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PORT ISSUES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR NORTHPOINT DEVELOPMENT

OLYMPIA - The Port of Olympia Commission on Aug. 26 gave the go-ahead to soliciting proposals for the development of 2.4 acres at the northern tip of the Port Peninsula, known as NorthPoint. Staff is issuing the Request for Proposals (RFP) to developers and end users today. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 30.

The short-listed developers will be asked to present their concepts to the community at public open houses on Nov. 12, 16 and 18. The Commission is expected to announce the selected preferred developer at their Dec. 14 meeting.

With sweeping views of Budd Inlet and the Olympics, the unique NorthPoint area is expected to attract visitors as well as residents. Its location on Marine Drive shares a parking area on the south with the adjacent Swantown Marina and Boatworks. To the west is Anthony's Hearthfire Restaurant.

Pedestrian-friendly waterfront development

Based on a public process, the Commission's vision is a pedestrian-friendly waterfront development—a premier location for working, visiting and playing—that features the spectacular views. The public process included three public workshops, review and comments at two junctures by the volunteer Port Advisory Committee, and public comment at Commission meetings.

Public amenities include completion of the Promenade Trail, a pedestrian/bike path that runs along Budd Inlet's East Bay.

The Port has suggested a viewpoint, restrooms, interpretive signage, pocket park, esplanade and landscaping as desirable public amenities. Suggested commercial uses include restaurant, hospitality and tourism activities; offices; small boat center; marine use; and maritime museum.

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RFP Clearly States Port's Preferences

The Request for Proposals states a preference for balancing development with public use and enjoyment, including access to the Promenade. The Port also prefers an urban redevelopment that:

- Maximizes development through parking synergies.
- Takes advantage of views of Budd Inlet and the Olympic Mountains.
- Provides surrounding uses that are conducive to commercial use.
- Is pedestrian and consumer oriented.
- Provides for recreation and citizen use of shoreline.

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About the Port of Olympia

The southernmost deepwater port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia owns and operates an international shipping terminal that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates a regional airport, a 733-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, and a real estate division. A community port, it generates an estimated 2,600 jobs in Thurston County.