

**MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

**PORT OF ASTORIA
WORKSHOP SESSION**

Meeting held via videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Call to Order:

Chairman Spence called the Workshop Session to order at 4:00 pm.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Frank Spence; Robert Stevens; Dirk Rohne; Jim Campbell and Scott McClaine.

Staff Present: Executive Director Will Isom; Deputy Director Matt McGrath; Finance & HR Manager Jim Grey; and Executive Assistant/Administrative Coordinator Stacy Bandy.

Port Counsel: Eileen Eakins was not present for this session.

Also Attending: Cindy Yingst of the *Columbia Press*; Lori Beth Culp; Ethan Myers of *The Astorian*; and Cruise Consultant Bruce Conner.

Changes/Additions to the Agenda:

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Public Comment:

No public comment was received.

Action Items:

6a. Resolution 2022-02 Amended Resolution to Raise Rates at the Airport

Deputy Director McGrath explains that this amendment clarifies the language of the original Resolution 2022-01 Resolution to Raise Rates at the Airport. The landing fee will be charged to every aircraft over 10,000 lbs. for every 1,000lbs of total weight.

Commissioner Rohne moved to approve Resolution 2022-02 Amended Resolution to Raise Rates at the Airport. Commissioner Stevens seconded. The roll call vote occurred as follows:

Commissioner McClaine: Yes.

Commissioner Rohne: Yes.

Commissioner Stevens: Yes.

Commissioner Campbell: Yes.

Commissioner Spence: Yes.

The motion carried unanimously 5-0 amongst the Commissioners present.

Advisory/Discussion Items:

7a. Cruise Ship Update – Bruce Conner

Bruce Conner begins with the 2022 cruise ship spring updates.

- Norwegian Cruise Lines, which owns Oceana and Regent Seven Seas, has strong bookings and

- pricing. This season, the Port is expecting the Oceania Regatta and the Seven Seas Mariner. Third-quarter occupancy projections are expected to be in line with 2019 sailings.
- Royal Caribbean/Celebrity Cruises currently operates at 60% capacity and anticipate 100% occupancy this summer. Conner notes there has been strong demand for Alaska sailings.
 - Princess Cruise Lines has six ships expected to dock in Astoria. The Caribbean Princess will be arriving on April 5th, followed by the Viking Orion on April 15th.
 - Ship inventory has increased with three new vessels. The Viking Orion, Norwegian Bliss, and Norwegian Encore are new ships.
 - Cruise the West expects 20% more berths in Alaska than during 2019. The Alaska cruise season is expected to start earlier and end later.
 - Hapag-Lloyd announced that cruise guests would be required to have booster shots in addition to being vaccinated.
 - Cruise lines had until February 15th to opt into the CDC's voluntary COVID-19 program. All cruise ships docking in Astoria will have the CDC's voluntary COVID-19 protocols in place.
 - Commissioner Spence notes that he is amazed at how high the occupancy projections are. Conner answers that the cruise operators are optimistic for ship occupancy and that the operators on the shore are asked to operate at 65-70% occupancy.
 - Isom inquires how cruise ships enforce mask mandates when federal rules state guidelines may differ. Conner explains that cruise ships follow federal and state guidelines with on-shore activities.

7b. Budget Season Update – Will Isom

Director Isom explains that Port staff are currently working on the budget for the following fiscal year.

- There is a vacancy on the Budget Committee; staff intend to post for the opening on the Budget Committee.
- Walt Postlewait's term has expired. Isom asks the commission if they would like to ask Postlewait if he is interested in serving another term.
- The Port will advertise the Budget Committee vacancy on the Port website and social media. The Port would formally appoint any new Budget Committee members by the April 19th commission meeting per the budget calendar.
- The budget calendar has been moved up; the first Budget Committee meeting will be on May 4th.
- Rohne asks if it would be appropriate to ask the Finance Manager at Englund Marine if he is interested in the Budget Committee vacancy.
- Spence asks about the timber revenue received from the State of Oregon for 2021. Isom explains that the Port receives timber payments quarterly.

Port staff experienced technical difficulties; the meeting paused at 4:41pm. The meeting resumed at 4:46pm with limited staff and all commissioners present.

Commission Comments:

Commissioner Rohne commented on the following:

- Spoke with Steve Fick with Salmon for All earlier today. Fick is interested in speaking to the commission.

Commissioner McClaine commented on the following:

- Chris Connaway has written a letter to the editor in *The Astorian* concerning the Port.

Commissioner Stevens did not have any comments.

Commissioner Campbell did not have any comments.

Commissioner Spence commented on the following:

- Attended the SDAO annual conference. Special Districts are not included in the federal stimulus funds to be distributed.

7c. Executive Director Update

- Isom addressed the letter to the editor published in the Astorian on February 12th. Chris Connaway is the former president of the ILWU Local 50. The Port has engaged with the ILWU Local 50 for collective bargaining agreement negotiations; the current contract expires in June.
- Met with the chair and the vice-chair of the Clatsop Community College Foundation to discuss needs and future partnerships. The CCC is looking to collaborate with local businesses for the college's maritime program.
- Interviewed with ColPac to discuss Hyak Maritime at Tongue Point and the Port's plans for the boatyard.
- Met with Jim Knight regarding the Hollander property, which is included in the Astoria Waterfront Master Plan (AWMP) footprint. The property is under a long-term lease. Isom will be working with Walker Macy to match priorities from different interests.
- Met with DSL last week. The Port received the annual lease bill for the West Basin, which has increased by 50% since last year. Fuel prices have increased dramatically, causing the lease with DSL to increase.
- The AWMP Advisory Committee will meet tomorrow to discuss final comments. Formal adoption is expected in the next month.
- Will meet with Bob Dorn of Hyak Maritime next week.
- Will meet with Clatsop County Commissioner Pamela Webb and Matt McGrath to discuss the Port potentially using industrial revolving funds for infrastructure upgrades at the Airport Industrial Park. Last week McGrath and Isom made a presentation to the County Commission; the county commission directed staff to work with Port staff to submit a formal proposal to the county commission.
- Collective bargaining unit negotiations for ILWU employees are underway. The first in-person meeting will be next Tuesday, February 22nd.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- Regular Committee Meeting – March 1, 2022 at 4:00 PM
- Workshop Session – March 15, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Adjourned:

Chairman Spence adjourned the meeting at 5:14 PM.

APPROVED:



Frank Spence, Board Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Dirk Rohne, Secretary
Board of Commissioners

Respectfully submitted by:
Stacy Bandy
Executive Assistant / Administrative Coordinator

March 15, 2022
Date Approved by Commission