

MINUTES
WORKSHOP SESSION
SEPTEMBER 12, 2006
PORT COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Commissioners present: Jim Bergeron, Don McDaniel, Dan Hess, Larry Pfund.

Staff present: Peter Gearin, Ron Larsen, Rita Fahrney, Bruce Conner – Cruise Ship Marketing, and Port Attorney Heather Reynolds.

Others present: Leslie Palmeri, Jeff Nelson, Cassandra Profita, John Lansing.

STAFF REPORTS. Chairman Don McDaniel called for staff reports.

Bruce Conner provided an update to commission members on cruise ship marketing. He reported on September 27th he and a Columbia River Bar Pilot and the President of the Chamber of Commerce will travel to Seattle to meet with Holland America officials. October 27th is the N.W. Cruise Conference. He will attend and the Port of Astoria will host a "coffee session" with funding provided by the Lower Columbia River Tourism Committee. Thursday he will be interviewed by radio personality Mike Desmond. He will provide information for radio listeners about the effects of cruise ship activity in our community and the efforts of the local Cruise Committee and volunteers. He is also arranging for gift packages for ship captains.

Conner reported the Port's membership in Cruise the West is very beneficial. He will be attending their meetings on October 25th and 26th. Shore excursion options have been identified by cruise lines as important to them when determining port calls. Conner is working to put together an additional shore excursion to tour Astoria movie sights, additional shore excursions to bring passengers to Seaside and possibly shore excursions to the Long Beach, Washington area. Additionally, he would like to see the train service return for another option for shore excursions. Discussion followed.

Ron Larsen reported the following:

- Staff is working with OECD to obtain a loan for another set of T-hangars. FAA may assist with financing part of the project.
- WOW and other airport property and piers one and two have undergone phase one environmental studies. They went well. Larsen explained some of the issues that remain, with some being at the airport remaining from when the government had the facility during World War II.

- Riverland property is clean – the stockpile of contaminated material was removed by Cowlitz Clean Sweep. The remaining concrete is clean, chopped and ready to be used as fill.
- Pier Two West dismantling repairs for MSRC, it has been determined by conversations between staff and the Corps of Engineers, can be done at any time. Staff is working on securing a labor force to begin the work.
- The Job Corps students have agreed to build a stand for the propeller that will be used for traffic divider flow by Englund Marine and the Boat Yard.
- Initial conversations with the Coast Guard indicate there will be no problem allowing pier one to be open to the public during periods of inactivity. There are procedural actions that staff will undergo to keep in compliance. Some discussion followed.
- Work on preparing the dredge is underway.

Peter Gearin reported the following:

- Interviews for the CREST position to serve as the Port's Compliance Officer position have been completed. Two finalists have been chosen, both are well qualified.
- Continuing conversations are underway with the Corps of Engineers and other involved regulatory agencies to get the Port's dredging permits approved for the in-water work season beginning November 1st. Discussion followed.
- The West Basin recent soundings indicate the new design of the breakwater to be self-flushing seems to be working.
- Efforts continue to look into innovative ways to save expense of furnishing electricity needs at the West Basin. The port is working with a new electrical engineer and Pacific Power to assist with cost due to the customer base that will be increased.

Chairman McDaniel complimented and thanked Ron Larsen for his excellent interview recently on the radio.

Commission members spent considerable time and discussion addressing the process and procedures for appointing a new commissioner to replace Glenn Taggart. The following was agreed:

- Chairman McDaniel reviewed a checklist of potential areas of interest to have candidates speak to and what types of qualities they will be looking for.
- Interviews will be done by all commission members using a checklist agreed to by all members. The same questions will be asked of all candidates.

- Written ballots will be furnished for voting purposes.
- There are five candidates. It was decided to interview each candidate individually with approximately ½ hour per candidate.
- The candidates will be interviewed at the Regular Monthly meeting, which will begin earlier – at 4:00 p.m. to allow adequate time for interviews.

There being no further business, the workshop session was adjourned.