PORT OF ORCAS COMMISSION MEETING, June 22nd, 2026

MEETING MINUTES **(DRAFT version 12July2026)**

Note: A video recording of the meeting is available at portoforcas.com.

CALL TO ORDER - 04:00pm

- *Chair Kartiganer called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.*
- *Four commissioners attended with Kartiganer, Fant, Hamilton, and Tone in person, and Schuh on video. Staff present was Long.*
- *Guests attending were Loren, Justin, Bruce Bennett in person, and Mason Parks on video.*

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

- *None.*

PUBLIC ACCESS

- *No comments were made*

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Payroll and Vouchers
2. Approval of Minutes: May 18, 2026

The Vouchers and minutes were approved unanimously, with five Ayes.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Manager's Report

The Manager's report may be viewed online. Some specifics mentioned by Long:

** James will be traveling during the annual fly-in, but mowing and such will be done beforehand*
** Local pilots have contributed a washer-drier for the restrooms. Todd and other pilots have volunteered to maintain this equipment.*
** Tone mentioned, from Todd, that it would be good to have the grass on the field graded during the field closure.*
** The white picket fence near the terminal will be painted as a summer project by four young volunteers.*
** Long would like a new sign painted for the hangar near the terminal. Robert suggested that we look at Sywell Airfield in the UK which might be a good model for airfield art*

deco.

** Orcas Fly-in, August 7-9. Pilot team is doing a good job organizing.*

** Long thanked the Young Eagles pilots for taking up your future pilots.*

** Virtower provides a LOT of information, and Long is learning how to parse it. He is borrowing the Bellingham process for alerting noisemaker aircraft. Long is educating San Juan Airlines on noise procedures. Long talked to one pilot who broke all the rules, but who promised to do better. Fant is mildly disappointed with the Virtower program's lack of easy reporting.*

** Long asked for feedback on his article for local media.*

2. Financial Report

Fant asked if anything is out of alignment between budget vs. actual. Long said he would have such a report made.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Marine Subcommittee-Rick

Fant handed out a one-page report on marine matters. The subcommittee met with local stakeholders. Collin Huntemer, at SJ Public Works, stating that the Eastsound doc is covered under the road budget. JenJay Consulting discussed mooring buoys, which are possible. Collin and Justin Paulsen discussed Madrona Point, the barge landing, and the docks at Orcas Landing. County has no special privileges when it comes to marine facilities. Met Steve Pearson, a local boating enthusiast, who is concerned that local youth are lacking good access to boating. The Orcas Landing dock might be the highest priority. The subcommittee is still working toward a July report.

Justin Paulsen discussed the issues and possibilities with the county dock next to the ferry dock. Fant discussed the problems with the existing barge ramp, who sees finding a new location an opportunity for the Port. A problem is that the previous barge company, who could run ground on the beach, has gone, and the newer barge company needs a deeper water port. Fant reported that the County plans to fix up the Madrona Point dock this Fall. Once fixed, the Port might have an opportunity to improve it further.

2. Projects and Planning

a) Pavement Rehab/Drainage Project-PAE/Mason

As requested at a previous meeting, Parks showed the project cash flow for the Better not Bigger project. The final cost for the Port will be $160,040, however over $500,000 is needed for cash flow during the project before reimbursements are made. Hamilton mentioned that Lee needs to be involved so she can help manage the cash flow, including money from our investment accounts. Long pointed out that *we are accomplishing a more-than $6M project for out-of-pocket costs of about $160,000, or about 2.7%*

Long reported that using an on-island asphalt plant is back on the table, using local rock. Not a done deal, but we are optimistic.

b) Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Update-Chip
No new news.

NEW BUSINESS

1. RMG EV Shuttle discussion and motion to Formally Apply
   Bruce Benton report on the "pre-application" for the EV Shuttle project. Feedback suggested that having partners would help with the grant, so Long and Benton hosted a partner's meeting to investigate who would like to work with the Port on this project. Benton shared the slide deck that he presented at the partner's meeting. Currently there are about ten letters of support from partners. Benton was asked to bring the grant language to the next meeting.

   Hamilton made a motion to authorize the Executive Director, with help from community member Bruce Benton, to write a formal application for the EV Shuttle grant. Fant seconded. The motion passed with five Ayes.

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None

ADJOURNMENT *At 6:06pm*

UPCOMING MEETING:
Next Regular Meeting July 27, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Hamilton, Secretary
