

**PORT OF ALLYN
Special Meeting
July 10, 2018
MINUTES**

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to discuss the Oyster House Project progress, a Lobbyist presentation, and discuss a contract with Art Anderson & Associates for the Allyn Marina upgrades.

The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with the flag salute.

Present were Commissioners Judy Scott (Chair), and Scott Cooper. Commissioner Ted Jackson was excused absent due to a work conflict; Staff present were Lary Coppola, Executive Director and LeAnn Dennis, Operations Manager; Others present were Arla Shephard-Bull, press; Ina Culbertson, Del Griffey, Walter Galitski, and Barry Betsinger.

The Executive Director stated he had not received the Contract back from Art Anderson and Associates as of the meeting time.

Walter Galitski and Commissioner Judy Scott discussed where they are at with the permitting, plans, preservation and construction of the Sargent Oyster House project. Commissioner Scott and the Executive Director are working on the building permit. Volunteers will finish up the work they are doing while the Port and Historical Society need to continue pursuing grants and/or hire a grant writer, as well as request Capital Budget funding.

The Executive Director will try to meet with grant writer Kathleen Barrantes. Depending on what grant cycles are currently open will help decide what grants to apply for. The grant writer would be the the best person to determine this. There was some question as to exactly what grant Bonnie Knight and the North Bay Historical Society had recently applied for.

The Oyster House windows have been removed from the building and are currently being restored.

The Executive Director introduced Brianna Murray and Josh Wiese of Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs (Lobbyists) for their presentation. They came at the invitation of the Executive Director to discuss what they can do on the behalf of the Port. They are the largest governmental affairs company in Washington, and represent all types of governmental entities. One of their main functions is to provide critical information for decision and policy makers. They also focus and bringing in more funding for public agencies.

Josh Wiese then discussed his bio and what he focuses on, highlighting the fact he has 20 years of experience as a legislative liaison with the Washington State Association of Counties.

The firm also represents public agencies and taxpayers in Olympia, and has a longtime state legislative employee that concentrates primarily on securing grant funding.

After the introduction, Mr. Wiese went on to explain how hiring their firm will benefit the Port. He discussed the Capital Budget and how competitive securing funding from it is, and the fact that having a well-known and respected lobbyist with established contacts in Olympia increases exposure and helps with funding specific projects. He also noted that lobbyists serve as advocates for the communities their clients serve. He stated that it makes good sense to have an advocate representing the Port, as the Capital Budget funds are going to go to someone, and their job is to secure as much of them as possible for their clients and their communities.

They then discussed some of the successful projects they secured funding for, and the communities that benefitted from their efforts.

Ms. Murray discussed the process, while Mr. Wiese discussed how it works with the clients, and the day-to-day interaction at the Olympia level. They also noted that the Port will need to

have its projects fully understood by the legislators - and shovel ready – saying that legislators want to be successful too, and need the support of community leaders and other stakeholders.

One thing both Ms. Murray and Mr. Wiese emphasized strongly was the need to start early, getting the Port's name and its projects in front of legislators while the Capital Budget was being developed, as well as letting legislators know the Port is serious enough about its projects to spend the money to hire professional representation.

Ms. Murray said she would like to hear more details about not only the Oyster House, but any other projects as well. She suggested that Commissioner Scott talk to their grant coordinator sooner rather than later. She also said the Port needs to get legislators here to see and discuss Port projects in detail.

She added that timing is important, and that Board and Staff presence is super important at the capital. Mr. Wiese interjected that the legislators in our area are great, but lobbyists are the squeaky wheel, and that often makes the difference between success and failure.

Commissioner Scott asked about their clients, noting the list provided includes a lot of cities, but questioned if they work with Ports. Ms. Murray answered that project funding works the same way for all the different public agencies, that they are representing the Port of Vancouver in Washington DC currently, and they just attended the WPPA conference in Vancouver.

Commissioner Scott discussed the Oyster House project and what she has been doing at the caucus, noting that their grant coordinator could be very valuable. She also asked how they charge (fees). The answer was that it is based on scope of work, but that they prefer annual contracts as that is how the funding works at the Olympia level.

Arla Shepard Bull asked about their conflict policy and how they deal with that. Ms. Murray responded they like to position each project they work on for success, not competing with each other for the same money.

Commissioner Scott thanked them for their time.


Meeting Adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



LeAnn Dennis, Operations Manager

COMMISSIONERS:



Judy Scott, Chair



Scott Cooper, Vice Chair



Ted Jackson, Commissioner