

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE
BELLINGHAM-WHATCOM PUBLIC FACILITIES DISTRICT
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Dunham Gooding, President, called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

- **ROLL CALL**

Members present: Dunham Gooding (President), Brent Walker, Bruce Tabb, Loraine Boland, and Sati Mookherjee.

Members absent: Mark Asmundson (excused)

City Staff Present: Mayor Lund, Andrew Asbjornsen, Carol Rofkar, Forrest Longman, Heather Aven, Maria Coltharp, Matt Stamps, and Tara Sundin

Also Present: John Purdie

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment received.

BUSINESS

1. Presentation – Roles and Responsibilities of the City and the PFD:

Mayor Lund addressed the Board and shared her appreciation for the work of the Public Facilities District.

Matt Stamps, City of Bellingham Legal Department presented an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the City of Bellingham and the Bellingham Whatcom Public Facilities District (PFD). He briefly discussed what state law allows a district to do and then reviewed what the 2003 Interlocal Operating Agreement and the PFD Charter outlines.

There was a brief discussion about what can happen with the bonds now that the law has changed and extended the existence of the PFD program to 55 years. There was also a conversation about the advantages of refinancing existing debt to take advantage of the extension of the program.

2. Mount Baker Theatre Presentation:

John Purdie, Director Mt. Baker Theatre presented an overview of the Theatre's operations. He shared the mission of the Theatre, as well as the vision. He spoke to the annual attendance for the 2024-2025 program year, and some of the programs that occur in the building throughout the year (i.e. graduations, tours and community enrichment activities). He spoke to the different ways fundraising makes a difference for the sustainability of the Theatre. He noted that the 100th year anniversary is currently being planned for.

Tara Sundin spoke to the agreements between the PFD, the City and the Theatre. She shared that this City asset was transferred to the PFD in 2005, at which time a lease agreement was entered into between the PFD and the Theatre. She noted the different ways the City supports the Mt. Baker Theatre both through maintenance obligations and monetary support with lodging tax funds.

Caol Rofkar shared some of the short-term capital needs that will need to be addressed in the next 2-8 years, as well as the long-term needs in the next 9-15 years. She provided a summary of the capital costs and strategies.

Announcements:

John Purdie has retired from the Executive Director position with the Mount Baker Theatre and this was his last PFD meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Dunham Gooding adjourned the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Aven, Administrative Supervisor

Final Minutes Approved:

Dunham Gooding, President