

April 24, 2018

Courtney Gregoire
President
Seattle Port Commission

Madame President,

I learned that Expedia might have a passenger ferry service at Pier 86 in a few years. I am concerned about this idea, because it sounds to me like a private takeover of a public amenity. As the plaque erected by the Port Commission on the site in 1980 says, it was intended for use by the citizens of King County. Centennial Park should be reserved for the public to use the way it is now, not turned into a tourist destination.

Open space in Seattle is precious. The buildings are getting higher, as is the zoning. New tall buildings are creating canyons that increase and echo noise from the street, and that create shade where there was none before. Our downtown parks are being activated to the point where there is no place where you can sit without hearing noise or smelling a food truck or its diesel fumes.

For these reasons, the respite Centennial Park provides from the active life of the city is critical to public health. The park plays an important function for people that live and work in the downtown neighborhoods. It is a marvelous place to be, for views across the water, for peace and for open sky.

Allowing passenger ferry service in place of, or in addition to, the public fishing opportunity at that location is more than an incremental change to the activities in Centennial Park. It would be permanent. It would change views from the shoreline of Mount Rainier, the Olympics, West Seattle, Elliott Bay, and would bring noise and air pollution to the site. And it would commercialize the site where it is currently peaceful and a nice break from downtown.

There is already noise and air pollution by Pier 86 due to the operations of Terminal 8, but that the use predates the park. That said, the grain terminal pollutes the air and the water with grain dust. But adding noise and air pollution to the existing noise and air pollution issues doesn't make sense.

I am aware that a hundred years ago, there were landing spots for small ferries that were part of the Mosquito Fleet, that ferried people to and from vacation homes, farms, etc. But if a passenger ferry pier replaced the existing use at Pier 86, simply a public fishing pier, I think it would be serving tourists, specifically.

I think there are better ways to ferry passengers on the cruise ships to downtown that would not increase noise and air pollution in the park. As I said in a letter to the Commission last summer,

pedicabs could be encouraged to bring people back and forth. There is a dedicated bikeway in the park, and this method of transportation would not bring more noise and air pollution to the park, nor would it bring commercialization, either. Pedicabs would help the Port meet its sustainability goals. It would also bring more customers to the small business at the entry to the pier, Fish On. As I mentioned in a prior letter, echoed by Lee Fogel at the April 10 meeting, this business has created a small cultural oasis in the park that attracts users.

Respectfully yours,



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Attachments: Photo of Porto di Civitavecchia, Italy. Reference:

<https://civitavecchia.portmobility.it/it/porto-di-civitavecchia>

Photos of Westlake Park. Courtesy of SDOT
Photo of Occidental Park. Courtesy of Xconomy.com
PHOTO OF CONTEMPORARY PARK W/ POOL STEN COURTESY OF BEAUTIFUL WASHINGTON
PHOTO OF RAINIER CLUB LAWN + GARDENS COURTESY OF HEATHER M^{CA}AULIFFE
PHOTO OF PIER 86 AT SUNSET COURTESY OF RAHEL SAMANYL, PROVER, WA

DO WE REALLY WANT PIER 86 / CENTENNIAL PARK TO LOOK LIKE THIS?





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IS THIS THE ONLY KIND OF TRANQUIL PLACE WE ARE TO BE LEFT WITH DOWNTOWN?



LET'S KEEP THIS + GET THE PIER REPAIRED!

