

# City of Valdez

*212 Chenega Ave.  
Valdez, AK 99686*



## Meeting Minutes - Final

**Monday, July 19, 2021**

**7:00 PM**

**Regular Meeting**

**Civic Center Conference Room**

## **Ports and Harbor Commission**

**REGULAR AGENDA - 7:00 PM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Swanson called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m. in the Valdez Civic Center Conference Room.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present 5 - Chair Mark Swanson  
Commission Member Colleen Stephens  
Commission Member Ryan Sontag Jr.  
Commission Member Stu Hirsch  
Commission Member Alan Steed

Excused 2 - Commission Member Tim Bouchard  
Commission Member Monty Morgan

Also Present 2 - Director Ports & Harbor, Jeremy Talbott  
Office Manager Ports & Harbor, Karisa Friend

**III. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

**1. Election of Ports & Harbor Commission Chair**

MOTION: Commission Member Stephens moved, seconded by Commission Member Steed to approve the Election of Commission Member Stu Hirsch to Port & Harbor Commission Chair. The motion carried by the following vote, after the following discussion occurred.

Chair Swanson disclosed that he is now living in Florida for a portion of the year and feels it best he does not try to Chair the Commission going forward.

Each Commission Member voiced their hesitation and Mr. Talbott stated that a script can be written and provided to assist during each meeting.

Chair Swanson voiced that he believed Commission Member Hirsch would be a great Chair considering his involvement at the Harbor and knowledge of the departments.

Commission Member Stephens nominated Commission Member Hirsch.

There being no further discussion, Chair Swanson invited a vote on the motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION:

Yays: 4 - Chair Swanson, Commission Member Stephens, Commission Member Sontag, and Commission Member Steed

Excused: 2 - Commission Member Bouchard, and Commission Member Morgan

MOTION CARRIED.

**IV. ELECTION OF CHAIR PRO TEMPORE**

**1. Election of Ports and Harbor Commission Chair Pro Tempore**

MOTION: Commission Member Steed moved, seconded by Commission Member Sontag to approve the Election of Commission Member Colleen Stephens to Port & Harbor Commission Chair Pro Tempore. The motion carried by the following vote, after the following discussion occurred.

There being no discussion. Chair Swanson invited a vote on the Motion.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 4 - Chair Swanson, Commission Member Sontag, Commission Member Hirsch, and Commission Member Steed

Excused: 2 - Commission Member Bouchard, and Commission Member Morgan

MOTION CARRIED.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1. Ports and Harbor Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of June 21st, 2021**

MOTION: Commission Member Sontag moved, seconded by Commission Member Stephens to approve Port & Harbor Commission Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2021. The motion carried by the following vote, after the following discussion occurred.

The Ports and Harbor Commission regular meeting minutes of June 21, 2021 were approved at presented.

VOTE ON THE MOTION

Yays: 5 - Chair Swanson, Commission Member Stephens, Commission Member Sontag, Commission Member Hirsch, and Commission Member Steed

Excused: 2 - Commission Member Bouchard, and Commission Member Morgan

**VI. PUBLIC BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

There was no public business from the floor.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Small Boat Harbor Reconstruction Design, Kick Off

Chip Courtright, PND Engineers stated also joining him was Doug Kenley, Tyler Bradshaw, and Bill Jameson where here to do a walk through and have an official kick-off meeting with Port and Harbor staff to get the ball rolling and get the H-K construction project moving forward.

Chair Swanson asked what the time line is and Mr. Courtright stated that the City have questions and looking for information. He said maybe a year and a half to start construction.

Commission Member Hirsch stated he has some observations about the launch ramp and wants to ensure things are taken into consideration regarding functionality.

Commission Member Stephens wanted to make sure PND received her comments about the tour dock.

Mr. Courtright stated if there were any more questions or comments he could be emailed directly.

Chair Swanson stated he hopes there is the possibility to tune up other parts of the Harbor even though it is listed as H-K reconstruction.

Mr. Courtright stated there will be other opportunities.

Mr. Talbott stated that there will be more meetings for questions, comments and to review scope of work.

### 2. Future Ports & Harbors Project Prioritization

Chair Swanson stated his understanding is this from the City Council retreat and they are looking for feedback. Mr. Talbott stated that is correct. City Council is looking for the Commission to review the Waterfront Master Plan annually and to confirm the top priorities. Mr. Talbott mentioned a scoring matrices and provide back to City Council.

Commission Member Hirsch asked if the plan had changed and Mr. Talbott said it has been on hold pending the Comp Plan and now that it is coming about there are a lot of plans and they need to be brought together cohesively. He said the Waterfront Master Plan has been given as an appendix to the Comp Plan.

Commission Member Stephens said the Waterfront Plan mirrors the Comp Plan.

Chair Swanson refers to Sea Otter and developing it. Commission Member Hirsch wants to make sure the information is conveyed to City Council and Mr. Talbott said he would talk to them. Chair Swanson brought up talking to other Commissions.

Commission Member Stephens asked for a time frame. Chair Swanson said he'd like to brainstorm. Commission Member Hirsch asked if PND's involvement is there. Mr. Talbott said yes. Commission Member Hirsch asked if branding will be consistent and Mr. Talbott said yes that's the goal to be consistent.

Commission Member Steed stated most of his work is in North Harbor so a bigger lift, 300 ton lift would be ideal. Also a launch ramp or better system to get boats in water and parking for trailers.

Chair Swanson asked does the project leverage other group's money, taking into consideration of return on investment like revenues, jobs, etc.

Chair Swanson said to invest in Sea Otter and get more containers on VCT. He mentioned Port & Harbor is the only one that makes money all the others just spend money. He believes we should be enhancing businesses that are here. He also mentioned making it valuable to non-boat owners. The park area and walkways are attractive to that group of users.

Commission Member Steed mentioned the fuel dock.

Commission Member Stephens said stability of the current resources we already have is important as well and that they are maintained and continue to actually function. Sustainability is important. Commission Member Stephens stated she was talking about physical sustainability and gave examples at tour dock. Mr. Talbott said we'd need grant money for major improvements.

Chair Swanson referred to rate settings. City Council does not want to raise rates but we need to take care of facilities. Mr. Talbott mentioned rate increases in the future.

Commission Member Hirsh said PND mentioned low hanging fruit and starting Sea Otter. Also mentioned commercial places. Developing Sea Otter moves the lift and opens fisheries dockage, lease space, Cruise ship overflow.

## **VIII. REPORTS**

### **1. Ports & Harbors Director Report**

Mr. Talbott provided a verbal overview of his written report included in the agenda packet. He commented the Airport is at full occupancy, Ravn has upped their flights, and the bar is open. Customers are still looking for rental cars. He also mentioned Port is looking to have an Airport rate increase.

Mr. Talbott said the pump out cart and boat has arrived and been named.

Commission Member Steed said to keep the pump out stand at tour dock but update it.

Mr. Talbott was informed salmon fishing is excelling. Commission Member Sontag said there is not enough electrical for refrigerated units. Silver Bay and Peter Pan are setting records.

## **IX. COMMISSION BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

Chair Swanson opened the floor for business from Commissioners.

Commission Members Steed and Hirsch stated no business.

Commission Member Stephens congratulated Office Manager on commission minutes completion and stated it was a huge undertaking.

Chair Swanson asked about the damage at Kelsey Dock. Mr. Talbott explained what happened. Chair Swanson mentioned signage placement and Mr. Talbott confirmed.

Commission Member Steed said prosecution would go a long way to deter vandalism and actually have persons held accountable.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Swanson adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

City of Valdez, Alaska  
Ports and Harbor Commission

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Mark Swanson, Chairman

Attest:

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Karisa Friend, Ports and Harbor Office Manager