

**PORT OF ALLYN
Regular Meeting
March 7, 2022
MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Flag Salute via the Zoom video-conferencing platform.

Present were Commissioners Judy Scott, Chair, Ted Jackson, Vice Chair, and John A Sheridan; Lary Coppola, Executive Director, LeAnn Dennis, Operations Manager; Sunshine Mars, Administrative Assistant; Andrea Bradford, Port Attorney. Ken Van Buskirk, Brad Carey, Jeff Carey, Phill Wolfe, Brian, Mark LaRiviere, Mendy Harlow and Randy Neatherlin, Public

CALL TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Executive Director Coppola added that the correct date for minutes and a voucher amount will be corrected. Commissioner SHERIDAN made a MOTION to APPROVE the Agenda, Commissioner JACKSON SECONDED. MOTION, CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Carey: asked about the water leak, and where it was located. As well as asking if we can allocate some of the payroll to the water system.

Brad Carey said he has issues with Water Fund, paying attorney fees. He noted that the Port tendered his complaint to Enduris but not Washington Water System's. Mr. Carey also thinks The Executive Director serving as a Commissioner at the Port of Manchester is a conflict of interest. The Executive Director clarified that he inquired about this with all three Commissioners as well as the WPPA prior to filing for office, and that no one felt there was any conflict.

Brian Peterson: Asked if there will be public comment at the end of the meeting? He wants to make comments pertaining to Sweetwater Creek Park.

Ken Van Buskirk: Inquired if commissioners have done performance rating of the Executive Director in the last 3 years.? He was informed they had. He then asked if the Board received his text messages and pictures of the tree he believes is a hazard? He thanked Commissioner Sheridan for walking the Sweetwater Park property with him but disagreed with his assessment that the tree in question was not an immediate threat, He also discussed the county EIS process.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed within the Consent Items have been distributed to each member of the Commission for reading and study, are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one motion of the Commission with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is desired, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by a Commission member or by Citizen request.

Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2022.

Commissioner SHERIDAN made a MOTION to APPROVE the Minutes of February 7, 2022 with corrections to the date and one voucher number. Commissioner JACKSON SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS

- a. Payment of General Fund Vouchers #220301001 to #220301028 for \$19,171.66
- b. Payment of Payroll Vouchers #220303001 to #220303010 for \$21,931.22
- c. Payment of WSPL Voucher #220304001 for \$755.18
- d. Payment of WSPL Tax Voucher # 220305001 to #220305002 for \$287.20
- e. Payment of Water Fund Vouchers #220302001 to #220302006 for \$2,495.26

Commissioner JACKSON made a MOTION to accept ACTION items a, b, c, d (with correction) and e, SECONDED by Commissioner SHERIDAN, MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner JACKSON made a MOTION to re-arrange the Agenda to allow Mark LaRiviere to speak prior to regular business. SECONDED by Commissioner SHERIDAN, MOTION CARRIED

Mark LaRiviere, a professional fisheries biologist, gave his presentation supporting the task force put together to increase Chinook Salmon runs in North Bay and stated the task force has established a positive relationship with the Squaxin Tribe. He noted that the *Shelton Mason County Journal* will have an article coming out next week, and he summarized it. He also said the group is hoping to utilize the Coulter Creek Hatchery to help enhance the Chinook runs so they return to Case Inlet and sport fisherman will once again be able to take advantage of their presence here.

Commissioner Sheridan, thanked Mr. LaRiviere and the others on their grass roots efforts. Dr. Brian Peterson asked the level of the plan – one year or ongoing for 10 years or more, and was told the intent was for it to be ongoing. Brad Carey asked if it would be passed on to other species. Commissioner Jackson spoke to Mr. LaRiviere's experience and stated they have been working on this project for the last two years.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner John A. Sheridan: Attended the Port's Regular Meeting, his first Mason Transit meeting, walked Sweetwater Creek with Mr. Van Buskirk. He noted that some trees, and one in particular, need to be dealt with due to a cut in the trunk. Dr. Brian Peterson said he knows how this cut happened.

Commissioner Ted Jackson: Attended the Port Regular Meeting, Belfair UGA and SEWER meetings and Salmon Task Force Meetings.

Commissioner Judy Scott: Attended the Port's Regular Meeting and the EDC meeting. She also stated she does not represent the Port at the other community meetings, such as the sewer meetings and. DNR training for camp hosts.

SECURITY OFFICER REPORT

*The Executive Director read the report aloud.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

*The Executive Director read his report aloud
Commissioner Jackson asked how long Jack Bailey has served as a Port of Brownsville Commissioner, and suggested doing something nice to recognize him for his service

OLD BUSINESS

A discussion ensued about the Ecology blocks on the Sweetwater Park property. Commissioner Sheridan stated he thinks they should be moved back 10 feet. Commissioner Jackson added to Commissioner Sheridan's statement, saying that there is a historic trail from the parking lot to the school, and suggested moving them back to that point. He also emphasized making sure no fire/police access is blocked. It was agreed that it was necessary to make room for truckers to pull off and parents at the school to drop off/pickup kids, and that perhaps more discussion is necessary.

Commissioner Jackson asked the Executive Director how much it would cost to move the blocks. He answered he thought it would be, "A few hundred to \$1,000 or so.". Commissioner Scott asked if Brian Peterson had any comment, and he said that they block his easement, but he supports the Port and has no issue with it.

Ken Van Buskirk said he does not like the no trespassing signs but has no issue with the blocks.

Commissioner SHERIDAN made a MOTION to move the ecology blocks back to make room for community uses, Commissioner JACKSON SECONDED, MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner SHERIDAN made a MOTION to clean that property up on the Port side of the property line and deal with the tree issues. Commissioner JACKSON SECONDED. Discussion ensued, with Brian Peterson clarifying that part of the property is his, not the Port's, and said there is a reason he has not cleaned up the property – Clean-up will be part of the in-kind match for a grant. Commissioner Jackson suggested an Executive session at the property so everyone can be clear on what needs to be done. Commissioner SHERIDAN then clarified his MOTION to include just PORT property to be cleaned up, and trees addressed. He wants the Port to secure a bid for the clean-up work as part of that motion. Ken Van Buskirk made a comment that he is not sure of the purpose of an executive session, and it should be open to the public. He also mentioned removing the willow tree at the base of the hill. He stated he has walked the property and that he is experienced in identifying hazard trees and feels there are at least 20 of them on the Port's property. He offered to help with the clean-up process.

Commissioner Jackson agrees to open meeting to the public, get together, and walk through the property, identify hazards, get bids, and look at the access. After more discussion, Commissioner SHERIDAN clarified his motion to say that we get a bid for clean-up from professionals to relieve the Port from liability and look at alternatives. Commissioner SCOTT SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion of Alea Grant: Mendy Harlow was introduced from Pacific Northwest Salmon Enhancement Group. She reviewed the history of the Grant and gave some background about the property itself. She discussed the grant line by line. There were no questions, although Commissioner Sheridan stated he thinks this is a wonderful project and he is supportive.

Discussion of hiring a Grant writer for Sweetwater Park: There was a clarification of lead agency vs recipient of Grant funds. Commissioner Jackson does not want to decide about this grant writer as he just learned about it Friday. He would like to include the school district, police, and fire department in the discussion about having a park next to a school. He is also concerned about who will manage the property. Mendy Harlow clarified that Port would not be the ones to hire the Grant Manager. Commissioner Jackson would like more discussion. Commissioner Sheridan thinks we have this property next to the school and we need to move forward with his project for the community and clean it up. Brian Peterson discussed the different facets of the project, prior to current commissioners, the school board asked that a fence be installed. All these concerns have been brought up prior. Ken Van Buskirk stated he is confused about grants, and other acquisitions. Commissioner Sheridan would like to make a motion, however Commissioner

Scott would like Ms. Harlow to address Mr. Van Buskirk's concerns about the additional acquisition.

NEW BUSINESS

Mendy Harlow gave some history on the acquisition of the Sweetwater Park property and the various conditions imposed by the subsequent grants. She also outlined work the Salmon Center has done since then to comply with the grants, and said she was confused by Mr. Van Buskirk's comments about the property not being used for its original intent considering the work the Salmon Center has done and continues to do to comply.

Commissioner Sheridan said he wanted to be on record as supporting the project and the work Ms. Harlow and the Salmon Center are doing.

Commissioner Scott brought up the proposed grant writer noting the Salmon Center would be paying her not the Port, but had a question as to who entity would be the lead agency on the project. Ms. Harlow explained the circumstances of how that process would work.

Commissioner Jackson expressed his concerns about the project and said he'd like to study this project some more and would like to have his concerns addressed.

Brian Peterson stated that some of the concerns expressed by Commissioner Jackson have previously been addressed. He said a lot of the issues being discussed are red herrings meant to delay or stop the project, but the project has a lot of community support and it's time for it to move forward.

Ken Van Buskirk said he is confused by the grant because it included acquiring additional property besides what is outlined for the park. He also said the grant writer doesn't have the track record being represented.

Commissioner Sheridan wanted to make a motion, but Commissioner Scott asked him to wait so some additional facts could be clarified, and asked Ms. Harlow to do that, which she did, including answering Mr. Van Buskirk's question about the acquisition of additional property and clarifying the situation.

Jeff Carey commented he has been involved in Port issues for 24 years and his opinion is this isn't even in the Port's purview because Ports should be involved in economic development, not parks. He believes the property should become a park, but it isn't in the Port's mission to do this.

Commissioner Scott would like to schedule a work session to discuss the situation and move this project forward.

County Commissioner Randy Neatherlin said he was speaking for himself, and not as a County Commissioner. He spoke about the Port's legal ability to work on this park, since it is connected to the water.

Ms. Harlow reiterated that the school district transferred the property to the Port because they wanted to see a park on that property but schools can't run a park, but Ports can.

Commissioner SHERIDAN made a MOTION to move forward with this project and allow Ms. Harlow to apply for grants, Commissioner SCOTT SECONDED, Commissioner JACKSON OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED.

Resolution 2022-006 authorizes the use of digital signatures on Action and Consent Items. Commissioner Sheridan read 2022-006. The Executive Director discussed the value of electronic signatures. Commissioner Jackson asked about the process. Commissioner JACKSON then made a MOTION to APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-006 as read, Commissioner SHERIDAN SECONDED, MOTION CARRIED.

The Executive Director commented about the efforts for public outreach to get comments on the Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements. There was some discussion on the Commissioners doing public outreach in person. But the Executive Director asked for direction to

either move forward with the approval process or try additional outreach. Commissioner Scott favored moving forward as did the other Commissioners.

A brief discussion was held on who would be attending the WPPA Spring meeting All three Commissioners want to go.

The issue of approval of digital signatures for the consent and action agenda was brought forward. Commissioner JACKSON made a MOTION to APPROVE the use of digital signatures. Commissioner SHERIDAN SECOND, MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment

Ken VanBuskirk: would like the Port to take a position on the Belfair sewer.

The Executive Director noted that Friday, would be the seventh anniversary of his employment with the Port and he thanked the Board for hiring him.

Jeff Carey said he is concerned about the budget report. He has asked that the budget be reviewed during the meetings a couple of times. He asked Board to make a statement about the line “statutory authority” from the letter.

Brian Peterson said that it’s good to see: progress on Sweetwater Park after 12 years of raising funds for it, and he thanked the Board for the support.

The Executive Director was directed to get some dates from the Sheriff, Fire Department and School District to set the work session for Sweetwater Park.

GOOD TO THE ORDER

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sunshine Mars, Administrative Assistant

COMMISSIONERS:

Judy Scott, Chair

Ted Jackson, Vice Chair

John Sheridan, Commissioner