

MINUTES
APRIL 15TH, 2014

PORT OF ASTORIA
REGULAR SESSION
PORT COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Call to order

Chairman Campbell called the Regular Meeting to order.

Roll Call

Commissioners present: Jim Campbell, Bill Hunsinger, Steve Fulton, Ric Gerttula and Jack Bland.

Staff present: Interim Director Mike Weston, Finance Manager Colleen Browne, Administrative Clerk Judy Farfan.

Also present: Port Counsel Ron Guerra.

Pledge of Allegiance

Changes/Additions

- Commissioner Hunsinger requested the addition of Bornstein Collateral; it was assigned to item 1A under New Business. Commissioner Gerttula requested the addition of Executive Search; it was assigned to item 1B under New Business. Interim Director Mike Weston requested the removal of Public Hearings items 1 Bornstein Lease, and 2 DaYang Lease, from the agenda.

Commissioner Fulton moved to approve the addition of items 1A and 2B and the removal of Public Hearings items 1 and 2. Commissioner Bland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Commissioner Hunsinger requested the addition of East End Mooring Basin; it was assigned to item 1C under New Business.

Commissioner Fulton moved to approve the addition of the item 1C to the agenda. Commissioner Bland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – for items on the agenda, with the exception of Public Hearings.

Floyd Holcom, Astoria

Mr. Holcom spoke regarding an editorial in The Daily Astorian, dated 4/15/2014. He was concerned about the Commission taking advice from former Port Deputy Director Bill Cook, and he would like to see the Commission hire a new Executive Director as quickly as possible, without interference from the outside. Mr. Holcom also requested that the Commission cut down on the use of profanity during meetings. He would also like to see the Port step up precautions for the safety of the public around the sea lions.

Ninette Jones, Portland

Ms. Jones is with the Sea Lion Defense Brigade, and expressed concern over the pollution in the Columbia River and how it affects the sea lions and their food supply. She advised the Commission to read the 2009 and 2014 DEQ reports. She further stated that her group has been in negotiations with the Port to get the sea lions their own dock, and did not appreciate the hazing of the sea lions from the dock yesterday, in front of the public. Ms. Jones said that it is bad business for the Port and for Astoria.

Special Presentations

1. Port of Astoria Cruise Marketing Director – Bruce Connor, update

Mr. Connor reported on his recent annual marketing trip to Miami, Florida, where he talked with the executive itinerary planners and others in the cruise industry. He explained that cruises are the travel industry's fastest growing segment. Last year, 21.3 million people took cruises, and the projection for this year is 21.7 million. Currently there are 410 cruise ships globally, of which 29 were added just last year and this year. Luxury cruise ships are making a comeback and are including Astoria on their itinerary. The Port of Astoria will have 14 cruise ships call in 2014 with an estimated 28,000 passengers. There are 20 cruise ships scheduled to call in 2015, with an estimated 40,000 passengers. For each ship, about 80 percent of passengers will visit our area, spending approximately \$125.00 per couple.

There will be a Cruise Ship Planning meeting on April 23rd, beginning at 3:00 PM, and everyone is invited to attend.

2. Astoria Regatta Association – Astoria Regatta President 2014, Peter Roscoe, update

Mr. Roscoe presented the theme for this year's regatta, "Sail On!", and the details of the 2014 regatta dignitaries. They are as follows:

- o Admiral Steve Fick.
- o Admiral's Aide Cliff Fick.
- o Grand Marshall Neil Everett.

Mr. Roscoe made three requests of the Commission:

1. Free moorage for the day for boat race participants.
2. A donation of funds to help support this year's event.
3. The Trident to participate in the Highwater Boat Parade.

For 2014, they are expecting 34 vessels to participate, compared to 6 last year.

Consent Calendar

A. Consider Minutes

- o March 4th, 2014 Work/Special Session Minutes
- o March 18th, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

B. Financials: March 2014

C. Events Calendar

Commissioner Fulton requested a few changes to the minutes of March 4th and March 18th.

Commissioner Fulton moved to approve corrected minutes. Commissioner Bland seconded.

Commissioner Fulton restated motion to approve corrected minutes and financials. Commissioner Bland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bland moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Commissioner Fulton seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings

None

New Business

1.A. Bornstein Collateral Agreement

Commissioner Hunsinger expressed concern regarding the fact that it has been several months since the collateral agreement and there has been no sign of the \$360,000. He would like the Commission to take back possession of the building, as it is the Port's collateral under state agreement. Commissioner Hunsinger is concerned that the Port is not living up to the agreement with the state, as the Port does not have the \$360,000 in the bank.

Interim Director Mike Weston responded, explaining that Bornstein's had agreed to \$390,000 and that the Port would like to get the leases done first. The \$390,000 will be held in an interest bearing escrow account, held as the loan reserve needed for the Bornstein lease.

Bornstein Collateral Agreement (continued)

Commissioner Hunsinger moved to rescind the said authority. Commissioner Fulton seconded.

Mr. Weston said that he can provide the agreement to the Commission and discourages the Commission from going back on an agreement that has already been approved.

Commissioner Fulton recommended that the issue be reviewed and recommendations be brought back to the next meeting.

Commissioner Hunsinger rescinded his motion. Commissioner Fulton rescinded his second.

Staff was directed to review the collateral issue and return with alternatives to the Commission.

1.B. Executive Search

Commissioner Gerttula noted that Interim Director Mike Weston and staff have gone to the recommended places to solicit for the position of Executive Director; however, there has been a time loss of two and a half weeks. Interim Director Mike Weston responded with information that due to technical difficulties, the AAPA website was not able to post in a timely manner. The other places that the solicitation was posted at were The Oregonian, The Daily Astorian, and WorkSource Oregon.

Commissioner Gerttula moved to extend the solicitation until May 15th, 2014. Commissioner Bland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding the proper hiring process for the Executive Director position.

1.C. East End Mooring Basin

Commissioner Hunsinger commented on some research that he had done on the internet regarding what other west coast ports had done to resolve their sea lion situations. He read a statement from a gentleman in Ventura, CA. The statement mentioned that the sea lions are protected under law and that there are federal law guidelines for both animal and human safety and that there are certain distances to keep from sea lions. Commissioner Hunsinger would like for the federal law to be looked up to see exactly what it states. He also noted that the Port of Astoria is the “poster child” for this issue, and that the Port needs to take the steps to go to the government about the sea lion situation.

Commissioner Hunsinger made a motion to remove five or six finger piers from the East End Mooring Basin. Commissioner Gerttula seconded.

The vote went as follows; Commissioner Bland: abstain, Commissioner Gerttula: Yes, Commissioner Campbell: Yes, Commissioner Fulton: Yes, Commissioner Hunsinger: Yes.

Interim Director Mike Weston updated the Commission with the information that a constituent with our community is working with the Ford Family Foundation in an effort to get a float out into the basin for the sea lions.

Old Business

None

Commissioners/Director Reports

Interim Director Mike Weston noted that the Port’s dredge permits are in and that it is looking good for the coming season. Dredging should begin November 1st, with a revised depth.

Mr. Weston also mentioned that he and Marina Manager Janice Burk had attended the Pacific Coast Conference and met with Harbormasters and Port Directors from around the Pacific Northwest. He then met with the Department of State Lands in Newport, regarding potential land purchase on Pier 3.

Good of Order - Public comment for items not on the agenda.

- Commissioner Hunsinger requested an update on the police building and Areawide.
- Public comment by Ninette Jones, Sea Lion Defense Brigade, Portland, OR

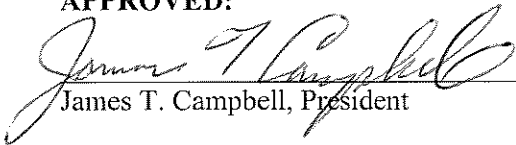
Ms. Jones stated that she feels the Commission is missing a \$140,000,000 opportunity for tourism. She suggested that the Commission take shipping boxes from Tongue Point and place them at the East End Mooring Basin for the sea lions to haulout.

Next Meeting Dates

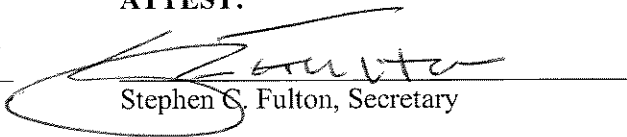
- Special Session Meeting May 6th, 2014 at 6:00 PM
- Regular Session Meeting May 20th, 2014 at 6:00 PM

Adjourned

APPROVED:


James T. Campbell, President

ATTEST:


Stephen C. Fulton, Secretary

Respectfully submitted by:
Judy Farfan, Administrative Clerk

5/20/14
Date/Approved