



PUBLIC MEETING: Port Commission Meeting

DATE: Tuesday **February 6, 2024, 6 PM**

LOCATION: Cascade Locks City Hall 140 Wa Na Pa St, Cascade Locks, OR 97014

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85806615790>

MINUTES

- 1) Commission meeting called to order 6:00 PM
 - a. Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Roll Call
 - i. President Lorang
 - ii. Vice-President Klute
 - iii. Commissioner Nance
 - iv. Commissioner Peterson (via Zoom)
 - v. Commissioner Thweatt
 - vi. Members of the Staff and Other Support – Executive Director Jeremiah Blue; Deputy Executive Director Genevieve Scholl; Secretary Keriane Stocker; Operations Manager Parker Nelson; Accounting Specialist Melissa Warren; Tommy Brooks, Attorney; Dan Mahr, Government Affairs Consultant; Darrin Eckman, Project Engineer
 - vii. Members of the Public – Denise Emmerling-Baker, Flora Gibson (Columbia Gorge News), City of Cascade Locks, Mandy (no last name provided)
 - c. Modifications, Additions and Changes to the Agenda
 - i. GM Blue requested to move Item 6) Executive Session up to the top of the agenda, before Special Presentations.
- 2) Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2)(h) Legal Counsel regarding Litigation or likely Litigation to be Filed
 - a. Recess from Regular Session, into Executive Session at 6:20 pm
 - b. Recess out of Executive Session, into Regular Session at 6:31 pm
 - c. No action was taken as a result of Executive Session
- 3) Special Presentation and Reports by outside resources, staff, and Government Officials
 - a. Thunder Island Bridge Update – David McCurry
 - i. McCurry presented the damage caused by the Sternwheeler collision to the pedestrian bridge. His findings had determined that the damage was not structural, and mostly caused by the buoyancy of the vessel. The timeline for repair should be completed by February 29th, with the hope that the repairs will be completed by April.
 - b. Legislative Update – Dan Mahr
 - i. Mahr updated the Commission on the progress of the \$6 million for seismic studies and preservation studies. He stated that it got a lot of support from local legislators Representative Helfrich and Senator Bonham, and also Joint-Committee Chair, Representative McClain. The bill will be heard at the Joint-Transportation Committee in Salem on Thursday, February 8. Mahr plans to attend in person, along with David McCurry and Mark Larabee to give testimonies. He will also submit letters of support from various organizations. Mahr invited the Commission to also give their testimony if they had the time. Senator Bonham will also introduce a separate, standalone bill as a backup. Mahr explained that if the bill passes to the Ways and Means Committee, it may get approved as a standalone bill or the Committee may make

them wait until the end of the session to be funded by through the Christmas Tree bill.

On the Washington-side, Representative Waters has decided not to pursue the \$6 million from the Washington legislature in this session. The Washington legislature is dealing with several cost overruns on some big projects that were authorized in the last session and word has been that there most likely will be no new transportation funding for these types of projects. They will pick back up on the Washington-side in the 2025 session and in the meantime, Mahr will continue to build relationships across the river.

4) Discussions

a. Railroad Quiet Zone Improvement Project Discussion

- i. Eckman informed that the plans were updated in 2022, yet the cost estimate was still from 2019. He is unsure if the City has sought a more recent quote. VP Klute suggested that the Port partner with the City and ODOT and give support where the other two need assistance. C Thweatt questioned the safety and liability aspects of making the city a Quiet Zone. The general opinion of the Commission considered the Railroad Quiet Zone project low on the priority list and would prefer the Port to take a supporting role.

DED Scholl stated that she would prepare a memo on the status of Quiet Zone project, a timeline, and costs and present it in four (4) weeks.

5) Executive Director Report

- a. ED Blue reported that the Root Cause Analysis Team met and brainstormed contributing factors of the incident using an Ishikawa fishbone diagram. A list of other issues that needed attention was also discussed, including the proposal of a budget and timeline to strengthen the Sternwheeler's resiliency in that type of weather. A presentation for the Commission will likely be ready at the next meeting.

He noted that DED Scholl has been catching up on the Port's grants, including the ARPA which has been used for the Sternwheeler repower, the Visitor Center and the restrooms for the Bridge of the Gods Trailhead.

ED Blue also reported that the Port continues to be engaged with the auditors. The auditors are working on reconciling the balance sheet and the accounts, recording payroll taxes, and preparing necessary documents for the next audit. The next audit will be two (2) audits at once, for the FY2022 and FY2023.

He informed that DED Scholl and OM Nelson will be attending this year's SDAO Annual Conference in Seaside, along with P Lorang.

Lastly, ED Blue stated that Sewer Pump One at the Visitor Center is broken and the ort will be looking at the cost to repair it. Pump Two is also struggling as it does all the work for both pumps. OM Nelson will be taking on that project and will get more information to the Commission.

6) Commissioner Comments

- a. C Peterson opened his comments with a quote from Maya Angelou, in observance of Black History Month: "All great achievements require time." Following that, he thanked Mahr for his work in Salem, DED Scholl for her time researching the Railroad Quiet Zone and for facilitating

the Root Cause Analysis investigation. He stated that he is looking forward to the upcoming audit process and getting more clarity to the public. He once again thanked the First Responders, Thunder Island Brewing and all the volunteers who were involved in setting up the warming shelter. C Peterson ended by wishing everyone a great Valentine's Day or Single Awareness Day.

- b. C Thweatt expressed her gratefulness that January weather is over and thanked all those involved in helping.
- c. C Nance reported that on a visit to the park, he and OM Nelson noticed that some of the grills in the grill huts were missing and damaged; OM Nelson replied that he had followed up with the situation and learned that Maintenance had removed them because they were broken. C Nance also inquired on details about providing a source of backup power and whose responsibility it was. C Thweatt remarked that she was disappointed that the City's Emergency Operation Plan has not been updated after the fire.
- d. VP Klute inquired on the status of Flex 6. ED Blue informed that the contract with Commercial Realtor Medenbach will be up for review later this month. The Commission had decided to give the entire 40,000sqft a chance but they may need to consider the option of dividing it into 4 – 10,000sqft. VP Klute also asked about the upcoming budget season and the Strategic Business Plan. ED Blue
- e. P Lorang mentioned the training with MorganCPS

7) Adjournment 8:30 pm

VP KLUTE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN; C NANCE SECONDED; Passed Unanimously

Port of Cascade Locks:

Port Commission President
Brad Lorang

Port Commission Secretary
Albert Nance

Date Approved

Prepared by: Keriane Stocker