

MINUTES
SPECIAL COMMISSION MEETING
December 3, 2020

The Port of Tacoma Commission met for a special meeting, December 3, 2020. Commissioners Ang, Keller, McCarthy, Marzano and Meyer were all present via video/teleconference.

Commissioner McCarthy called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner McCarthy called for public comment. There were none.

Commissioner McCarthy announced that the purpose of today's special meeting is to continue work on the Port's Strategic Plan. He reminded those listening to the meeting that instructions on how to sign up to speak during public comment and to submit written comments are posted on the Port's website and included on the posted agenda. He added that in addition to providing comment during the meeting, the public has additional opportunities to provide input on the Plan. Including visiting the Port's "Strategic Plan Online Open House" at www.portoftacoma.com/openhouse and completing an anonymous survey. Feedback can also be provided by calling the Strategic Plan Hotline at 1-253-888-4810 or sending an email to strategicplan@portoftacoma.com.

Eric Johnson, Executive Director, provided opening comments before turning the meeting over to the Port's consultants.

Study Session: Strategic Plan – Economic Vitality

Presented by Jeff Marcell Sr. Partner and TIP Strategies

The purpose of today's discussion is to confirm the proposed goal statement under Economic Vitality and to review five proposed strategies identified to support the goal.

Proposed Economic Vitality Foundational Goal: To create living-wage jobs and business development opportunities in Pierce County. Commissioners discussed the proposed Foundational Goal and provided feedback including:

- Commissioner McCarthy noted this is an improvement from the previous version.
- Commissioner Meyer agreed that this version is an improvement. He noted the word "sustainable" was dropped from the original version. He advocates putting "sustainable" back into the goal. He stated policy issues should be looked at through the lens of going "greener."
- Commissioner Keller agreed with adding "sustainable" to the goal. She commented that she views the term "sustainable" to mean keeping jobs in the Tacoma Harbor.
- Commissioner Ang commented that sustainable is a multifaceted definition encompassing social health, green initiatives and timelines. She noted the message/policy is that the Port is not 'in-it' to make a quick buck by sacrificing the environment.
- Discussion took place amongst the commissioners about whether the term 'sustainable' refers to a timeline or environmental element and whether the term should be included in the definition of this foundational goal. It was noted that there is a foundational goal dedicated to environmental stewardship where the issues presented in this discussion fit.
- The terms "living-wage" versus "family-wage" jobs were discussed.


Five draft strategies to accomplish the proposed Foundational Goal were presented. Staff provided an overview of each and presented draft actions strategies for Commissioners to provide feedback. The five Draft Strategies included:

- Economic Vitality (EV-1): Invest in real estate that supports living-wage job-creation throughout Pierce County. (Presented by Scott Francis, Director, Real Estate).
- EV-2: Plan real estate in and around the Tideflats to support marine trade activity. (Scott Francis, Director, Real Estate).
- EV-3: Support the development of policies and infrastructure investments that result in living-wage jobs and a robust employment base. (Deirdre Wilson, Senior Planning Manager)
- EV-4: Partner with regional organizations to promote living wage jobs and business growth in Pierce County. (Eric Johnson, Executive Director)
- EV-5: Grow the Pierce County workforce through training and education to create living-wage jobs. (Leslie Barstow, Public Relations Manager and Jeff Marcell, TIP Strategies).

Commissioners engaged in lengthy discussion providing feedback for each of the actions. Staff and the consultants will take the feedback received from Commissioners and return with another iteration based on today's conversation.

It was noted that that the topics do not exist in silos. Many of the strategies and actions cross a multitude of the foundational goals. Staff will provide a 'crosswalk' document for commissioners to assist in showing the interrelationship between the various elements of the Strategic Plan.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.



John McCarthy, President
Port of Tacoma Commission

Attest:



Don Meyer, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission



Juliet Campbell, Clerk of the Port
Port of Tacoma