

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES January 20, 2022

The Port of Tacoma Commission met for a regular meeting on January 20, 2022. Commissioners Ang, Keller, McCarthy, Marzano and Meyer were all present at the Fabulich Center, Room 104: 3600 Port of Tacoma Road, Fife, WA.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 am. Commissioner Meyer then recessed the meeting into Executive Session for approximately 90 minutes to discuss two potential litigation items, 42.30.110(1)(i), and one selling/leasing item, RCW 42.30.110(1)(c).

RETURN TO ORDER

Commissioner Meyer returned the meeting to order at 12:02 pm and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

- A. Newly Elected Commissioners' Swearing-In: The Honorable Judge Sorensen:**
Judge Sorensen swore in Commissioners McCarthy, Meyer and Marzano.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A.** Approval of the Minutes from December 16, 2021
B. Approval of the check certifications:
1. Checks #231529-#231648 and wire transfers in the amount of \$35,054,762.70
2. Check #231649: State Auditor's Office in the amount of \$4,399.59
C. Commission International Travel: January 1-June 30, 2022

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda Items A, B1 and C.
Motion was made and seconded.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED 5-0

MOTION: Approve Consent Agenda Item B2.
Motion was made and seconded.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED 4-0 *Commissioner McCarthy abstained*

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Dax Koho, ILWU Local 22: He notified the Commission that longtime ILWU 23 member and friend to the Port, Jim Norton, passed away a few days ago. The members of Local 22 would like to honor Jim. He was an integral part of the Management and Labor relationship for almost 30 years. He helped labor learn to bargain with Port of Tacoma. "One of the things Jim taught me," Koho stated, "was how to lead and he was always there when you needed a friend." He understood the "Tacoma Advantage". We have a wonderful workforce here. Jim knew that there was always going to be something new and great and that we need to keep looking forward to increase the Tacoma Advantage. Koho then asked the Commission for a moment of silence for Jim.

Dave Fjeld, ILWU Local 22: Fjeld stated that Jim always had time for business and personal interactions and always had a kind word. He was a great man. He knew how important the waterfront is. He was a guy that should have been seven feet tall. He will definitely be missed.

Tyler Brady ILWU Local 23: Jim started on the Tacoma waterfront in 1966 and became a member of Local 23. He has been a key mentor to the longshore community for decades. Brady proposed in the future we consider naming something after Jim Norton to continue his legacy on the waterfront.

Dick Marzano: Jim and I were not just ILWU brothers, we were friends. One of the trips we took together. His heart and soul were with Port of Tacoma and ILWU. Up to this year Jim was still attending the Pensioners meetings and he was still concerned about the waterfront. He will be greatly missed.

Commissioner McCarthy: I was working as a casual back in 1966. I really felt that he was a very articulate and thoughtful person. He would sit down and share a cup of coffee with you; he had a different take on things. He has been a strong leader and his heart was always in the right spot. He was a gentleman whom we will all miss.

Commissioner Meyer: Jim never retired; he just stopped being the official business agent. I negotiated several contracts with Jim. I always knew I was in trouble with Jim when he would say, "Meyer, we'll think about that." He represented the best of the labor and management partnership and what it means to work together. The giants, such as Jim Norton, built this place and did the hard work. We lost not just a dear friend, but a giant.

Louis Cooper: Jim Norton was a very honorable man and taught me a very important lesson. Labor relations was about one thing – relationships. I was honored to sit across from him during negotiations and also that he would call me to see how I thought negotiations were going.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Eric Johnson reported that Jim was a great guy and reached out to him when Eric was hired as the executive director. He talked about the old, old days. I realized very quickly that he was a person who represented the Tacoma waterfront.

The Tideflats Subarea Plan is entering phase II of the effort. The City of Tacoma went through their industrial regulations. We have our work cut out for us to make sure that this process goes in a direction we are comfortable with. We have some work to do. There is a divergence of vision between the City of Tacoma and the Port that we need to get in front of.

The City of Fife is making another effort to obtain grant funding for the I-5/Port of Tacoma Road interchange. They have reached out to me to see if the Port wants to contribute funding. Port staff have met with their staff. City of Fife isn't well known in Washington D.C. It would be helpful to them for us to support this project to improve freight mobility. Most of the federal issues are NWSA issues and not homeport issues, so the NWSA has a federal lobbyist, but the Port of Tacoma does not have a lobbyist in D.C. A lobbyist for Port of Tacoma is on hold. The Port Commissioners asked what we contributed prior and what we should contribute now. We could utilize local groups, such as PCRC and PSRC to assist.

Executive Director Johnson also previewed items on today's agenda. The matrix of funding that has been spent and committed will be sent to the Commission.

COMMISSION ACTIONS

A. Administration Building Physical Security Enhancements and CCTV Expansion:

MOTION:

Request project authorization:

- (1) In the amount of \$75,000 for a total authorized amount of \$465,000, for work associated with the Port Administration Building Security Enhancement project, Master Identification No. 101339.05.**
- (2) In the amount of \$125,000 for a total authorized amount of \$455,000, for work associated with the Port CCTV Camera Expansion project, Master Identification No. 101503.01.**

Motions were made together and seconded.

DISCUSSION:

1. A security assessment was conducted in 2019 and several legal deficiencies were discovered.
2. The Port only received one bid that was approximately 38% higher than the engineer's estimate. The reasons for this were discussed.
3. The scope of work and the timeline were reviewed.

4. The Port received grant funding for this project, but with the increase in cost, the Port's share has increased from 25% to 51%.
5. Some commissioners have concerns about investing too many resources in the current administration building when we have plans for a new building in approximately three years. Instead of looking to our new facility we are spending increasing amounts of money on things that don't need to be done to make the building operational. We do need indoor bathrooms, but not cosmetic upgrades.
6. The cameras could be moved to our new building. Outside the admin building 11 cameras will be installed. This is money well spent. Labor is the main cost of the project and not the actual cameras, so about 10% of the project cost could be reused.
7. Commission asked if tenants are paying more in their leases for the increased security around the facilities, such as the PSE site. The cameras are outside the PSE gate and will also cover the TOTE site, so the cost of the cameras has not been added to tenant leases.
8. The CCTV feeds go to our Port Security. It can be shared with other agencies if needed. It could also be helpful for records requests when there is an accident.
9. Commission asked about scaling down the scope. Even with a reduction of scope, the labor cost is still high. We will not have time to reduce the scope, go out to bid and construct before the grant expires. We would have to return that money. These are steps that will help protect our staff and our infrastructure and enhance the asset in the long-term or we can take the cameras with us.

VOTE: MOTIONS CARRIED 4-1

Commissioner Ang	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Nay
Commissioner Meyer	Aye
Commissioner Marzano	Aye

B. Resolution 2022-02-PT: Dedicated Commission Staff:

MOTION: Adopt Resolution 2022-02-PT, establishing a dedicated staff position reporting directly to the Commission.

Motion was made and seconded.

DISCUSSION:

1. The purpose of the resolution to recognize the lean staffing models we currently have. With the NWSA and the several work groups that have come along with it the workload has increased.
2. Commissioner McCarthy would like this staff person to assist with resolutions, correspondence and with research. The Port of Seattle also has a Chief of Staff for the commission. This would create one dedicated Chief of Staff position who would report to the President of the Commission.
3. In Managing Member meetings the Seattle commissioners will press issues and the Tacoma commissioners don't have the same level of staff support, McCarthy stated. The direct reporting structure will create clarity in the role independent of management. His intent is to start the ball rolling for the HR Department to develop the job description and recruit for the position. This is just the first step.
4. We have a work session scheduled to discuss staffing. Commissioner Keller feels this resolution is putting the cart before the horse. She also doesn't feel comfortable with the reporting structure, with this staff person reporting to just one commissioner.
5. Commissioners asked "Who does the hiring? Would they have staff? Will they not report to the Executive Director?" The Port of Seattle always had that position reporting directly to their commission before the formation of the NWSA. They also have the airport with a greater workload. Some commissioners prefer that this new position be responsive to the commission, with the President directing the work. The Executive Director would not be hiring; HR would assist with the hiring and the Commission would interview and select this individual. Commissioner McCarthy doesn't anticipate any staff under this position. He worries about waiting until the February 3rd study session to discuss this further. We need to start this process now and not just kick the can down the road. There are a lot of demands on us and they are not being met with the current staffing structure.

6. Commissioner Ang stated that we need to be more aggressive in our initiatives. If the reporting structure doesn't work well, the Commission can change it at a later date. We are running a little too lean. It would mean increasing our budget to add this position and retain our current staff.
7. Commissioner Marzano has a problem when staff aren't under the direction of our Executive Director.
8. Commissioner Meyer stated that there are two parts to this resolution: (1) substance and I understand the substance. (2) reporting structure - he doesn't want this staffer to report to the Commission. There is already confusion with Who is managing what, who is accountable to whom. We need to look at the Real Estate Department which has a few open positions. We need to see the bigger picture before we decide what spots to fill. We need to go through a more comprehensive look at this.
9. Commissioner McCarthy stated that the Port of Seattle has come at us with a strategy that hurts the Port of Tacoma. He has felt that no one has his back. We need an advocate for the Port of Tacoma in relation to the NWSA. He feels he has been caught without information that he needed.
10. Commission agrees that there are Insufficient resources for Commission support. Most of what is needed is in the areas of outreach and economic development. A position for this is currently on the street. We need to think about how we allocate our resources to support the Commission. We need to discuss the NWSA workload.

VOTE: MOTION FAILS 2-3:

Commissioner Ang	Yea
Commissioner Keller	Nay
Commissioner McCarthy	Yea
Commissioner Meyer	Nay
Commissioner Marzano	Nay

NONACTION - NEW BUSINESS

A. Youth Marine Foundation: Workforce Development Training Program

1. Monique Trudnowski and Tom Rogers presented a comprehensive update on the Tacoma Youth Marine Foundation (YMF).
2. Workforce development starts with 13-year-olds.
3. YMF is a nonprofit that doesn't have a lot of their own programs; they depend on working with community organizations.
4. Their current vessel, the Charles M Curtis, is 99 years old. Tacoma had, at one time, the largest amount of Sea Scouts in the nation. They have two old wooden boats with limited capacity. They require a minimum of five adults to bring a vessel out on the water.
5. They teach youth how to give back and about the importance of community engagement. Quartermaster is the equivalent to the Eagle Scout.
6. The YMF programs were reviewed, including water quality testing. It is an accredited course that is year-round.
7. 36 middle schoolers were on the YMF campus. YMF has an agreement with Tacoma Public Schools to take students out on the water.
8. They have two for-profit programs, including boat repair. This allows for sustainable revenue.
9. What they need for the future: Expand school day programs, register a new Sea Scout unit, and meaningful collaboration. They focus on how to get kids on the water who don't normally have access to water.
10. An aluminum vessel was found in Galveston, Texas. It is 98% of what we are looking for. They plan to purchase this vessel. It will expand capacity and speed up their ability to train youth. It has an enclosed classroom with 46 seats, with the ability to take up to 50 additional passengers with seating all around the deck. They are currently fundraising for the \$1.5 million purchase price. They have raised \$1.29 million since the December 21st launch. YMF would like to be of service to the Port of Tacoma and train the workforce of the future.
11. Community wants a maritime high school. YMF campus has an on-water, hands-on classroom.
12. YMF draws students from Enumclaw to Olympia.
13. They are currently working with a grant writer to assist with fund raising. They are asking Commissioners for names of organizations that might want to invest. The purchase is set to close in March 2022, with arrival in approximately July.

B. Review Proposed 2022 Commission Boards and Work Groups

1. The Commission reviewed the 2021 board and work group assignments.
2. Changes were made and will be finalized at the meeting in February.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Workforce Development Work Group: Commissioner Keller: Stated that we need to establish a timeline, plan and policies for our workforce development initiative. At this point, I don't think we have the staff to carry out a good workforce development. The Port could hire a consultant to help us develop a work plan. She reported on the meetings she has been attending, including with APCC. The Port of Tacoma should a partnership with Katie Condit's group. Leslie Barstow will set up a meeting with the Black Collective to discuss youth exposure to the maritime industry. Commissioner Keller would like to blend this into the work JMAC is doing. She would like this to be an action item in February.

ISSUE BRIEFINGS

A. Tideflats Freight Mobility Study

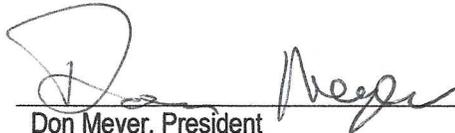
1. We will not need an ILA with the City of Tacoma to share this information, as it is public information. The RFP for a consultant is out on the street.
2. This data from the study will also help with grant applications.
3. The approach to the study was reviewed.
4. The study was identified as significant at the August 2021 retreat; we needed to put it into the 2022 budget. The study is anticipated to be done in late June or early July 2022. Interim results will be used for advocacy efforts.
5. Commissioners would like to see the interim results when they are available.
6. The 11th Street bridge is part of this study.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Keller: Reported that on February 3rd at 4:00 pm she will be interviewing the ambassador of Finland to the US. They are also working on some maritime initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner Meyer adjourned the meeting at 3:44 pm.

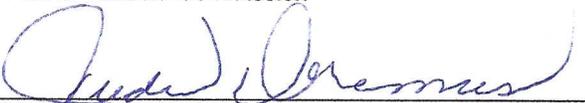


Don Meyer, President
Port of Tacoma Commission

Attest:



Kristin Ang, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission



Judi Doremus, Clerk of the Port
Port of Tacoma