



PORT ANGELES BUSINESS ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 545  
PORT ANGELES, WA. 98362

City of Port Angeles City Council  
321 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

May 31, 2016

Dear members of the City Council:

We are a business organization of approximately 70 members with the purpose of promoting business in the greater Port Angeles area and increasing business growth and developing jobs.

We would like to express our views to you regarding the upcoming reconstruction or relocation of the Feiro Marine Life Center and the fate of the parking lot by Hollywood Beach.

We would like to make clear at the outset that we support the Feiro, recognize the longstanding involvement of the city with the Feiro, want to see the Feiro continuing to thrive and expand on the Port Angeles waterfront, and would welcome its consolidation in one location with NOAA.

However, we also respectfully ask you to take into account the bigger picture, including the future of City Pier and the importance of the parking lot for downtown businesses and those wishing to access the pier, Hollywood Beach and the playground next to it, walking and bicycling on the Olympic Discovery Trail, and the public spaces enhanced or created by the Waterfront Transportation Improvement Plan.

City Pier is a public park that needs to be accessible to everyone.

We believe that City Pier is a unique and valuable asset for Port Angeles, and that no decisions taken now should limit its future highest and best use. Such a use should involve amenities or facilities that would bring the maximum number possible of people to the pier and the downtown area. That could include expanded public spaces on or adjacent to the pier, allowing smaller cruise ships to dock at the pier, and providing small boat rental opportunities on floating docks accessible from the pier.

We are concerned that a larger footprint for the Feiro building would create a bottleneck at the base of City Pier that would limit future opportunities. If the Feiro building had one or more stories added to it that could address the concern about a larger footprint, but one would need to ensure that a taller building at that location would not negatively affect views of the harbor or the pier, or interfere with the aesthetics of the area.

Finally, we strongly believe that under no circumstances should there be any decrease in parking spaces by Hollywood Beach.

In other cities people may be accustomed to walk several blocks from their parking space, but that is not the case here.

Diminishing the parking lot would have clearly negative consequences for downtown businesses, and decrease usage of the Olympic Discovery Trail and the waterfront amenities we are in the process of adding with so much effort and cost.

One of our PABA members recently noted the importance of the parking lot “for residents using the children’s playground (next to it) and walking on Hollywood Beach.

“Just a casual focus on these two amenities as well as access to the ODT for walking and bicycling should seal the deal about not reducing the parking lot size. Folks parking in the lot unload kids, baby carriages, bicycles and wheelchairs every hour of the day, every day of the year, seasons notwithstanding.”

We oppose any option that leads to a shrinking or elimination of the parking lot.

We respectfully request that the City Council reconsider and rescind its 2011 approval of a plan that would lead to a reduction in parking spaces at that location.

We suggest that co-location of the Feiro and NOAA in The Landing Mall, which is for sale, be explored. NOAA is already there, the Feiro would have the required access to seawater, there is plentiful parking for tenants and visitors, and there would be no bottleneck at the base of City Pier.

I and other members of PABA would be glad to meet with you to discuss these concerns further. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Brewer  
President  
*Port Angeles Business Association*

Ccs: Mr. Dan McKeen, city manager  
Mr. Nathan West, director of community and economic development