

I'm here today to speak against the proposed institution of paid parking at Shilshole Bay Marina. I understand that the Port has to be profitable, but the pittance that would be received by this paid parking is NOT worth the negative affect that it would have on Shilshole users. The port subsidizes the commercial entities at Fisherman's Terminal, why not maintain the "subsidy" to the public at Shilshole by NOT turning the lot into paid parking.

As a long-time sailor, having the ability to go sailing without undue expense has been a godsend. It has allowed me to go as crew or invite my own crew to sail without them having to pay to do so. This is one of Seattle's most used public facilities because it is accessible and inexpensive.

What am I supposed to do when I go sailing for the weekend? Pay parking while I'm gone? There's no bus service there, and hauling all the stuff I need in a taxi is just not feasible. Plus, I never know when I'll be returning, so can't arrange for a friend to come pick me up (my friends love me, but going to the marina at 2 AM is asking too much). This would all add up to too much. Please consider the impact this new parking policy would have on Shilshole and Golden Garden users.

The sailing community (and it IS a true community) is a cherished entity in Seattle – providing citizens the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors without undue expense. The boat owners pay dearly to moor their boats, and to park their car. Why should they have to pay more?

It's shameful that the Port is more concerned with making profit than maintaining the quality of life that we all hold dear. It's sad that once again, the "little guy" may be asked to pay to make somebody's bottom line grow.

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