

**PORT OF ORCAS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 24, 2023**

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Commissioners Present: Michael Triplett, Jason Laursen, Robert Hamilton (zoom), Bea vonTobel

Staff Present: Kim Kimple

Guests Present: Mason Parks, Eric Gourley, Buck, Annalies Schuh, Rick Fant, Heather Stansbury, Lisa Byers, et al not verified.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair pro tem Laursen called the meeting to order at 5:00pm, noting a quorum present.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

A PAPI update and a presentation from OPAL will occur during the first public access segment; new business will add item 3, public relations officer and item 4, car show during fly-in weekend.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Lisa Byers and Heather Stansbury were present to notify the port that OPAL will become the owner of the former McPeake property underneath the airport overlay district. OPAL is completing due diligence and notified the port that 20-30 homes are planned on the property, and leases to the Orcas Community Resource Center and Orcas Island Food Bank will enable relocation of those to the property. Transfer of title is slated for some time between the end of August and October 2023.

Bea questioned the density of development within the overlay and reiterated the social justice issue she saw in the location, and was assured that construction would occur as far from the centerline as possible and include adequate soundproofing. The presenters were urged to continue to be open with the community at large regarding this project as it moves forward.

Mason Parks of Ardurra Engineering (fka T-O Engineering) gave a brief update on the ongoing PAPI installation project, noting that an internal part had been omitted in the equipment, necessitating a return to the manufacturer. A month-long turnaround is expected prior to its return, after which a reinstallation, FAA check and flight tests need to be completed before sign-off and beginning of service.

MONTHLY BUSINESS

1. Approval of Previous Minutes

Michael moved, Jason seconded approval of the draft minutes of June 26, 2023, and July 17, 2023 as presented, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of Vouchers

After review and a detailed explanation of the vouchers offered for approval, Michael moved, Jason seconded approval of vouchers a.-e. as presented, and the motion passed unanimously. The airport manager was encouraged to deal with credits in a timely manner.

- a. 06/23/2023 Payroll \$15,086.12
- b. 06/27/2023 Port Operations \$3,458.10
- c. 06/27/2023 Port Capital \$106,885.69
- d. 07/11/2023 Port Operations \$12,804.63
- e. 07/11/2023 Port Capital \$4,200.00

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MONTHLY REPORTS

1. **Manager's Report**

The airport manager elaborated on her previously submitted online report, noting that wetland maintenance continues to be a problem, with YCC and port staff help; planning grant signing; upcoming elections; annual audit completion; annual fly-in.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Commissioner Planning Session Update**

Michael distributed a page of questions submitted re use of the BIL AIG funds, and after discussion in which he cautioned prudent use going forward, the airport manager was urged to investigate the status of the MOS (modification of standard) re master plan/runway width with the FAA.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Establish 2024 Budget Committee**

After discussion, Robert and Mia will constitute this committee.

2. **Airport Noise Mitigation**

A discussion containing past and present practices for dealing with aircraft noise and complaints of same, updating the noise abatement brochure, using available resources to contact both the public and pilots re noise. Jason and Michael offered to work with the airport manager to move these concerns forward.

3. **PR Officer**

Michael opined that someone needs to respond to community concerns and comments re the port, which might be accomplished through social media, press releases, occasional reports in print media, etc. The airport manager stated that she could condense meeting minutes and manager reports into regular scattershot releases and include invitations to meetings in person or online.

4. **Classic Car Show**

The airport manager inquired about hosting the car show during the weekend of the fly-in, receiving input from the commissioners.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Rick Fant offered comments concerning the planning meeting values he found of interest; the port being more than an airport; considering public input through the budget committee; the importance of dealing with airport noise at its source and the port's ability to enforce same; the value of a PR officer.

Eric Gourley noted that BLI is also dealing with noise complaints from certain areas near the airport there and suggested that having an in-person chat with offenders might be valuable.

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 5:00pm August 28, 2023, in the airport conference room in-person and online.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bea vonTobel, Secretary