

PROPOSAL: The Fort Worden Conservancy

As part of the planning and implementation effort to help revitalize and develop Fort Worden State Park as a Center for Life-long Learning, the Fort Worden Conservancy will serve as a philanthropic arm and work in a partnership with the Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center Public Development Authority (herein, “Fort Worden Learning Center or FWLC”) to raise private funds for capital development, programming and operations.

In order to begin work with the FWLC as soon as possible, the Friends of Fort Worden could consider amending its *By-laws* to become the Fort Worden Conservancy to broaden its mission to better meet the long-term funding needs of Fort Worden State Park. The goal of the Fort Worden Conservancy (FWC) is to achieve national recognition of Fort Worden State Park as a Center for Lifelong Learning and a premier historic cultural and educational destination.

The Friends of Fort Worden would change its name to the Fort Worden Conservancy and broaden its purpose to include the Lifelong Learning Center vision at part of its mission. The organization would also amend its *By-laws* to no longer serve as a general membership organization—annual memberships, however, would become a key component of the organization’s fundraising strategy.

Existing board members could continue to serve and new board members would be recruited—up to 20 members. Overall, the purpose of the organization would stay the same: to advance the historic preservation, cultural, environmental and educational program opportunities at Fort Worden State Park. The FWC could better support the Fort Worden Lifelong Learning Center and Fort Worden Partners in a collaborative effort to preserve, enhance and operate Fort Worden for the public benefit.

The traditional role of operating the Guardhouse gift store and Fort Worden Visitor Center would continue as a standing committee of the Fort Worden Conservancy. The Guardhouse Committee would be comprised of three members, manage its own budget, and make funding recommendations to the Board regarding the projects or programs it deems appropriate for funding with the proceeds it raises.

Long-term, the role of the Fort Worden Conservancy would be to build its capacity to:

- a. Seek public and private funding to maximize the potential of Fort Worden State Park as a Lifelong Learning Center. The FWC would assist the FWLC and State Parks in implementing the goals and objectives relating to the Long Range Plan and vision of Fort Worden State Park as a Lifelong Learning Center.

- b. Raise and administer funds to support capital and educational/operational support that furthers the objectives of the Fort Worden Long Range Plan. This includes seeking funding to support, creating or sponsoring income producing ventures for FW Partners or new businesses or organizations.
- c. Work cooperatively with the FWLC to build local and state-wide support for Fort Worden and to assist the Committee in serving as advocates in legislative requests and strategies.
- d. Assist the FWLC and FW Partners to fund, produce and support new initiatives and special events at the Park (e.g., annual concert on the parade grounds).

Next Steps

- Have an attorney review proposed changes to the By-laws, which includes amending annual fundraising limits.
- Advertise in a mailing to all members the intent to amend the articles of incorporation and by-laws.
- Hold Friends of Fort Worden general membership meeting to review and vote on proposed changes to the by-laws.
- Prepare news release and promotional materials.
- Recruit new board members to serve on the Conservancy.
- Secure start-up funding for operations and outreach.
- The Fort Worden Conservancy would continue to operate in much the same manner as it does now for the next year or so.