

STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING NOTES

NON-PROFITS

June 3, 2008

Non-Profit Groups Represented:

- MAKE WAVES (submitted written comments as well)
- Point Wilson Sail & Power Squadron
- Kah Tai 2012 Alliance
- Admiralty Audubon Society
- Northwest Maritime Center/Wooden Boat Foundation (submitted written comments as well)
- Port Townsend Aero Museum
- Schooner Martha Foundation

General Comments – MAKE WAVES:

- MAKE WAVES' core interest is in building an aquatic center that's affordable and accessible to all community residents
- The center will contribute to local economic development efforts by creating new jobs (an estimated payroll of \$.75 million initially, growing to \$1.5 million within 5 years) and encouraging visitation from outside the community
- The preferred location for such a facility is on one acre of Port of Port Townsend land adjacent to the Haines Place Park-and-Ride Lot at the southwest corner of the Kah Tai Nature Park
- Location in proximity to the Park-and-Ride Lot would increase accessibility to the community
- Life saving skills would be taught among the swimming lessons offered at the facility – a vital skill in a community with a maritime character
- MAKE WAVES has over 1,800 supporters/members
- The proposed facility would be an amenity and attraction for users of the Boat Haven
- The facility would provide economic development in the broadest sense by creating infrastructure that makes the community more livable and attractive

General Comments – NWMC/WBF:

- NWMC/WBF is one a key Port tenant, generating as much revenue as any single tenant of the Port
- The organization is encouraged by this process and believes it to be an important first step in improving and institutionalizing communications between the Port and its customers

General Comments - Point Wilson Sail & Power Squadron:

- The mission of the sail & power squadron is similar to that of MAKE WAVES – educational and recreational
- The organization seeks to provide support to new boaters, particularly owners of smaller vessels – this is the core constituency
- Local membership in the squadron is about 60 – and they maintain a collaborative relationship with the US Coast Guard Auxiliary
- They work to maintain a healthy boating community and provide the only state-mandated “safe boating” training program locally

General Comments - Kah Tai 2012 Alliance:

- Local membership is approximately 110
- Their core interest is in obtaining clarity as to the Port’s future plans for the Kah Tai Nature Park
- The park is used extensively by birds and birders – the organization seeks to preserve the current park use in perpetuity
- Port Townsend has an amazing diversity of terrestrial wildlife and bird species – these animals require key habitat areas like Kah Tai and Happy Valley to thrive
- Kah Tai Nature Park is a critical component of a geographic “T” of wildlife corridors in town, including Happy Valley to the north, connecting to Fort Worden State Park to the east and the Quimper Wildlife Corridor to the west
- The Port needs to guarantee Kah Tai’s long term status as park land and wildlife habitat

General Comments - Port Townsend Aero Museum:

- The museum’s core mission is to provide aviation-related skills training and education to youth within the Puget Sound area
- The new 5 million dollar museum was built without any government money
- The museum assists youth in re-building/restoring old aircraft – and requires approximately \$8,000 per month to operate
- In addition to restoring aircraft, the museum provides pilot training
- When completed – the museum will be part of a larger three-building campus
- The Aero Museum has approximately 3,000 supporters nationwide
- With regard to the Port’s strategic planning efforts – the Aero Museum merely wishes to be allowed to continue what it currently does

General Comments - Schooner Martha Foundation:

- Core mission is youth-sailing programs and helping to train new marine trades employees (i.e., apprentice level training)
- Communication with Port staff and elected officials has improved – and needs to continue
- The foundation needs affordable access to Port facilities

Discussion of Commonalities Between Non-Profit Groups:

- All provide broad public benefit to the community
- Most provide training and educational opportunities for local youth

What Do Non-Profit Groups Want/Need from the Port?

- NWMC/WBF:
 - Not asking for anything special from the Port because they are a non-profit; rather, asking for different treatment because they are one of the Port's largest and most critical customers
 - Need better communication and continuing dialogue with the Port, and a better understanding of the Port's statutory mission and responsibility
 - Process of communication and dialogue needs to be routinized/institutionalized
 - Government exists to serve "the people" – to provide the greatest good to the greatest number of people
 - The Port must balance competing needs in fulfilling its governmental role, should recognize that the roles of non-profits and the Port are similar, and should partner with non-profits wherever possible
- Schooner Martha Foundation:
 - Need certainty re: long-term affordability of fee schedules
 - While it is agreed that non-profits should observe good business practices, the hard to quantify, but nevertheless real and important benefits provided to the larger community should be recognized by the Port
 - Need the Port to factor the shifting economic paradigm, locally and internationally into its strategic planning (i.e., changing economy and natural environment world-wide)
- Admiralty Audubon Society:
 - Need clarity and certainty regarding the Port's notion of what constitutes "growth"
 - Port must consider climate change, water shortages, fuel prices, and acknowledge that there are many factors that cannot be adequately anticipated/planned for
 - Port should factor climate change and sea-level rise into infrastructure planning and decision-making
 - Port needs to encourage the right types of employment growth – growth in sustainable "green" industries and marine trades (e.g., more efficient and environmentally friendly technologies)
 - Port needs to guard against catering to the super-rich in its decision-making

- MAKE WAVES:
 - Port needs to clearly define what it means by “growth” and both for-profits and non-profits must be factored into this equation (i.e., non-profits provide real tangible economic benefit to the community)
- Schooner Martha Foundation:
 - Need to better understand the Port’s business plan and model – need access to and explanation of this plan
 - Need better informational materials from the Port explaining where Port dollars come from, and go to – this helps citizens make informed decisions

Discussion of Training & Education Role Played by Non-Profits:

- Four hundred students will graduate from Jefferson County High Schools this year – what are they going to do? What job/vocational training opportunities exist for them locally? (Commissioner Beck)
- According to a study conducted by WSU, approximately 10% of jobs in Washington State cannot be filled – trained employees do not exist in-state (this is true for the marine trades as well)
- Education is a complex problem – one thing non-profits locally can do is to educate our youth as to the world of possibilities that are available following school
- The PoPT must maintain its financial health in order to promote local marine trades
- At the same time, the Port must be competitive with other regional competitors, and must take care not to price itself out of the desired market
- PoPT long haul-out rates attracted the Schooner Martha here 7 years ago (25 cents per foot per day) – so, maintaining competitive pricing is important to attracting and supporting the educational role of non-profits

What Are the Most Important Changes You Want in the Next 5 Years?

- Kah Tai 2012 Alliance:
 - Clarity as to the future of the Kah Tai Nature Park
- Point Wilson Sail & Power Squadron:
 - Expanded boat ramp access
 - Maintain sufficient small vessel berthing spaces
 - Balance the need to expand and grow with the need to maintain and preserve our unique character – how can this balance be achieved?
- Admiralty Audubon Society:
 - Preserve Kah Tai Nature Park in perpetuity
 - Limit the rates charged to live-aboards to keep them here and to promote the “funky” character of the Boat Haven [Note: in response, Port staff cited city and state regulatory requirements governing sewage disposal and control as making live-aboards more and more problematic]

- MAKE WAVES:
 - Need a long-range decision on land “across the street” from the Boat Haven – can a portion of it be devoted to a community-serving aquatic center?
 - Expand and institutionalize dialogue and communication with key constituent groups, particularly other local governments and non-profit organizations – the more we communicate, the more we can collaborate and succeed as a community
 - Increase the efficiency of use of existing Port land – to the extent possible, grow on existing land