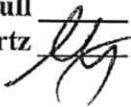


Fortmann _____
Turnbull _____
Lehnertz _____ 

D62 (PWR-RD)
FOVA

June 13, 2012

Executive Board
Fort Vancouver National Trust
General OO Howard House
750 Anderson Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

Dear Mssrs. Lynch, Horenstein, Sheldon and Ms. Graham:

Thank you to all of you, and to Mr. Elson Strahan, for taking the time on April 25 to come to San Francisco to meet with Superintendent Tracy Fortmann, Acting Deputy Regional Director Chip Jenkins, and me. We all learned a great deal about our respective organizations—including our missions, our roles and functions, and our priorities. It was extraordinarily beneficial to have the opportunity to spend the day working together on clarifying our relationship, and we are on track to further determine how Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and the Fort Vancouver National Trust may work together in the future.

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site (the “national park”) implements the mission of the National Park Service through the preservation and interpretation of the area’s wonderful and rich history. This work includes caring for the national park’s landscapes and historic structures, educating and inspiring children and adults, providing visitor services, and managing the general operations of the site. The National Park Service is a legislatively mandated partner with the United States Army, the State of Washington, and the city of Vancouver, within the Vancouver National Historic Reserve (VNHR). The four partners work together in a cooperative fashion while retaining their respective authorities and responsibilities. The Fort Vancouver National Trust (Trust), a non-profit corporation, is recognized in the VNHR Cooperative Management Plan as a critical support organization assisting the partners in fundraising and educational programs. Additionally, the Trust manages the West Barracks under contract with the city of Vancouver, manages the Pearson Air Museum under agreement with the city of Vancouver (and as an asset of the National Park Service), manages the national park bookstore within the visitor center, and pursues other opportunities for historic preservation outside of the national park and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve.

During our meeting, we discussed the two formal partnerships that currently exist between the Trust and the National Park. Through written agreement, the Trust serves both as the park's Cooperating Association and as the park's primary fund raising partner. As a Cooperating Association the Trust is responsible for operating the bookstore within the visitor center, and is delivering educational programs at the Pearson Air Museum. The Trust is currently working with park staff on preparing a scope of sales and updating other bookstore operational topics. As described in the NPS agreement, in order to further the key interpretive and educational themes for all park units, educational programming is also developed in collaboration between park staff and Cooperating Associations. There is opportunity to identify and expand content and messages within this collaboration, and we look forward to the continuing coordination between the park and the Trust on this growing effort.

As the sole fundraising organization dedicated to park philanthropy, the role of the Trust is to work with the park in developing a strategy to raise funds to support key park priorities. It is in this area that we discussed a greater need for understanding the expectations of such a partnership. It is our understanding that the Trust will pursue conversations within the entire Board to clarify this role, and determine whether it is one that the Trust will actively embrace. If there is interest in providing more support as a friends group, please let the park Superintendent know. Based on this new agreed upon direction, the park would then develop an overview of park priorities that could become the foundation for the Trust's fundraising goals and objectives. I would anticipate that the Board and the park Superintendent will reconvene in the next few months to discuss and determine whether the current partnership will be reinvigorated with a structured focus on fundraising, or whether the current partnership is terminated and another partnership established by the park to fulfill this important philanthropic function.

Regarding the Pearson Air Museum, our conversation provided much greater clarity about the status of the structure and its operation. The Pearson Air Museum and land are property of the United States, and some of the personal property contents belong to the Trust. The Trust has operated the museum under agreement with the city of Vancouver since 2005, and that agreement expires at the end of this calendar year. The park welcomes the continued operation of the museum by the Trust, and Superintendent Fortmann and her staff prepared a draft Cooperative Agreement that outlined the opportunities and responsibilities of the operation. We appreciate your continued interest and partnership in operating the museum on behalf of the National Park Service. The park provided a draft of that agreement to you on May 18 and they will work with you to prepare a final agreement for NPS approval.

We also discussed the Trust's interest in the East and South Barracks. We hope that you understand the legal, regulatory and policy framework that we must work within as we move forward on East and South Barracks.

Finally, we discussed the importance of building the appropriate working relationship between the Trust and the national park. As noted in the formal agreements, this includes that no NPS employee should serve in any capacity, including ex-officio, on the Trust

Board or Trust chartered committees. NPS employees can, of course, meet to share information on issues of mutual interest or to discuss mutual endeavors and events. Superintendent Fortmann recently provided you with additional clarification on the park's role and participation.

Thank you again for your time last month, and for your dedication to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site. I am glad we had the opportunity to meet and discuss the relationship between the Trust and the NPS. It was both productive and positive. Superintendent Fortmann provides strong leadership and guidance in the park, and the devotion that she and her staff display each day to preserving this unique place, and telling these extraordinary stories is inspiring. As the Trust continues to work with Superintendent Fortmann on issues pertaining to Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, I feel certain that it will clarify and strengthen this partnership.

Sincerely,

/s/ GEORGE J. TURNBULL

Christine S. Lehnertz