



BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS PORT OF REDWOOD CITY MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, 8:00 AM
FEBRUARY 9, 2022

CHAIR: RICHARD S. CLAIRE
VICE CHAIR: R. SIMMS DUNCAN
SECRETARY: RICHARD DODGE
COMMISSIONER: RALPH A. GARCIA
COMMISSIONER: LORIANNA KASTROP

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

This Board of Port Commissioners meeting was held during a proclaimed State of Emergency. Due to the continuing Covid-19 emergency, meetings will be held remotely by audio/video teleconference in accordance with Assembly Bill 361 signed into law by the Governor of the State of California as an emergency bill, in order to provide the safest environment for the public, Port officials and staff while allowing for continued operation of the government and public participation. Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, as amended by AB 361, all votes were by roll call and the meeting was available to the public to attend and provide public comments via audio/video teleconference.

Chair Richard Claire, presiding

Commissioners Present: Richard Claire, Richard Dodge, Lorianna Kastrop, Ralph A. Garcia, Simms Duncan

Commissioners Absent: None

Port Executives Present: Executive Director, Kristine A. Zortman; Director of Finance and Administration, Rajesh Sewak; Port Attorney, Francois X. Sorba

Vice Chair Duncan called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM, Chair Clair was having technical difficulties. Clerk of the Board Linda Alvarado conducted a roll call and confirmed a meeting quorum with Commissioners Dodge, Garcia, Kastrop and Duncan. Commissioner Duncan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT—

Executive Director Zortman recognized Gita Dev with Sierra Club. Ms. Dev stated that her comments are not related to the Ferry Business Plan. She addressed the last Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) Board meeting there was discussion about legislation on electrification of the fleet, which is good news. She indicated that with electrification they talked about charging stations. She stated that extra piers for prolonged docking for vessels to charge is a concern for the refuge and other activities in the area particularly, from the sensitivity of dredging. She also stated that Sierra Club has objected that on demand ferries or non WETA ferries tend to not follow the rules as WETA ferries do for wakes and sensitivity to recreational water users. This is something that the Sierra Club is in discussion with WETA.

Executive Director Zortman reported that there were no other members of the public in attendance at the meeting who wished to make public comments on non agendized items.

Chair Clair joined the meeting and resumed control at 8:09 AM.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES— Regular Meeting of January 26, 2022

After inviting public comment, Chair Clair confirmed with Executive Director Zortman that there were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting who wished to make public comment on this agenda item.

A motion to approve minutes dated January 26, 2022 was made by Commissioner Duncan and was seconded by Commissioner Dodge. The motion passed by a unanimous voice roll call vote of all Commissioners present.

IV. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS— February 3, 2022

After inviting public comment, Chair Clair confirmed with Executive Director Zortman that there were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting who wished to make public comment on this agenda item.

A motion to approve Claims dated February 3, 2022 was made by Commissioner Kastrop and was seconded by Commissioner Dodge. The motion passed by a unanimous voice roll call vote of all Commissioners present.

V. ORDINANCES— NONE

VI. RESOLUTIONS

A. RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF REDWOOD CITY DECLARING THE CONTINUED STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY CAUSED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND NEED FOR THE BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF REDWOOD CITY TO CONTINUE TO TELECONFERENCE IN ORDER TO PRESERVE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Chair Claire opened the item by stating that this is a recurring resolution on all Board Meetings.

After inviting public comment, Chair Claire confirmed with Executive Director Zortman that there were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting who wished to make public comment on this agenda item. A motion to adopt the Resolution was made by Commissioner Dodge and was seconded by Commissioner Kastrop. The motion passed by a unanimous voice roll call vote of all Commissioners present.

VII. MOTIONS

A. RECEIPT OF THE REDWOOD CITY FERRY DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN (CDM SMITH INC.)

Executive Director Kristine Zortman introduced Bill Hurrell from CDM Smith Inc.'s, who in conjunction with Kevin Connolly, Planning & Development Manager, with Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA), will present the Redwood City Ferry Draft Business Plan (Business Plan) and will answer any questions relating to future WETA ferry business operations.

Executive Director Kristine Zortman stated that this another significant milestone for the Port, for WETA, for the City and for the region in general. The item before the Board today does not require any policy decisions and any comments may be filtered and placed back into the draft business plan for finalization. Mr. Hurrell presented the Business Plan's purpose and key points. The Business Plan is intended to provide the conceptual plan, service plan, and financial plan for the planned WETA operated ferry services between Redwood City – San Francisco and Redwood City - Oakland using a new ferry terminal to be constructed on Port property. It also addresses important elements of the ferry service such as first-last mile connections, considerations of equity, and options for governance of the future ferry service and facilities. Mr. Hurrell also stated that the Business Plan is a living document and can be updated during the project. Mr. Hurrell detailed the three stages One: environmental and design phase, Two: permitting, Three: Construction. Mr. Hurrell also noted the public outreach responses from surveys returned with significant benefit responses, including, the Ferry will serve equity priority communities, interest on expanding services to mid-day, weekends and special events to and from San Francisco, and for zero emission vessels. The Business Plan includes and forecasts budgetary assumptions for funding of ferry operations/maintenance, capital expenses of facilities and vessels, and access to additional funding sources. These assumptions are based upon ferry ridership estimates, including subsidies, over a 10-year and 20-year ridership forecast. Mr. Hurrell also stated that during the environmental stage of the project the two proposed ferry sites will be analyzed.

Commissioner Duncan questioned if non-Google employees would be able to ride their shuttles. Mr. Hurrell stated that yes ridership is open to the public.

The San Mateo County Transportation Authority will consider the Business Plan next.

After inviting public comment, Chair Claire confirmed with Executive Director Zortman that several members of the public in attendance at the meeting wished to make public comment on this agenda item.

Director Zortman reported that a public comment letter was received via email from Gail Raabe, Co-Chair, Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge and read her letter into record.

Director Zortman recognized Alice Kaufman, Legislative Advocacy Director at Green Foothills. Ms. Kaufman stated the public outreach meeting was great and echoed Ms. Raabe's letter. She also stated that Greco Island's habitat sediment needs to be viable and that increased boat traffic and dredging will erode the shoreline.

Director Zortman recognized Alex Kryska, with PROP. He stated that his company was a former ferry operator and that they would like to be considered for this ferry project. He also stated that PROP abides with all rules and regulations.

Director Zortman recognized Gita Dev with Sierra Club. Ms. Dev stated that she endorses Ms. Raabe's suggestions. She stated that public monitoring of ferry drivers should be allowed and that monitoring should be added to the matrix.

Director Zortman recognized Greg Greenway, Executive Director Seaport Industrial Association and Board Member Chamber San Mateo County. He stated that he and the Chamber are giving full support and that this is decades in the making.

Chair Clair recognized Kevin Connolly with WETA. He thanked the Board for taking on this project. He stated that WETA has worked with environmental and recreational water users and marine life.

Chair Clair invited comments from Commissioners

Commissioner Kastrop stated that she wanted to go on record and congratulate staff on the timeline. Commissioner Kastrop stated that the Ferry Project has been a passion project for her for 14 years. Commissioner Kastrop stated that there were errors, assumptions and missing data within the Business Plan. She cited the following: (1) Measure A funds and state funds are earmarked for Redwood City (RWC) and cannot be used elsewhere; (2) berthing location is RWC Municipal Harbor not at Sequoia Yacht Club; (3) the Business Plan does not include consideration of positive sales tax implications for RWC; (4) the Business Plan should include that costs for landside capital costs as well as ferry dock in water costs are covered by existing earmarked funding; (5) the proposed parking lot is for 250 spaces, the ferry holds 450 passengers, Commissioner Kastrop feels that this needs to be studied in more detail. She also stated that traffic patterns, shuttle services, and bike paths need to be further evaluated. Commissioner Kastrop stated that she has concerns with the price of the vessel, spare vessels and maintenance fees. She also questioned if research into new technologies will be available for zero emission vessels. She requested that WETA continue to monitor that.

At 9:38 AM, Chair Clair excused himself from the meeting. Vice Chair Duncan resumed control of the meeting.

Commissioner Dodge inquired about the use of tents for a year and not build a terminal. He expressed concern that if the building is not used and left vacant, would the terminal be converted back to maritime use? Mr. Connolly stated that the terminal building is a minor cost compared to the vessels and berths and that they are a high level of investment. Mr. Connolly also stated terminals are not manned facilities

Executive Director Zortman deferred to Port Attorney, Francois Sorba on the motion acknowledging Receipt the Draft Business Plan.

A motion to acknowledge receipt of Redwood City Ferry Draft Business Plan was made by Commissioner Kastrop and was seconded by Commissioner Dodge.

The motion passed 4-0 by voice roll call vote with Chair Claire excusing himself before the vote.

VIII. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS-NONE

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

On January 26, 2022 staff attended Bay Area Council Government Relations Committee.

On January 27 2022 staff attended United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) San Francisco District Dredging Workshop.

On February 3, 2022 staff attended Water Emergency Transportation Authority Board meeting for consideration of the Ferry Project.

On February 7, 2022 staff met with the stakeholders regionally to continue moving forward on the 101/84 Interchange and looking at grant funding.

February 9, 2022 staff will be attending Bay Planning Coalition (BPC) Dredging Workshop and California Association of Port Authority (CAPA) Executive Director's meeting.

Executive Director Zortman thanked everyone and Port partners for their hard work and vision.

X. MATTERS OF BOARD INTEREST

On February 3, 2022 Commissioner Kastrop attended Water Emergency Transportation Board meeting on the Ferry Project Business Plan. She stated that WETA would like to see which large employers will support ridership.

XI. CLOSED SESSION— NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT— To Regular Meeting of February 23, 2022

After inviting public comment, Chair Claire confirmed with Executive Director Zortman that there were no members of the public in attendance at the meeting who wished to make public comment on this agenda item. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Dodge and seconded by Commissioner Kastrop. The motion passed 4-0 by voice roll call vote with Chair Claire absent.

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Duncan at 9:55 AM to its next regularly scheduled meeting on February 23, 2022.