

**PORT OF ALLYN
Public Hearing
February 10, 2020
MINUTES**

The Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Flag Salute.

Present were Commissioners Ted Jackson (Chair), Scott Cooper; and Judy Scott. Staff present were LeAnn Dennis, Operations Manager; Lary Coppola, Executive Director; Kat Ross, Ken Van Buskirk, Mendy Harlow, Brian Petersen, Public

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss proposed changes to the Port of Allyn Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements. The Executive Director used a PowerPoint presentation to detail the Port's assets, projects, timeline, viability and progress. As he went through the different projects, he asked for public input and questions. The Executive Director had Commissioner Cooper speak about the upgrades to the Lynch Cove pool. He concluded the PowerPoint and asked for public input.

Kat Ross stated by the time we get all this done that kids will be grown. She stated we need more parks, swings etc. and a waterpark for kids, noting Port Orchard's is successful. She asked if it's possible to add a play set to Sweetwater Park development.

Ken Van Buskirk asked when the first response to the survey was.

Written comments will be entered into the minutes as record and included.

Dr. Peterson expressed support for the Sweetwater Park project, saying he has worked on it extensively for nearly 15 years now. He noted that surveys were done to get the designs completed, and there's lots of community support. He mentioned the volunteers that donated their expertise as engineers, the dirt work that's been donated along with a massive amount of "In Kind" volunteer support. He also cautioned against downsizing the inter-linking trails, and stressed the importance of getting families out, the economic development benefits subsequent to the development of the park. He closed by saying it's in the Mason County Comprehensive Plan - despite one community member's continuing resistance. He stated he'd like to see it remain in the Port's Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Jackson spoke about the Oyster House and his relationship with the building before he was involved with the Port. He feels strongly that the Oyster House really needs to be finished. Commissioner Cooper agreed, stating that some projects like the Oyster House take longer than originally envisioned. Commissioner Scott publicly thanked Mike Ross and Dan Orchard for their work on the Oyster House, saying it will be the gem of Allyn when it is complete.

Kat Ross agrees these things take time, and spoke about the co-working space idea, reminding everyone how government Red Tape impedes progress.

Ken Van Buskirk submitted comments (that will be attached to the minutes). He asked the Port to consider his comments about Sweetwater Park. He would also like the 4-way intersection and other comments he had made prior to the retreat be included, and would also like the Port to keep in mind its well on the North Shore and use that to help block the gravel pit.

Commissioner Jackson discussed sidewalks in Allyn and Representative Griffey's influence in bringing that to fruition. Ken Van Buskirk said they need to be added to the comp plan. There was additional discussion about the 4-way intersection and sidewalks. Ken Van Buskirk suggests when the Port's Comp Plan is adopted, it be sent to the county as they are just about to start working on the UGA's. Dr. Petersen stated Mr. Van Buskirk had a good point. Ken Van Buskirk then followed up on Dr. Petersen's other comments. He stated that the County's plans were in "development" mode, noting parcels now zoned multi-family and will require re-zoning.

Mendy Harlow, Executive Director of the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group spoke specifically about the partnering opportunity and the environmental, economic and educational opportunities offered by making Sweetwater Park a reality. She discussed the citizen involvement so far as community support for the project. Addressing the economic development component, she said it brings people out to enjoy the trails and parks from outside our community and those visitors will spend money here at restaurants and stores etc. She added there are volunteers for every level of development which is unheard of unless a community REALLY wants the project. She is excited the Port is in the final stages of the obtaining the title to the property, and asked it please be kept in the comp plan.

Commissioner Jackson asked if there was any other comment. Seeing none, the Public Hearing was closed.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:56 p.m. Respectfully Submitted,

LeAnn Dennis, Operations Manager

COMMISSIONERS:

Ted Jackson, Chair

Scott Cooper, Vice Chair

Judy Scott, Commissioner