

FINAL Meeting Minutes

PORTLAND FISH PIER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 13, 2025, 3:30 PM

Remote Meeting Format on the Zoom Platform

PFPA Board Members Present

Class A Directors: Groundfish Harvester or Representative

Mary Hudson, MCFA

Tracy Pearce

Class B Directors: Groundfish Buyers

Nick Alfiero, Harbor Fish Market

Class C Directors: Representing the seafood industry of the State of Maine

Rob Odlin, Representing the Lobster Industry

Matthew Moretti, Representing the Aquaculture Industry

Class D Director: Representing the Public at Large

John Arnold

Class E Director: Representing the City Council

Wesley Pelletier, District 2

Ex-Officio Members of the Board of Directors:

Representing the Portland City Manager

Brendan O'Connell, Finance Director, Treasurer

PFPA Board Members absent

Class B Director: Tim Merrill

Chris Mayo, representing Commissioner of the Maine DOT

Meredith Mendelson, representing the Commissioner of MMR

Staff Present

Robert Vanmeter, PFEX Exchange Manager

Greg Watson, HED Director

Lori Paulette, Administrative Officer

Kaela Gonzalez, ARPA Program Coordinator

Public

Approximately 3 members of the public attended on zoom

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes. November 21, 2024 PFPA Meeting

Motion to approve November 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Arnold, 2nd by Alfiero

No Public Comment

Approved 8-0 by unanimous vote of all present

2. Review and vote on financial assistance to Portland Fish Exchange.

The Portland Fish Exchange is requesting \$200,000 from the Fish Pier Authority to pay off its line of credit. The Fish Exchange is also requesting a comparable cash reserve to draw on for continued operations. Mr. Vanmeter highlighted recent conditions resulting in low cash reserves and using \$200,000 of their \$250,000 line of credit. Mr. O'Connell confirmed that the Fish Pier Authority does have the cash reserve and would like to have projections on predicted Fish Pier cash flow to better anticipate future needs. City of Portland's FY26 budget timeline was reviewed, with a target of addressing the Portland Fish Pier Authority budget March/April of this year.

Motion to approve \$200,000 for financial assistance to Portland Fish Exchange to pay off the line of credit.

Motion by Arnold, 2nd by Alfiero

Discussion: Mr. Moretti asked for clarification on cash reserves for the Portland Fish Authority, confirmed to be sufficient by Mr. O'Connell. General consensus of Board was to address paying the line of credit to avoid finance charges and address the additional ask of cash reserves at a future meeting. Mr. O'Connell informed the Board that the City is integrating the Fish Exchanges' finances with the City's account system. The Board can expect to see merged financial statements in the near future.

No Public Comment

Approved 8-0 by unanimous vote of all present

3. Review and discuss formation of two Committees - Finance Committee and Portland Fish Exchange Committee.

Hudson would like to form two committees to make Board Meetings more efficient: a Finance Committee and a Portland Fish Exchange Committee.

Motion to approve the formation of a Portland Fish Exchange Subcommittee with the following members:

Tracy Pearce, Chair

Robert Odlin

Nick Alfiero

John Arnold

Mary Hudson

Matthew Moretti

Mike Foster

Motion by Odlin, 2nd by Arnold

Discussion: With the formation of subcommittees the need for monthly meetings was presented by O'Connell. The consensus was that further discussion was needed to reevaluate at a later date. Subcommittee meetings will have to be advertised.

No Public Comment

Approved 8-0 by unanimous vote of all present.

Motion to approve the formation of a Finance Subcommittee with the following members:

Brendan O'Connell, Chair

John Arnold

Robert Odlin

Robert Vanmeter

Motion by Arnold, 2nd by Hudson

No Public Comment

Approved 8-0 by unanimous vote of all present.

4. Election of Officers

Mary Hudson is going to step down as President.

Nomination for Rob Odlin as President was presented by Alfiero and seconded by Arnold. Odlin accepts nomination.

Nick Alfiero declined nomination for Vice President.

Nomination for Tracy Pearce as Vice President was presented by Odlin and seconded by Alfiero. Pearce accepts nomination.

Motion to elect the following slate of officers:

President: Robert Odlin

Vice President: Tracy Pearce

Treasurer: Brendan O'Connell

Secretary: John Arnold

Assistant Secretary: Greg Watson

Motion by Arnold, 2nd by Alfiero

Discussion: Mr. Odlin agreed that it is best to have an assistant secretary who is someone from the City.

No Public Comment

Approved 8-0 by unanimous vote of all present.

5. Next Regular Board Meeting Date: February 20, 2025

The next regular Board meeting will be March 20, 2025, with subcommittee meetings occurring prior.

6. Any other items from Board and staff

Ms. Hudson expressed concerns regarding the upcoming fishing season and suggested that at the next Board Meeting, this be discussed as it could affect the Portland Fish Exchange.

7. Meeting adjourned by consensus of all attending at approximately 4:41 p.m.

Attachments included in the meeting packet:

Draft Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2024

Memorandum for Financial Assistance Request by the Portland Fish Exchange