

TO: EDITOR
CAMAS-WASHOUGAL POST RECORD

FROM: RICH GUNDERSON, PRESIDENT
PORT OF CAMAS-WASHOUGAL

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TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WATERFRONT

Port cities all over the country are engaged in ways to reshape and redefine their waterfronts. Communities of all sizes have transformed underused waterfront areas for a wide array of new uses, from parks and trails to mixed-use and residential projects, as well as industrial activity.

When a group like RiverWalk, LLC, approached the Port of Camas-Washougal with an opportunity to jointly explore ideas to revitalize the waterfront, it simply made sense for the port to consider these possibilities. These days, private-public partnerships are often the key to many successful projects due to limited public funds and increasing development costs.

With the formation of the 13-member Waterfront Advisory Committee [WAC], we hope great ideas and unrealized opportunities will emerge – improve waterfront access, create new economic activity, preserve and enhance historic sites, and inject new energy into our community. Sponsored by Port of Camas-Washougal, the WAC represents a cross-section of our citizens with diverse perspectives to provide a strong community voice. They have met, and taken public comments, regularly since last October to share their ideas for this key community undertaking.

The WAC recognizes that our community's quality of life draws from a unique blend of natural beauty, small town friendliness, historical values, and an abundance of recreational opportunities. Their goal is to gather a list of features for the best long-term uses of waterfront resources for maximum public benefit.

Throughout this process, the Waterfront Advisory Committee has informed the public of their progress, and reached out for public input and comment. They are currently compiling the top and best-use priorities, with public input, that will be submitted to the port commissioners. These recommendations will contribute to the first steps in creating a blueprint for a waterfront vision for current and future generations.

The first draft of a master plan for the waterfront will be next, and throughout this process, the port welcomes you to stay informed and get involved. You may simply want to get the latest information as the plan takes shape, and invite us to speak to you and your group. Whatever your level of interest, we encourage you to learn more and watch for news in port newsletters, and at www.PortCW.com where all meeting notices, reports and activities are posted.

The port owes it to the public to explore these concepts that may ultimately enhance our economy and our waterfront. The mission of the port is to create and sustain jobs and recreational opportunities for this community. We believe that NOW is the time to take a good hard look at these possibilities that hold the potential to improve our economy and our waterfront.

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