

Comprehensive Scheme Amendment I

November XX, 2016

Fairgrounds

The Island County Fairgrounds is a 12.8 acre site located in Langley traditionally used to host the annual Whidbey Island Area Fair along with other community events. The first buildings were constructed in 1923 and the iconic Pole Building was completed in 1937. Presently there are 27 structures, and over time the buildings and infrastructure at the Fairgrounds have deteriorated and many aspects of the Fairgrounds are in poor condition. In 2014 the Island County Commissioners asked the Port to assist them in developing a solution to this issue. In 2015 and 2016, the Port conducted studies while managing and marketing the property, and realized that there is great potential to renovating and rejuvenating the Fairgrounds. In August 2016 the Port conducted a ballot measure to ask if the South Whidbey residents would support the transfer of ownership of the property from the County to the Port, along with a 5 cent per thousand assessed value property tax increase for the Port to support the management of the property. The ballot measure was supported by a majority of the South Whidbey voters.

The Port will work on transferring the property ownership to the Port, and upon receiving ownership, will begin the process of renovating the buildings and infrastructure on the property and marketing the facility.