



PUBLIC MEETING: Port Commission Meeting

DATE: Tuesday **October 3, 2023, 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
 - a. President Lorang
 - b. Vice-President Klute
 - c. Commissioner Nance
 - d. Commissioner Peterson
 - e. Commissioner Thweatt
 - f. Members of the Staff and Other Support – GM Jeremiah Blue, Secretary Keriane Stocker, Accountant Chuck Mosher, Special Events Coordinator Jeanetta Blue, Gov't Relations Consultant Mark Johnson
 - g. Members of the Public – Denise Emmerling-Baker, Dave Lipps, Chris Matlock, Butch Miller, Ginger Shepherd
 - c. Modifications, Additions and Changes to the Agenda
 - a. GM Blue requested to remove Item 3d, as Mr. Jason Waicunas could not attend. He also requests to have Mr. Josh Baker from the Gorge Canoe Club speak in place of 3e. And to move Mark Johnson after, to 3f. GM Blue requested to remove the Executive Session as there is no need for one, at this time.
- 2) Public Comment (Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes)
- 3) Presentations
 - a. Gorge Waterfalls Run – Jeremy Long and Aaron Long
 - i. J. Long reported that this year, nearly 900 runners participated in the three-day race series and registration for 2024 is already at 800. J. Long may consider an alternate staging area next year, in consideration of the lawn. This year, because of the rain, the grass took a toll which affected other events that Spec. Event Coord. Blue had scheduled.
 - b. Bridge of the Gods Run – Chad Sperry, Breakaway Promotions
 - i. Sperry announced that 1389 runners participated, this year. BOG Run raised \$6,500 for the local schools. He informed that the goal for 2024 is to reach 2000 runners and raise \$8,000 for the schools.
 - c. Columbia Racing Association – Kerry Poe and Matthew Berger
 - i. Poe reported that 587 sailors attended the clinics, 50% of that were youths. Along with the youth racing clinics, they held the annual CGOD regatta, two clinics with Olympic Gold Medalist Anna Tobias and teamed up with local paddling club Gorge Canoe Club to hold Community Sailing, Paddling & BBQ Potluck on Thursday nights.
 - d. PCT DAYS – Jason Waicunas, Outdoor Viewfinder
 - e. Gorge Canoe Club – Josh Baker

- i. Baker presented that GCC picked up 80 bags of trash last summer on Earth Day and it is usually a Bi-State activity as they have members in Cascade Locks and in Stevenson. He mentioned that the Halloween Paddle is still being decided. The club is also looking into scheduling Fall/Winter training inside the clubhouse.
- f. Legislative Update – Mark Johnson
 - i. Johnson reported that the Washington Joint-Transportation Committee toured all the bridges along the Columbia River, from Astoria to the Dalles. David McCurry of STV, Inc and Mark Larabee from Pacific Crest Trails addressed the legislators. Johnson mentioned that he has pictures of the legislators walking on the bridge. C Nance commented that he would like to see those pictures. Regarding the status of the legislative ask, Johnson informed that Chair Susan McLain of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means suggested putting the Port's request for \$6 million as a part of an omnibus bill. Johnson finished his report with the situation of the Marine Park Trail. The grant awarded was \$1.3 million, while the bid the Port received came in at \$1.7 million. The Forest Service estimated that the grant will cover 2.48 of the 3.31 miles of trail planned. He said that the Forest Service could possibly provide some hand crew to extend the work on the trail. He also added that Ptarmigan Ptrails does not want to start until early 2024, thus that could give the Port time to find more funding. He also recommended that the Commission start thinking about Phase II and Phase III.

4) Commissioner Comments

- a. Commissioner Thweatt reported that she attended the SDAO Ethics Training in Salem, with C Nance and VP Klute. She also attended the Oregon Infrastructure Summit and learned a lot about disaster readiness as well as that 60% of river ports are concerned about infrastructure and treaty expiration. She delved a little more into her tour of the Port of Kalama, stating that her biggest takeaway from Executive Director Mark Wilson was continued learning; persistence; trust within the organization and with the public; and the importance of not cutting corners, paying extra for quality planning, for quality project management and for quality execution. She asked about the status of the alcohol policy. GM Blue replied that he is still looking for more. He feels that the Commission needs to consider whether they will limit the size of the containers and/or limit the policy to specific areas. Once the Commission decides on that, Attorney Brooks will propose new wording. C Peterson suggested that their concerns can continue to be sent to GM Blue in email. He also expressed his stance and feels that they should repeal the 2021 Ordinance and limit glass containers, pointing out that they could align it with Port of Hood River's ordinance. GM Blue added that the entities are limited to what they can do with the term "intoxication" but feels that the phrase "public disturbance while intoxicated" may be more effective. He suggested letting the policy fall under the City's ordinance.
- b. Commissioner Peterson commented that he also went to the Port of Kalama and that Exec. Dir. Wilson shared a lot of values. He was impressed at how their commission covers a lot of ground. His biggest takeaway was the importance of holding on to land, to not sell. C Peterson mentioned that the local FISH Food Bank receives food from the Oregon Food Bank, however recently they have cut back and are now in need of canned goods. He ended with saying that he will be attending the Skamania Economic Development Council Annual Luncheon on the 5th.
- c. Commissioner Nance reported that he also attended the SDAO Ethics Training in Salem. He expressed that he would really like the Port to find a way to come up with the \$40,000 difference for the trail. Regarding the City-Port joint meeting, he would really like the agenda

to focus on topics that both entities can take action on. The four (4) topics that he felt were of importance was: business development, the electric system, the EDA joint grant, and zoning/planning ordinance enforcement in the downtown area.

- d. Vice-President Klute reported that the Gorge Canoe Club has scheduled a highway cleanup on Sunday, October 3rd. She attended the SDAO training with C Nance and C Thweatt, and also attended the Skamania Chamber of Commerce Luncheon which focused on the lack of childcare in the area. She quoted that, in Skamania, there are 500 children in need of childcare and only 90 spots available. VP Klute also mentioned that she will be attending the first part of the PNWA Conference. She asked if C Peterson could attend the latter half in her stead. VP Klute also announced that the Museum's Magical History Masquerade has received a lot of donations. Tickets are \$75 and are available on the Museum's website.
 - e. President Lorang commented that he attended the Oregon Public Ports Association (OPPA) Annual Conference and was impressed that some of the commissioners at the Port of Astoria has been serving since 1966. He informed that the conference covered topics such as the best way to handle properties, ORS 777, the Columbia River BiOp, and the Columbia River Treaty.
- 5) General Manager Report
- a. GM Blue reported that he received notice from the City that they are not in compliance regarding Kaile'a Coffee Co. and that their agreement with Sobaski will exceed the 120 days allowed. The Port will work to get back into compliance. C Thweatt commented that there are a lot of codes that are not enforced within the City. GM Blue informed that Maintenance has put a new pipe underground in the Visitor Center. In regards to Flex 6, he and Accountant Mosher are looking into the possibility of refinancing after the power project. He will send the Commission information on it. GM Blue stated that the bridge inspection was completed, it is done every two (2) years and carried out and paid for by ODOT. There is packed rust on the bridge but it is not concerning and some cracks on the deck. Maintenance does spot welding on the deck throughout the year which helps keep the wear to a minimum. GM Blue was informed by a citizen that the streetlight at the park entrance is out. He is in contact with City Administrator Bennett to see who is responsible. Lastly, GM Blue brought up a recently ongoing tenant concern about the strong smell coming from the City water treatment. Native Cider and Landmass both reached out to him with concerns. C Nance asked if only those two (2) tenants were concerned. GM Blue replied that no other tenants in the area reached out to him and that it was only those two. He informed the Commission that Jasper Smith, owner of Native Cider is asking the Port to compensate for the impact on business as well as a reduction in monthly rent until the issue is resolved. The general response of the Commission is that the issue is not the fault of the Port but City and so responsibility to compensate should fall on the City.

6) Executive Session under ORS.192.660(2)(h) Legal counsel regarding litigation or litigation likely to be filed

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 Signed

Date Signed