

PORT DISTRICT OF SOUTH WHIDBEY ISLAND

Minutes of the Public Hearing on the Amendment of the Comprehensive Scheme

June 11, 2008

Freeland, Washington

Present at the meeting were:

Commissioner Lynae Slinden, Clinton
Commissioner Rolf Seitle, Langley
Commissioner Geoff Tapert, Freeland
Ed Field, Port Manager
Dane Anderson, Port Financial Coordinator
Molly MacLeod-Roberts, Port Clerk

The following individuals signed in:

Marianne Edain, WEAN
Sharon Hart, Island County EDC
David Powers, Clinton Resident
Jeff VanDerford, South Whidbey Record
Christine Hurley, Langley Resident
Richard Guenther, Freeland Resident
Fred Lundahl, Langley Resident
Drew Dixon, Langley Resident
Linda Perkins, Langley Resident
Bob Boehm, Greenbank Resident
Christina Drake, Langley Resident
John Rees, Langley Resident
Steve Strehlau, Langley Resident
Harrison Goodall, Langley Resident
Lee Chavor, Langley Resident
Ron LaCour, Freeland Resident
Duane Fulgham, Langley Resident
Walt Jackson, Bellingham Resident
George Buehler, Freeland Resident
Ken Biddle, Clinton Resident
Rhonda Salerno, Langley Resident

Absent: None

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Hearing on Amendment of the Port District of South Whidbey Island's Six-Year Comprehensive Scheme 2007-2013 was convened by the Board of Commissioners on June 11, 2008, in Grigware Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church in Freeland, WA. Commissioner Seitle, President, called the Hearing to order at 7:03 pm., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDMENT:

Port Manager Ed Field explained that the Port's Six-Year Comprehensive Scheme did not identify any projects or initiatives that were specifically dive-related. Ed read aloud the proposed Amendment to add the following dive-related Potential Project Initiatives to the three Comp Scheme categories as follows:

- Economic Development: *“Encourage dive-related businesses and tourism, and support establishment of dive-related facilities.”*
- Environmental Stewardship: *“Support the enhancement of habitat and improvements to Puget Sound marine conditions.”*
- Marine Access and Recreation: *“Support and/or sponsor expanded dive access opportunities by means of enhanced uplands support and/or offshore/underwater facilities.”*

3. COMMISSIONERS’ AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AMENDMENT:

ACTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Slinden and seconded by Commissioner Tapert to approve the Amendment to the Comprehensive Scheme as stated.

Commissioner Slinden said it is timely and needs to be added. Commissioner Seitle noted the dive community had provided a lot of input. He asked if there was any public comment on the issue, but there was none.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Anderson, residency not stated: Anderson asked if there is a liability associated with people diving around marina facilities. He asked if a diver caught their air hose on something and panicked, would the Port be liable. Port Financial Coordinator Dane Anderson explained that there is a Revised Code of Washington (RCW) that protects public agencies from inherently risky activities. Commissioner Slinden added that the Port also has insurance through a state insurance pool.

Larry Bucklin, Seattle Resident: Bucklin said he was concerned that with relatively small areas, the Port might find liability on encouraging inherently conflicting activities. To him, encouraging divers in and around boating areas is a direct conflict of activities. Commissioner Slinden explained that the proposed dive area is an area separate from the central boat basin where there are not any motorized boats. Commissioner Tapert noted that the Port of Edmonds has an underwater dive park.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

The Public Hearing on the Amendment of the Comprehensive Scheme was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Approved:



 Commissioner Rolf Seitle, Langley

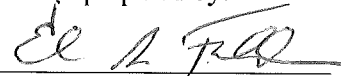


 Commissioner Lynae Slinden, Clinton



 Commissioner Geoff Tapert, Freeland

Minutes prepared by:



 Edwin S. Field, Port Manager