MOTION 2019-02:  
A MOTION OF THE PORT OF SEATTLE COMMISSION

supporting principles for the development of the Port’s cruise business and to guide engagement with prospective partners and stakeholders in the operation of existing and potential new cruise facilities; directing the issuance of a request for qualifications.

AMENDED AND ADOPTED  
MARCH 12, 2019

INTRODUCTION

Strong and steady growth in Alaska homeport cruise operations over 20 years has provided significant benefits to the Seattle community and Washington’s economy. The Port is now the largest public cruise ship homeport on the West Coast, generating consistent economic returns for the region and operating with a high standard customer service and environmental responsibility at the berth and in the waters from Seattle to Alaska. Growing customer demand in the Alaska cruise market creates new opportunities to optimize use of existing terminals and pursue the construction of a new terminal and berth, further contributing to a robust regional maritime economy. The benefits of cruise business expansion should be realized throughout the region and in all communities, and the impacts managed responsibly.

Therefore, the Port of Seattle Commission, in consultation with the Executive Director and Maritime Division, have developed a set of principles to advance the Port of Seattle as the West Coast’s premier cruise home port. The principles reflect the Port of Seattle’s Century Agenda goal to strengthen this region as a leading tourism destination and double the economic value of cruise, while maintaining the Port’s triple bottom line – balancing environmental, financial, and societal goals. This guidance will be incorporated in the March release of a request for qualifications and subsequent selection of proposals.

TEXT OF THE MOTION

Recognizing the importance of preserving opportunities of existing maritime uses and the need for partnerships with local governments, tribes and communities, the Port Commission hereby directs the Port of Seattle staff to incorporate the following key principles in developing and operating cruise terminals. The Port Commission also directs staff to issue a request for qualifications as the next step in developing a public-private-partnership and further directs staff to collaborate with other stakeholders who will assist in achieving these goals.
(1) Maximize the use of the Port’s deep-water facilities and industrial lands to serve maritime industrial uses.

(a) Preserve and utilize industrial zoned lands.

(b) Preserve waterfront lands for maritime industrial uses.

(c) Manage facilities and develop projects in a manner consistent with prioritizing marine cargo businesses and supporting the competitiveness goals of the Northwest Seaport Alliance.

(d) Complement cruise terminal with other maritime uses including cargo.

(2) Expand economic, cultural and community benefits within Cruise Operations and Development.

(a) Acknowledge historical and cultural roots of the region in any terminal development.

   1. Engage in government-to-government consultation with regional tribes in order to manage opportunities and impacts accordingly.

   2. Honor tribes’ waterfront heritage in the Port’s cruise facilities through direct partnerships.

(b) Work productively and collaboratively with organized labor and enter into a project labor agreement for any capital construction thereby ensuring living wage jobs for employees and apprenticeship opportunities.

(c) Support economic opportunities of cruise for neighboring and underserved communities.

   1. Promote local, small, and women-, minority-, and tribal-owned businesses.

   2. Support neighboring and local businesses’ ability to benefit from cruise development.

(d) Coordinate access to public spaces, downtown connectivity, and other areas of interest with other stakeholders and public entities.

   1. Respect the integrity and character of the surrounding neighborhoods.

   2. Work to strengthen partnerships with near-port communities.

(3) Support financial sustainability of the Port of Seattle.

(a) Maximize income, taking into consideration risk-sharing and capital investment.
(b) Leverage the financial return of the cruise business to support a diverse maritime economy.

(4) Incorporate leading edge environmental stewardship and sustainability practices and facilities that can exceed existing regulations.

(a) Set aggressive goals to minimize greenhouse gas impacts in operation of ships and terminals to support the Port’s goals of reducing carbon by 50 percent by 2030 and the carbon-neutral-by-2050 goal.

(b) Lead the region and the industry to minimize air emissions, ensure water quality and protect our ecosystems, focusing on minimizing air and water discharges at dock and underway.

(c) Engage with key local stakeholders in support of regional environmental priorities and initiatives, including considering recommendations from the state’s Orca Task Force.

(d) Require use of shore power where feasible by equipped ships. and include shore power capabilities at the new berth.

(5) Facilitate improved transportation mobility of people and goods in the region.

(a) Support innovative transportation solutions for passengers, terminal and cruise vessel provisions.

(b) Seek vehicle trip reduction opportunities and provide options other than passenger vehicles for access to the terminal.

(c) Seek to minimize traffic related impacts to surrounding community and existing businesses.

(d) Implement multi-modal transportation solutions that benefit the Seattle harbor.

(6) Provide consistent excellence in customer service to strengthen Seattle’s role as the West Coast’s premier cruise port.

(a) Manage efficient, comfortable transportation to and from ships.

(b) Provide information, wayfinding and connections with local and regional communities.

(c) Promote pre- and –post cruise tourism opportunities throughout Washington State.