliance with the legal requirements of consent decrees and agreed orders with the State of Washington.

Commissioner Reports/Discussion

Commissioner Toompas reported that he attended several Port-sponsored events, and a Sea Level Rise Collaboration meeting where their 2027-2028 Work Plan was produced and shared.

Commissioner Unsoeld reported that he met with Tumwater Mayor Leatta Dahlhoff, and had a one-on-one conversation about the development of an Interlocal Agreement with the Port to be able to maximize environmental protection and sustainability especially with regard to water and water use and ensuring ground water recharge. He attended the Thurston County Chamber Forum featuring a Candidates Debate with two candidates for County Commissioner. He attended a Thurston Conservation District event touring parts of Thurston County.

Commissioner Montano reported that she volunteered at the Festival of the Sṯəc̓as; she met with DERT and learned what they are doing to restore the estuary; she was talking with folks recruiting for the POCAC; and she attended an Experience Olympia and Beyond meeting. She also attended a Lacey Chamber of Commerce Forum; and she attended the Thurston County Chamber Forum.

Commissioner Hansen reported that he attended the Festival of the Sṯəc̓as, where he had discussions about floating wetlands created from mycelium which led to ideas about marina floats for docks that are grown from mushrooms. He attended the Habitat for Humanity Gala; and a POCAC reception; he attended some Chamber meetings; and attended the Hands On Children's Museum Summer Splash event. He also attended a few meetings of the Marine Industrial Base Committee formed by WPPA; he attended South Sound Block Party; and the Budd Inlet 6 Cruise, and Foofaraw.

Commissioner Vasavada attended the Thurston Regional Planning Council retreat, with the results being that a priority of TRPC should be housing with a transportation nexus.

Additional Public Comment

None.

Commission Response to Public Comment / Follow-Up to Public Comment
None.

Other Business
Commissioner Vasavada requested recommendations and amendments to the POCAC Resolution and would like to rotate Commissioner attendance at POCAC meetings.

It was requested that the updated POCAC Resolution be completed by September 28. Commissioners Hansen and Montano volunteered to work on the POCAC Resolution with staff to meet this deadline.

Meeting Announcements
A list of upcoming events was displayed on the screen for viewers to see upcoming Commission meetings. Executive Director Smith stated the next Commission Work Session will be held on Monday, September 21, at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment
There being no further business to come before the Port of Olympia Board of Commissioners, the Monday, September 14, 2026, meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

PORT OF OLYMPIA COMMISSION

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Jasmine Vasavada, President

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Joel Hansen, Secretary

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