

Fort Worden State Park - Long Range Planning Project

Agenda Item E-7 is the formal State Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agenda item seeking adoption of plans and other long-range planning recommendations for Fort Worden State Park. The Commission unanimously adopted all plans and recommendations as proposed by staff on September 25, 2008.

SIGNIFICANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Long-range planning for Fort Worden State Park (Fort Worden) began in the fall of 2004. During the next four years staff worked with the public to complete a series of planning tasks leading to the facility plan, rehabilitation guidelines, and the approach to park governance recommended in an agenda item. Long-range planning included three prior Commission actions:

- Adoption of a vision and mission statement for Fort Worden (March 2005)
- Approval of a roadmap and assumptions to guide long range planning (August 2005)
- Adoption of land classifications, long-term boundary, value statements, and park use and development principles (January 2007)

Commission Direction

As part of its January 2007 action, the Commission refined its vision for the park, seeking to establish Fort Worden as a center for life-long learning center. The Commission directed staff to complete several additional tasks towards achieving this vision including:

1. Prepare a *business and operations implementation plan* to guide program development, financial management, and operation of a life-long learning center;
2. Prepare a *site and facilities use and development plan* to guide long-term use and development of the park and complete related environmental review;
3. Prepare *design guidelines* to guide on-going rehabilitation of structures and landscapes and ensure protection of the Fort Worden National Historic Landmark; and
4. Assemble a volunteer task force to evaluate park governance and recommend a management structure best suited to achieving the Commission's life-long learning center vision.

Planning Process

The effort to complete the above tasks incorporated work by a consulting team led by PROS Consulting, a nationally recognized leisure and recreation-oriented management consulting firm. Planning followed four general stages:

Stage 1: Assessment of existing conditions,

Stage 2: Exploration of alternatives,

Stage 3: Development of preliminary recommendations, and

Stage 4: Preparation of final recommendations for Commission action.

For each stage, staff posted documents to the agency's website, met with individuals and organizations, and held public workshops to present information and receive input. Planning has included extensive participation by the Fort Worden Advisory Committee, directors and staff of Fort Worden's non-profit and business partners, the City of Port Townsend, park visitors, staff, neighbors, and interested members of the public. Participants also provided follow-up input by mail and e-mail.

In August 2008, staff provided the Commission a report on progress towards completing directed tasks. This report provided the Commission with preliminary recommendations in the areas of business and operations implementation, site and facilities use and development, guidelines for rehabilitation, and park governance. The report also described issues raised through the planning process and staff's approach to addressing them. Written input from public workshops and follow-up correspondence was also provided to the Commission.

Fort Worden Planning Timeline

Vision and Mission Statements – Consultant Pam Earle

Dec 15, 2004	Subcommittee formed from Advisory Committee
Dec 16, 2004	Full Advisory Meeting
Jan 6, 2005	Public Meeting
Mar 3, 2005	Commission adopt Vision and Mission Statements

Fort Worden Long Range Planning: Program Development, Historic Preservation, & Business Plan

Aug 4, 2005	Commission approve planning road map
Nov 1, 2005	Staff, Commission, Centrum visit Golden Gate National Park, Presidio, Forts Mason and Baker

Long Range Plan – Consultants PRR, Arc Architects, Swift Architects, Property Counselors and Chambers Group

Apr 20, 2006	All Park Partners, Boards, Staffs and FWAC Meetings Public Meeting
Aug 8, 2006	Options Workshop with Planning Committee
Sep 21, 2006	All Park Partners, Boards, Staffs and FWAC Meetings Public Meeting
Nov 1, 2006	All Park Partners, Boards, Staffs and FWAC Meetings Public Meeting
Dec 2006	Long Range Plan Preliminary Recommendations report final
Jan 11, 2007	Commission adopts FW Long Range Plan, values statement, land classifications, long term boundary, site use and development principles; directs staff to continue planning guided by lifelong learning center concept; prepares design guidelines, and explores alternative governance structures

Business & Operations Plan Implementation: Consultants PROS, Dave Hansen, BCRA, K&L Gates – Gerry Johnson

Aug 11, 2007	Task Force Charter approved - Task Force meets Nov through Jun 08
Aug 14, 2007	Kick Off Meeting with Consultants and Planning Committee
Jun 11, 2008	Commission briefing on Task Force recommendations
Aug 7, 2008	Task Force presents recommendations to Commission
Mar 13, 2008	Public Workshop
May 17, 2008	Public Meeting
Jun 2008	Arts Commission meeting
Jul 8, 2008	Public Meeting
Jul 22, 2008	Public Meeting
Aug 8, 2008	Commission Briefing
Aug 8, 2008	Final reports for Business Plan, Design Guidelines and Site and Facility Use Plan
Aug 20, 2008	Senate Briefing
Sep 25, 2008	Commission adopts Design Guidelines, Site and Facility Use and Development Plan, Recommendations for Non-Profit Management, guided by the Business Plan
Nov-Dec 2008	Development of Request for Letters of Interest
Jan 9, 2009	Letters of Interest due – Centrum only one received
Feb-Aug, 2009	MOU negotiations on milestones
Oct 8, 2009	Commission receives letter from Centrum requesting more time
Dec 3, 2009	Commission approves signing MOU with Centrum to complete milestones
Mar 19, 2010	State Parks and Centrum sign MOU to start the process of implementing the MOU management transition milestones
Jan 23, 2011	Centrum writes a letter to transition from lead in the MOU process to support the PDA
Jan 27, 2011	Commission is presented with a progress report on the MOU with Centrum and approves staff recommendation to begin work with Port Townsend PDA
Mar 24, 2011	Resolution passed by State Parks Commission that directs the Director or his designee to immediately enter into good faith discussions with the Port Townsend Public Development Authority to seek agreement on the proposal and legislation.