

Public Comments for the Port of Port Townsend Commission Meeting 5/26/2021

From: Jack Gray <jkgray.gray@gmail.com>

Date: May 24, 2021 at 12:14:07 PM PDT

To: "Karen, Port of PT" <karen@portofpt.com>

Cc: Pam Patranek <pam@portofpt.com>

Subject: For public comment at next Port Commission Meeting on May 26

Letter that I had earlier sent to Commissioner Pam Patranek

Thank you for standing up to taking more time, and allow for serious exploration around the impact of a 30 year lease of the Point Hudson Port property currently used for parking. While on the surface, a lease to the Maritime Center would seem like the right move, 30 years at ~\$1000 monthly is a significant chunk of time, and to construct another building on prime property (we all know this is not the average Port property location) adjacent to a major waterfront landing for the tourist industry and the others in our community in my mind is a serious step.

While I'm not a fan of parking space there, a permanent building pretty much eliminates another sizable chunk of prime real estate essentially forever.

There may come a time (if not now) when we value green space adjacent to boating visitors and tourists alike more than we value another building, especially in this location regardless of its use. And to move forward with this push, out of "convenience of walking and wi-fi "or even the temptation of federal funds presently available, to me is premature, even though promoted by past Port and current Maritime Directors during recent times in their separate consultations. Can we not walk or ride a few more steps and achieve the same goals? Or perhaps, as the School for Wooden Boats has done, split our campus in our quest for maritime growth? This does not need to be the only Shoreline Management option and we all can spread our maritime growth opportunities without having convenience be the ruling determinant. And we do not need to commit to a plan around all this for the promise of 4 to 5 thousand dollars more per year over a very long stretch.

I'm sure this hesitation for more consideration and evaluation is pretty unpopular to some who have been planning the move, but I for one applaud your leadership to take the necessary time to truly study its impact on our maritime future beyond just the Maritime Center (whose programs incidentally I also support and value).

Thanks again from one of your "senior" and local Port moorage tenants,

Jack Gray

From: Bill Curtsinger <billcurtsinger@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 20, 2021 6:27 PM

To: Pam Petranek <Pam@portofpt.com>; Pete Hanke <phanke@portofpt.com>; Bill Putney <bill@portofpt.com>

Subject: Port of PT About to Charge For Outdoor 'Dining' Space

Seattle extends free outdoor-dining permits to restaurants through May 2022; will patio dining become a staple?

May 17, 2021 at 6:24 pm Updated May 18, 2021 at 6:40 pm By [Tan Vinh](#)

Here is a Link to that Seattle Times Article

<https://www.seattletimes.com/life/food-drink/to-aid-post-pandemic-recovery-seattle-extends-free-outdoor-dining-patio-permits-to-restaurants-through-may-2022/>

Dear Commissioners:

Our community is not yet out of the woods on covid, (**see Dr. Locke's DIRECTIVE NO. 2021-2 of May 17, 2021**), not to mention, our business has yet to be even close to what it was pre-covid and the Port is about to charge us per square foot on July 1 for the asphalt surface in front of our building that we now use for an outdoor sit-down area. Our CoffeeHouse is still closed for inside service as per county and state mandates. All of our retail revenue comes through a walk-up window we built out last spring (2020) when all this craziness started. We just finished an outdoor sit-down area a little over a month ago and hope this helps with our bottom line into the Fall but now another expense looms.

The hospitality industry right here in The Port of PT that the marine trades relies on every day has taken a huge financial hit not to mention all the grief we've had to put up with from customers who argue over masking up. Can't the Port take Seattle's cue on this and wait until we all have recovered a bit from a horrible pandemic year? Is the Port's finances in such dire straits that you need to extract money from businesses still suffering from this pandemic now 15 months on? Can't the Port wait for our collective businesses to get back to where we were in 2019, before all this craziness started?

Bill Curtsinger
Sunrise Coffee Company, Ltd
308 10th Street
Port Townsend WA 98368
www.sunrisecoffee.net
www.billcurtsingerphoto.com
www.ptmta.org

From: bob@admiralshipsupply.com <bob@admiralshipsupply.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2021 7:05 PM

To: Pam Petranek <Pam@portofpt.com>

Cc: Bill Putney <bill@portofpt.com>; Pete Hanke <phanke@portofpt.com>; Eron Berg <Eron@portofpt.com>; Eric Toews <eric@portofpt.com>; Terry Khile <terry@portofpt.com>; Kristian Ferrero <kristian@portofpt.com>

Subject: March Discount Feedback

Pam,

I'd like to respond to your comments made during yesterday's commissioners meeting concerning the current winter discount structure.

You mentioned that no one from the Marine Trades has given you feedback on changing the current discount structure. I'd like to go on record that I think the month of March needs to be removed from the current discount program.

I have heard from several customers that they cannot haul out this year since appointments are currently being offered in July. I received one call from a commercial fisherman just prior to your meeting lamenting this fact. As you know most fishermen need to head north by the end of June. If they call the office currently they are given a date in mid July. This is despite at least a dozen empty spots counted in both the work yard and ship yard just prior to writing this letter.

In preparing this letter I reviewed the study done by Mark Burns and Chris Brignoli (and others) that was provided to the yard rate group that I was part of. Comparing the various Puget Sound yards was not an easy task due to the ways the various aspects of a haul out are billed. (Lift, tarps, environmental, days, etc.) After much work on their part, a methodology was chosen and data that was collected was presented in the best apples to apples format. There was a range of rates and Port Townsend was not the highest or lowest. The Port however did have excess capacity and a way to help fill that void was suggested and agreed upon by the group and management. It was ultimately implemented.

No one could have predicted the impact of COVID-19 on boat use including haul outs. It has certainly exacerbated scheduling difficulties. From my recollection the intent was that the program was not to be permanent but to be an immediate tool that the Port could use to make sure the fall/winter of 2018 did not look like that of 2017. It has been a success! Many comments about a full yard were always met with "We'll worry about that when it becomes a problem." It may now be a problem.

Admiral Ship Supply's 2021 sales have been up but recently sales have stagnated. I believe the lack of "churn" due to the lack of spring space is the reason. The "shave and a haircut" customer (bottom paint and anodes) is the most profitable for Admiral. March, April and May have historically been its busiest months. A several-day haul out can generate several thousand dollars of revenue from one vessel. Unlike a marine "service" business in the yard I don't interact with the yard office to have a boat hauled out if the customer is initially turned down. I find out about it later. The Port has been able to accommodate most commercial clients in the past from April to June. The Port's clients naturally shift to the recreation crowd around mid June. Policies to allow for this historic pattern next year and in future years should be explored. Ending the discount at the end of March (or February) should be part of this conversation. Also, I'd like to suggest a change in the discount from 50% to 40% going forward as I believe the Port no longer needs to discount its service as much to attract business.

Respectfully,

Robert Frank, President
Admiral Ship Supply II Inc.
Phone (360) 379-9921 | Fax (360) 379-9947