

Fort Worden Long-Range Plan Task Force Member Biographies

Rodger Schmitt (Fort Worden Advisory Committee Member)

Rodger spent his professional career mostly in federal service in natural resource management and outdoor recreation as a park ranger, park manager, natural resource specialist, and director of a national recreation program. Desiring to give back a little of his years of service to public land resource management and parks and recreation, he serves as an at-large member and Vice-Chair of the Fort Worden Advisory Committee and as Secretary-Treasurer on the board of the Jefferson Land Trust. He has enjoyed helping to develop the long-range plan for Fort Worden, and is pleased to represent the Advisory Committee on the task force.

George Randels (City Councilmember/County Commissioner)

George was born on the first day of Spring in 1943, and spent his youth in the village of Painted Post, New York, near the Finger Lakes. He received his B.A. from the University of Rochester and a law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo School of Law. After spending most of his career in Washington, D.C., he moved to Port Townsend in 2000. George has been on the Fort Worden Advisory Committee as an at large member since 2004. He is also a Member of the City of Port Townsend City Council and prior to that served as Chair of the City's Planning Commission.

Kris Tucker (Washington State Arts Commission)

Kris is Executive Director of the Washington State Arts Commission (WSAC). She was appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire in 2005 and initially by Governor Gary Locke in 1999. Kris was formerly Executive Director of the Boise City Arts Commission (1993-1998). She also has been a freelance writer, with work published in magazines, newspapers, books and curriculum. She holds a BA from Oregon State University, and an MA in Whole Systems Design from Antioch University, Seattle. Kris is a Trustee and Board Treasurer of the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) and serves on the Leadership Task Force for the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA). She enjoys many activities, including cooking, kayaking, poetry, and wandering. The State Arts Commission maintains a cooperative partnership with Centrum, providing funding assistance for its programs at Fort Worden.

Kurt Speigel (Washington Federation of State Employees)

Kurt is a Senior Field Representative for the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE), which represents close to five hundred Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission employees, including those at Fort Worden. He has been assigned as the WFSE's liaison for all Parks' statewide issues since WSPRC employees came to the Federation in 2004. Kurt is a former employee of the Department of Fish and Wildlife and an avid outdoorsman. He and his family visit and camp in Washington State Parks every year.

Fred Olson (Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission)

Fred recently retired from Washington State Government. During his career with the state, he served as Deputy Director of the Department of Ecology, Director of Administration for the Office of the Attorney General, and prior to retirement was Deputy Chief of Staff for Governor Chris Gregoire. Before joining state government he worked for 17 years in the newspaper business as a reporter and managing editor of The

Olympian. Olson serves on the Board of Directors for the Washington State Employees Credit Union. He is a Washington native, an outdoors enthusiast, and is committed to helping make the state's recreational, cultural, historical, and natural resources available to the public through the parks system.

Nita Rinehart (Experienced Former State Legislator)

Nita received her law degree from the University of Washington Law School while. Nita served in the Washington Legislature for over twenty years in the House of Representatives, the Senate, and as Senate Democratic Caucus Director. During this time, she also earned her law degree at the University of Washington Law School. Nita currently lives in Olympia where she is a faculty member of The Evergreen State College, Master in Public Administration Program. She is a student of the arts and frequently visits Fort Worden and Port Townsend.

Marschel Paul (Philanthropic Community)

Marschel has worked in non-profit management for most of her career mostly with small and mid-sized arts organizations including Artist Trust (where she was Executive Director in the 90s), One Reel, National Campaign for Freedom of Expression, among others, and more recently, Centrum. At Centrum, in 2005, Marschel spent nearly a year working on contract on several management issues. During that time, she was on site at Fort Worden working at the Centrum office, and spoke for many hours with Centrum staff exploring the prospective future of Fort Worden. Marschel is currently Managing Director of the Pride Foundation, a community foundation that connects, inspires, and strengthens the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender community in the Pacific Northwest through grants, scholarships, and leadership development.

Tim Caldwell (Fort Worden Advisory Committee Member)