

**PORT OF HOOD RIVER
Resolution No. 2006-07-3**

**DIRECTING STAFF TO PURSUE ADAPTIVE RE-USE OF THE HOOD RIVER
EXPO CENTER FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUE
CURRENT OPERATIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 2007**

Whereas, the Port of Hood River ("Port") owns real property commonly known as the Expo Center; and

Whereas, on September 5, 2006, the Port Commission directed staff to work with the Hood River County Chamber of Commerce ("Chamber") and other users to evaluate the future of the Expo Center reflecting the recommendations of the Port's Budget Committee; and

Whereas, staff facilitated a series of meetings with users and stakeholders on October 18 and 24, 2006, to discuss key questions regarding the Expo Center's future; and

Whereas, consultants evaluated the current condition, economic impact and historic utilization of the facility, and examined its potential for alternative uses; and

Whereas, staff conducted a public meeting on November 9, 2006 to seek additional input on the future of the Expo Center; and

Whereas, at its regular meeting on November 21, 2006, the Port Commission conducted a work session to discuss a staff report entitled "Economic Impact and Re-Use Potential of the Hood River Expo Center" and provide an opportunity for public testimony; and

Whereas, the Port Commission agrees with staff conclusions that the Expo Center is significantly underutilized, occupies a prominent site on the Waterfront and may be an important location for economic development, job creation and business recruitment; and

Whereas, the Commission wishes to give specific direction to staff so that users, stakeholders, and the public are aware of the future of the Expo Center and can anticipate likely changes.

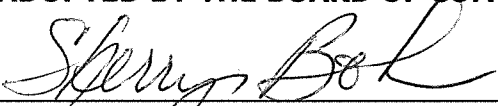
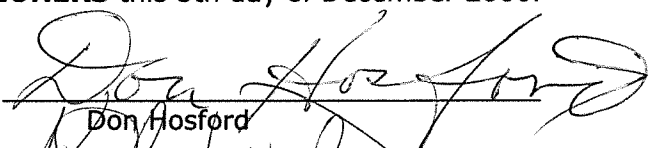
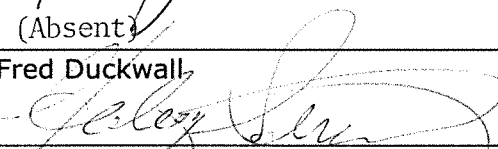
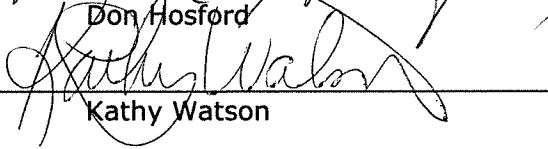
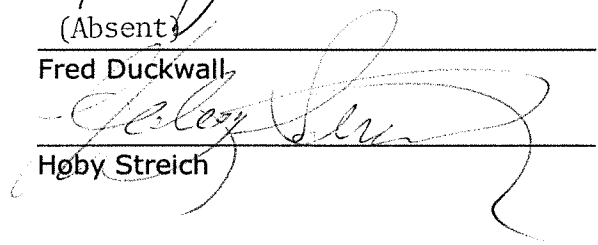
THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT:

Staff is directed to work closely with the Hood River Chamber of Commerce, other public agencies, and users of the Expo Center to carry out the following:

- Maintain the existing operations of the Expo Center through December 2007.
- Seek ways to reduce the operating losses of the Expo Center during calendar year 2007.
- Initiate marketing efforts to identify one or more businesses that may be interested in occupying the Expo Center starting in 2008. Seek local businesses that, in aggregate, have a minimum of 40 living wage jobs, that have growth potential and that are compatible with the long-term future of the waterfront. As needed, initiate necessary improvements to the Expo Center during 2007 that will not negatively impact scheduled events or activities.
- Assist other public agencies in efforts to evaluate the feasibility of developing a community facility to accommodate large public events if a market exists in the future.

- Assist users and occupants of the Expo Center to find alternative locations for their functions starting in 2008.
- Work with the Chamber to evaluate the potential of relocating Harvest Fest to another site on the Waterfront in 2008 to support its continued success.
- Assist the Chamber to evaluate the potential of relocating the Hood River Visitors Center to another successful location by the end of 2007.
- Report back to the Commission with a report on progress in carrying out the above actions no later than March 10, 2007.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS this 5th day of December 2006.

 _____ Sherry Bohn (Absent)	 _____ Don Hosford
 _____ Fred Duckwall	 _____ Kathy Watson
 _____ Hoby Streich	