

FFW Statement to FWPDA Board  
March 25, 2015

As stewards of Fort Worden State Park, the non-profit Friends of Fort Worden has provided both financial and volunteer support for park improvements and programs not funded by the state parks system since 1992. The Friends has operated a Gift Shop and Visitor Information Center located in the Guardhouse to support its organizational goals under a long-term agreement with State Parks to provide in kind services in lieu of rent. The FWPDA has only recently given notice that the FFW must vacate the Guardhouse location within 6 weeks in order to establish a pub and restaurant at that location.

The FFW wishes to support the short and long term plans of the FWPDA and respectfully requests that the FWPDA Board consider the following comments in implementing this project:

1. While overlapping, our organizational mission and structure differ from the FWPDA and other campus partner organizations.
  - a. The FFW supports projects and activities directed at the entire Fort Worden State Park, including the natural environment, trails, historical preservation (both military and non-military uses) and infrastructure preservation.
  - b. FFW has had a high visibility as an active and valued volunteer organization within the Port Townsend community.
  - c. FFW relies entirely on local community volunteers.
  - d. The Gift Shop has been an important contributor to the funds that FFW invests in support of its broad mission in the Park.
  - e. FFW is a sister organization with multiple other Washington State Parks friends organizations, many of which operate a gift shop to support park projects and improvements.
2. Relocation issues:
  - a. The notice for relocation has been very short with limited time for orderly planning.
  - b. Multiple relocation site possibilities have been discussed with PDA leadership.
  - c. A relocation decision requires consideration of visibility, access, security, space and remodeling costs.
  - d. Based on a tentative and superficial evaluation of options, the location that would best meet the requirements of the Gift Shop/Visitors Information Center is the currently empty space in the Park Office.
3. Financial issues:
  - a. The FFW recognizes that we will need to enact a new lease agreement with the FWPDA to occupy space on the Fort Worden campus.
  - b. The FFW mission provides financial benefits to the larger Fort Worden State Park that incorporate but also extend beyond the primary Lifelong Learning Center and hospitality functions of the PDA.
  - c. The FFW does not have the income producing capacity of other nonprofit and commercial campus partners (apart from the Gift Shop).
  - d. A planned transition period from the past to a future relationship model would acknowledge and validate the historical contributions of the FFW organization to Fort Worden State Park.
4. Long term plans:
  - a. The FFW recognizes that a new paradigm has been established on the Fort Worden campus.
  - b. The FFW Board plans to review the organizational mission in a thoughtful and orderly manner over the coming year in light of the new paradigm.