



## PUBLIC MEETING: Port Commission Special Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, **August 18, 2026, 6:00 PM**

LOCATION: Cascade Locks City Hall 140 Wa Na Pa St, Cascade Locks, OR 97014

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85806615790>

### MINUTES

- 1) Commission meeting called to order at 6:02 PM
  - a. Pledge of Allegiance
  - b. Roll Call
    - i. President Lorang (excused)
    - ii. Vice-President Klute
    - iii. Commissioner Nance
    - iv. Commissioner Gann
    - v. Commissioner Dodd
    - vi. Members of the Staff and Other Support – Executive Director Jeremiah Blue; Deputy Executive Director Genevieve Scholl; Operations Manager Parker Nelson
  - c. Modifications, Additions, and Changes to the Agenda
- 2) Consent Agenda
  - a. Approval of minutes for the July 21, 2026 Regular Session
  - b. Ratification of bills from July 16, 2026 – August 10, 2026 in the amount of \$82,763.91
  - c. Approval of payroll for July 28 – August 4, 2026 in the amount of \$47,680.37
  - d. Approval of Final FY 25-26 Small Grant Report from Landmass Wines
    - MOTION:** To approve the consent agenda
    - MOVE:** Travis Gann
    - SECOND:** Albert Nance
    - VOTE:** **Aye:** Carrie Klute, Albert Nance, Travis Gann, and Ted Dodd  
**Absent:** Brad Lorang
- VIDEO TIMESTAMP: 00:01:23**
- 3) Public Comment (Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes)
- 4) Commissioner Comments and Sub-Committee Reports
  - a. C Dodd reported that trail usage is on track to increase by 30% over last year, with approximately 7,000 riders in 2025. Dodd raised concerns regarding the increased use of Gorge Trail 400 and the impact of improper access points. Dodd identified the need for better signage, accurate road signs, a west-side trailhead, and updated kiosks to improve user behavior. Discussion occurred regarding potential partnerships with the ODOT Historic Columbia River Highway subcommittee to address signage issues.
  - b. C Gann relayed that he noticed a high level of activity in town over the weekend, expressing appreciation for the strong turnout. Additionally, C Gann voiced his excitement for the upcoming Centennial Celebration.
  - c. C Nance expressed gratitude for the community efforts surrounding recent local events and festivals.
  - d. VP Klute reported that the Centennial Celebration Committee is in its final planning stages for the Bridge of the Gods Centennial Festival scheduled for September 19. VP Klute stated that event highlights include live music, food vendors, fireworks, free Sternwheeler rides, a car show, and a special dinner cruise. Staff will begin advertising via posters and social media across the Gorge within the next ten (10) days.

5) Executive Director Report

6) Business Action Items

VP Klute announced that the agenda would be reordered to discuss the Approval of the Final Grant Report from Kaile'a Coffee Co. first under Action Items.

c. Approve Final Grant Report from Kaile'a Coffee Co.

**MOTION:** To approve the Final Grant Report from Kaile'a Coffee Co.  
**MOVE:** Ted Dodd  
**SECOND:** Albert Nance  
**DISCUSSION:** Sobaski presented her project as one of the first recipients of the economic development grant, detailing her renovation of a vacant building. The project involved significant structural changes, including plumbing installation, ADA compliance upgrades, and electrical work. Sobaski noted that she personally invested approximately \$53,000 in addition to the grant funds to complete the project.  
**VOTE:** **Aye:** Carrie Klute, Albert Nance, Travis Gann, and Ted Dodd  
**Absent:** Brad Lorang  
**VIDEO TIMESTAMP:** **00:55:57**

a. Approve Conference Schedule for FY 2026-27

**MOTION:** None  
**MOVE:** N/A  
**SECOND:** N/A  
**DISCUSSION:** ED Bue presented a proposed conference schedule for the upcoming fiscal year to streamline staff and commissioner attendance. Discussion focused on evaluating the value of specific conferences to ensure they provide meaningful professional development.  
**VOTE:** The item was presented for consideration; no motion was introduced, and no action was taken  
**Absent:** Brad Lorang

b. Approve Campground Study Review Scope of Work

**MOTION:** Move to authorize the Executive Director to finalize the scope of work and enter into an agreement with ECONorthwest for the campground study review and regional benchmarking analysis in an amount not to exceed \$10,000, with the review to occur concurrently with continued advancement of the campground project into final design, with additional directions that was just mentioned.  
**MOVE:** Ted Dodd  
**SECOND:** Travis Gann  
**DISCUSSION:** The Commission reviewed a proposal to hire Eco Northwest to perform a peer review of existing campground feasibility studies. The study would cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 and aim to provide an independent financial range and benchmark analysis. Commissioners agreed that a second pair of eyes is worth the investment given the significant scale of future campground spending.  
**VOTE:** **Aye:** Albert Nance, Travis Gann, and Ted Dodd  
**Nay:** Carrie Klute  
**Absent:** Brad Lorang

**VIDEO TIMESTAMP: 01:24:28**

- c. Consider Updates to Port Economic Development Grant Program for FY 2026-27

**MOTION 1:** To approve the updated grant program guidelines, application scoring criteria, and score weight as discussed.

**MOTION 2:** To approve the FY 2026-27 Grant Program application and project deadlines as stated.

**MOVE:** Ted Dodd (moved both motions combined via "so moved")

**SECOND:** Albert Nance

**DISCUSSION:** Staff proposed updates for Round 3 of the Economic Development Grant Program, focusing on downtown revitalization and job creation. New recommendations include a 90-day grace period for permits and a maximum 24-month completion window for construction projects. The Commission discussed whether to hold back 10% of large grant awards until final reports are accepted to mitigate risk. The Commission deliberated on using the City's downtown overlay zone as the official definition for program focus areas.

**VOTE:** **Aye:** Carrie Klute, Albert Nance, Travis Gann, and Ted Dodd

**Absent:** Brad Lorang

**VIDEO TIMESTAMP: 02:17:16**

- d. Adjourn 8:58 PM

Port of Cascade Locks

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Port Commission President  
Brad Lorang

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Port Commission Secretary  
Albert Nance

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Date Approved  
Prepared by Keriane Stocker