

**League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce Co.
Observer Report**

Name of Agency: Tacoma Port Commission

Date: January 24

Observer Reporting: Rosemary Powers

Length of Meeting: 12:00 – 2:30 pm

Members Present/Absent: All Port Commissioners were present —Chair Claire Petrich, and Commissioners John McCarthy, Don Meyer, Don Johnson, and Richard Marzano.

Others Present: Presenters mainly were Port staff, with the exception of Wesley Wenhardt of the Foss Waterway Seaport, Norm Gollub of the Foss Waterway Development Authority, and Melissa Malott of Citizens for a Healthy Bay Foss Waterway. No members of the public (if present) requested time to address the commission.

Content (What is being discussed): i.e., *Did they approve some action? Does anything relate to League priorities or positions? If so, do you recommend local league action? Was access to materials for certain agenda items limited or excluded from you? Was background material available to the public?*

The Port Commission schedules a regular monthly meeting on the third Thursday at 5:00 pm at the Fabulich Center at [3600 Port of Tacoma Road, Tacoma, WA 98424](http://www.portoftacoma.com/3600-Port-of-Tacoma-Road-Tacoma-WA-98424). However, these dates are subject to change, and the Commission also holds Executive Sessions, joint meetings of the Northwest Seaport Alliance (the marine cargo operating partnership of the ports of Tacoma and Seattle), and other special commission meetings each month. The archived video of meetings, available at <http://portal.veconnect.us/p/portoftacoma>, makes it possible to follow the general proceedings and to have access to the materials presented), but it can be difficult to know much in advance when meetings occur that may be of special interest to citizens.

Discussion and decisions:

1) (see Agenda and links to all presentations and other materials at <http://portal.veconnect.us/p/portoftacoma/e/10ec4cdce724ccb9c3e4fce1acaea7ca>). The commissioners heard two briefings: 1) Foss Waterway representatives regarding the 2018 Cruise Ship Business and its potential to become a regular stop for cruises along the west coast—with benefits to the downtown Tacoma businesses, museums, etc.; 2) Update from Citizens for a Healthy Bay, presenting the daily efforts of this group with its patrol boat to address pollution sources in Commencement Bay, to consult with businesses about environmental clean-up, emphasizing the importance of a joint effort involving CHB, the Port and the Tribe to make actual progress on the Occidental Chemical Cleanup Site, which has been identified since the 1980s.

Commissioners then approved the semi-annual request for Commission International Travel (trade mission activity), authorized the Port CEO to enter a PSA with the World Trade Center Tacoma for 2019 trade services, adopted changes in local development policy regarding targeted investment funds that would streamline process for staff, be more specific in defining “economic development” to ensure compliance to limit audit risk, and separate development related to rail/road infrastructure from other eligible categories of development (events promoting international trade, marine tourism infrastructure. Finally, the commission heard a first reading of a proposal to authorize the Port CEO to enter into a 3-year lease with Guy F. Atkinson Construction (responsible for current freeway construction near downtown Tacoma).

General Business concluded with commissioners affirming their individual willingness to represent the Commission on a wide variety of other boards, committees, and groups with whom the commission has ongoing relationships. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.